



Newsletter

June 2023

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Pay Your Bill 24/7
Online: hpwsd.org
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Billing Office Hours
Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Tuesdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Thursdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm in the District Office, 119 E Liberty Rd. All meetings are open to the public.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is not associated with or governed by the Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association. Please direct water-sewer service related questions to the District.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ecology Awards Grant for Nutrient Permit



In 2022, the WA State Department of Ecology issued 58 *Puget Sound Nutrient General Permits* to wastewater treatment plants that discharge to Puget Sound or tributaries. The permits add monitoring and treatment requirements to ensure treated wastewater meets even higher quality standards than the general discharge permit. The District's wastewater treatment facility is one of the 58 plants required to be in compliance with this type of permit.

The concern being addressed by these new permits is that discharging wastewater that is too nutrient-rich (high levels of nitrogen and phosphates) can stunt plant and wildlife growth. There is no scientific evidence yet to indicate that treated wastewater is even a primary contributor of excess nutrients; in fact, the vicinity of Case Inlet where the District's *outfall* discharges treated wastewater has beds of healthy shellfish that are harvested every year.

The District has added additional monitoring and has made process changes to be compliant with the new permit. With additional monitoring and treatment comes additional costs. While environmental groups that strongly advocated for the additional requirements did not explore ways to help aide wastewater treatment plants in procuring funds to meet these added costs, Dept. of Ecology drafted and entered into an agreement with HPWSD to reimburse nutrient-related expenses through grant funds.

Nutrient-related expenses incurred in 2022 and through March of 2023 have already been reimbursed and future expenses will be reimbursed through the grant fund until the end of 2025. At that point, Ecology will have evaluated data collected throughout 2022-25 to determine what nutrient reduction permitting will be required moving forward.



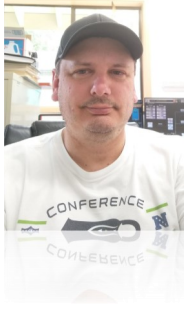
No PFAS Detected in District's Drinking Water

The wide use of PFAS—or “forever chemicals”—is a growing concern among scientists. PFAS are long-lasting chemicals that break down slowly over a long period of time and are used in a lot of products for sale on the market today. There is a lot that is not known about PFAS and their long-term effects, but there is mounting evidence linking PFAS exposure to negative potential health effects. Laboratory testing of the District's drinking water shows no sign of the presence of PFAS, which is good news for us. Some water distributors are not so lucky. Learn more from EPA:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained> »



To Flush or Not to Flush



If you're a consistent reader of our newsletters, you'd have seen an occasional reminder about what not to flush. Anyone who has worked in the wastewater industry can tell you that quite often, people will use their toilets as a trash can. That was bad enough, but then "flushable" wipes came along. These became quite popular among consumers. Manufacturers loved it, as global sales were in the billions of dollars.

However, those in the wastewater or septic industry hated them. It led to actual legal battles between them and the companies who make them. The reason: even though they're labeled and sold as "flushable," when compared to regular toilet paper, flushable wipes take longer to break down and dissolve in water (if at all), putting your home plumbing systems and wastewater systems at risk of clogs. These wipes didn't break down and dissolve like toilet paper. After they were flushed, they'd stay intact. And there were no testing requirements on the manufacturers, so they were able to label any wipe as "flushable."

But now, at least one company is trying to improve their product. Cottonelle® Flushable Wipes are now labeled as being "Tested with Plumbers" and "Breaks Down Like Toilet Paper." The package also says it has some break up after 30 minutes. To see if that's true, we did a test of it here. We took a jug, half filled it with water and placed one of their wipes in it. After a couple minutes, it was agitated to help start any break up. Initially, nothing happened, making us doubt their claim. After some intense shaking of the jar, it finally started to break up a little, though not as much as toilet paper would. A little later, it was shaken up again. By that point, about half the sheet was broken up, with the other half staying intact. Finally, after a few hours of sitting there, it was all broken up. Not quite in the 30 minutes claimed, but better than nothing.

After all this, here is our recommendation: don't flush anything except what comes from your body and toilet paper. We'd still prefer not to have any wipes flushed, but if it feels like a necessity, choose Cottonelle®—it will at least break down, eventually...

NOT A PAID ENDORSEMENT

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Water outdoor plants in the early morning or late evening throughout the warmer months. Water evaporates when the sun is high. Also, look for beautiful, drought-resistant plants!"

Residents Help Find Leaks

We would like to thank all of the Hartstene Pointe residents for contacting the District office when they see water in odd places. Recently, we were able to identify and fix leaks reported by residents.

Even when a suspected leak turns out to be simply ground water and not in fact a leak, we appreciate the call—better to verify, instead of potentially letting a water leak go unchecked. A pinhole leak in a pipe can waste at least 170 gallons a day! Not only that, the hole in the pipe is likely to grow larger the longer it goes unaddressed.

On that note, we would like to clarify that storm water, culverts and drainage ditches are not part of the Water-Sewer District's infrastructure. There seems to have been some confusion on that as of late.

Thanks again for the calls and emails about suspected leaks!



visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

Only Flush the 3 P's: Pee, Poop, & Toilet Paper

Saving Water Washing Your Automobile

Washing a car or truck can waste *a lot* of treated water, but it doesn't have to. As we head into summer, it feels great driving a clean, shiny auto on hot, sunny days. We urge you to take a moment to think about how best to get your vehicle washed.

Think green: consider using a professional car wash service. Car wash services these days offer a number of benefits:

- 💧 Car washes use almost **ten times** less water than car owners would use at home
- 💧 The water used is properly discharged into a sanitary sewer—soap and potential chemicals aren't rinsed off and drained into a driveway, down the street or into a culvert
- 💧 Provided there is not a long line to wait behind, car washes are quick and efficient, saving you time and energy

If you continue to wash your vehicle at home, choose an eco-friendly car wash soap that is non-toxic, bio-degradable and free of phosphates. A typical hose uses ~10 gallons of water per minute...that adds up quickly! Using a nozzle attachment that can stop water flow when not needed helps save water.

Join us in looking for more ways to be smarter with how we use water and help the environment.