

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.

Debunking “Sewage” Aromas @ The Pointe



Case Inlet During a Recent Low Tide

Every year, when temperatures rise and we experience particularly low tides here at the Pointe, District staff receive calls and emails from community members suspecting a sewer problem in the vicinity of Points Dr. East and Portage Road. Operators have inspected the area in question, discovering no sewage problems, and can't help but notice the coincidence in the timing of these reports. This also generally coincides with the presence of a wind current coming from the bluff toward PDE.

While a degree of ‘tidal’ smell is typically present along our shoreline, it becomes more offensive as the tide ebbs and temperatures increase. The contributing cause is the release of a gas—*hydrogen sulfide*—which is released from decomposing organisms, such as seaweed, as they are exposed during

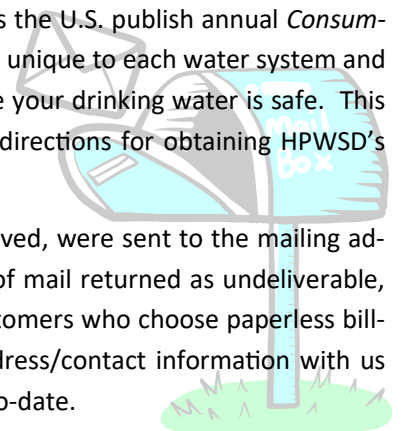
low tide. The gas, sometimes called “sewer gas,” is more dense than air, so it typically lingers along the shore, but a gentle breeze can transport the smell inland.

Hydrogen sulfide is generated in other environments as well, including sewerage, and, under the right conditions, even in a household hot water tank. While the unpleasant aroma can be addressed in controlled environments, the tide will continue to rise and fall and, from time to time, that unpleasant aroma will be blown up to Points Drive East.

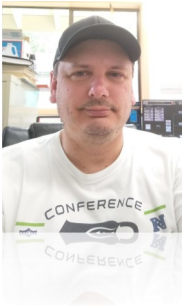
Consumer Confidence Report, Undeliverable Mail

Following EPA's requirements, drinking water systems across the U.S. publish annual *Consumer Confidence Reports* that inform consumers of the qualities unique to each water system and the laboratory testing practices operators perform to ensure your drinking water is safe. This year, every resident should receive a letter explaining and directions for obtaining HPWSD's latest consumer confidence report.

These letters, which you may or may not have already received, were sent to the mailing addresses we have on file. The District office often has a lot of mail returned as undeliverable, due to outdated records; this is particularly the case for customers who choose paperless billing. If you don't receive our latest letter or think your address/contact information with us may be out of date, please contact the office to keep us up-to-date.



COVID-19 Sample Testing Program @ The Pointe



One year ago, I was asked if HPWSD would like to voluntarily participate in a COVID-19 test program. I said we have a small, private community—it doesn't seem like you'd find our data useful. It was explained to me that we were chosen as a good spot, and since it doesn't cost us anything, I agreed.

This program is through the CDC National Wastewater Surveillance System. We collect a raw sewage sample twice a week and send it by FedEx, who picks it up and ships that sample overnight. Shipping costs are all covered through the program. The samples are then tested for COVID-19. The CDC uses these results to track trending. If they see an upward trend, they can determine if there will be an outbreak in the area.

More recently, they have also used the same samples to test for the monkeypox virus. The samples we collect are what is coming into the wastewater treatment plant. To date, there has never been any trace of the monkeypox virus found in our wastewater. As for COVID-19, the results are sporadic—sometimes the number of cases is higher than others. However, there has never been a consistent upward trend to cause concern. The samples are composite samples of combined sewage from the entire Pointe, so we have absolutely no way of determining the source of a positive virus result. If there ever was any concern of an outbreak, we would be notified, and would then notify all of you, as I'm sure other agencies would do as well.

I have been invited to attend a Wastewater Surveillance Utility Needs Workshop on July 13th in Tukwila. I will be 1 of 15 wastewater utility professionals from 3 states, representing a cross-section of the public health and wastewater fields, including 5 state and local health representatives, as well as representatives from the CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) team, academia, WEF, and other organizations. We may only be a small community here, but it will be my privilege to represent it. Just like the testing, all expenses will be covered. This program has benefitted the District and the Pointe community. I will share my experience in a future newsletter.

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Rethinking Home Appliances

A lot has changed since 1970 and so has the list of culprits that contribute to high energy or water consumption, as presented in a recent article published in the *Washington Post*. Do you remember always being told to shut off lights every time you leave a room? It's not a bad habit, but LEDs have taken home lighting from 10% of an electricity bill, to less than 1%.

And refrigerators are big, sometimes a bit noisy and plugged in 24/7, so they must be one of the highest energy wasters, right? On average, modern, efficient refrigerators use less than 60 watts per hour.

The article suggests not trying to tackle replacing all of your older appliances at once, but focusing on the high energy & water wasters first. That would include older heating systems, water heaters, dishwashers and washing machines. Read about water heaters below. Newer dishwashers are energy **and** water efficient, using less water than handwashing! Even better, that habit of pre-rinsing dishes before washing a load in the dishwasher? Skip it! Save even more water by not pre-rinsing, letting the newer machines do what they're capable of. Newer clothes washing machines also save water, using only the amount of water each unique load needs.

[Read the Full Article »](#)

[washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/
2023/01/24/home-appliance-myths-energy-saving-tips/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/01/24/home-appliance-myths-energy-saving-tips/)



Water Heater Tips

Second only to your home's heating/cooling system, water heaters are your utility bill's highest expense. Here are some tips to help improve efficiency:

- **Set the Thermostat to 120°F**
Lowering the thermostat saves energy and contributes to safety by mitigating potential scalding accidents
- **Size Your Water Heater**
High capacity water heaters used in households with low household hot water use heat water needlessly, adding to that energy bill
- **Give Your Water Heater a "Blanket"**
Insulating the tank reduces heat loss and, thus, heat time
- **Insulate Pipes**
Insulating allows for lower temperature settings—insulating all accessible pipes is ideal, but even just insulating pipes within 3 feet of the tank can help
- **Look for that Energy Star**
As is recommended for all appliances, look for Energy Star rated hot water heaters to save electricity



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Trimming just two minutes off your shower can save up to 1,750 gallons of water per person in your household each year. Another easy trick is to turn the water off while you soap and/or shave."