



Dedicated to Service

# Newsletter

## December 2023



### Wrapping Up 2023

#### Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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#### Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: [hpwsd.org](http://hpwsd.org)

By Phone: 360-427-2413

#### 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.

Commissioners and staff kept busy throughout the year working on projects and upgrades to the water and sewer systems, all while performing day-to-day operations. During the previous year (2022), the District had to deal with some unexpected water line leaks; this year, the District had to deal with an unexpected number of sewer line blockages that needed repairs, which were costly. The sewer line blockages are the result of poor installation by Weyerhaeuser some decades ago. The Sewer Rehabilitation Project will help address these problems.

The District continues *nutrient removal* laboratory testing in keeping compliant with its *Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit*. Additionally, the District's wastewater treatment system was upgraded to include additional treatment processes that improve *nutrient removal*. All of these expenses are funded by the WA State Department of Ecology through the awarded Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant.

New *slide gate actuators* were installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to replace the old units, which were failing. *Slide gate actuators* control the flow of sewage into the treatment basins and are a critical component of the treatment process.

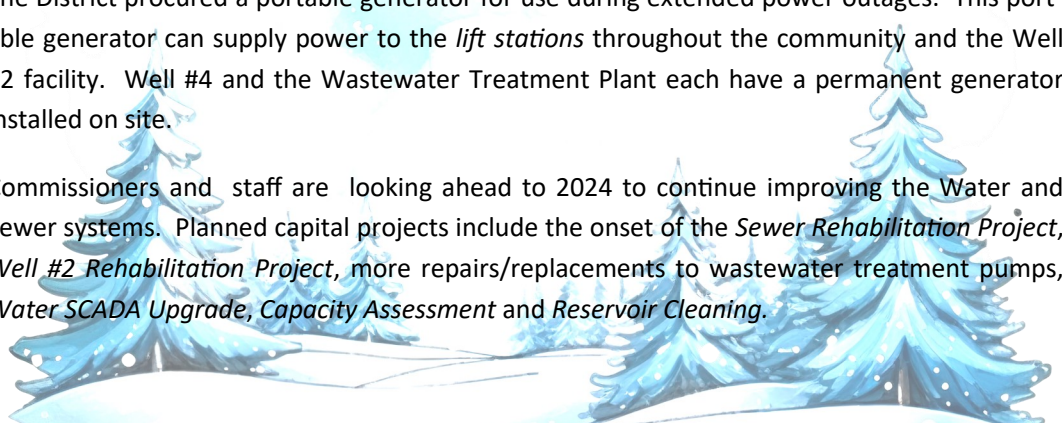
Various pumps used in both water and wastewater treatment were repaired when possible, or replaced. Some of the repairs/replacements were able to be completed by District staff.

The few remaining old *Sensus* water meters at houses around the community were replaced with new *Kamstrup* water meters. These newer radio-read meters substantially reduce time in labor for operators who gather monthly meter readings. The newer meters are much more reliable and sophisticated and have helped operators identify household leaks so they can notify homeowners that there's a problem with their plumbing.

The WA State Auditor's Office performed a routine accountability audit of the District's 2021 & 2022 fiscal years. The audit team will meet with the Board of Commissioners to share their report. Preliminary reports are favorable.

The District procured a portable generator for use during extended power outages. This portable generator can supply power to the *lift stations* throughout the community and the Well #2 facility. Well #4 and the Wastewater Treatment Plant each have a permanent generator installed on site.

Commissioners and staff are looking ahead to 2024 to continue improving the Water and Sewer systems. Planned capital projects include the onset of the *Sewer Rehabilitation Project*, *Well #2 Rehabilitation Project*, more repairs/replacements to wastewater treatment pumps, *Water SCADA Upgrade*, *Capacity Assessment* and *Reservoir Cleaning*.



# General Manager's Report

## Sanitary Survey Inspection Report



As a public water system in Washington, we are under the oversight of Dept. of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water. One of the requirements is that DOH conduct a *sanitary survey* inspection. A *sanitary survey* is a periodic inspection of water system facilities, operations and records. DOH uses it to identify conditions that may present a sanitary or public health risk. Drinking water rules in WA require all "Group A" public drinking water systems to have a routine sanitary survey once every three to five years.

The District's latest inspection was conducted in November. The DOH inspector listed two items of importance: one "Significant Deficiency," the need to reconnect electrical conduit to a junction box inside a well enclosure that had come apart; and one "Significant Finding," to submit evidence of a treatment chemical being certified safe. The chemical, Ferric Chloride, is used to remove arsenic and the container did not have a mark showing that it is NSF60 certified. The supplier was able to provide proof of NSF60 certification.

I'm happy to report that I was able to send a reply that both items were immediately addressed by staff and sent photo verification to DOH. The following is the reply I received:

"That's wonderful news! Starting work on (and completing some already, no less) the survey items so quickly says a lot about you and your team. I really appreciate your efforts, especially given all the other competing tasks you're responsible for. And I know the SW regional office wants to support your efforts toward excellence."

It makes me proud to receive this commendation from DOH. It truly is a team effort, from operators all the way up to the Board of Commissioners. So let me say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone here at HPWSD and to all of you residents for your support!

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager



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## COMMISSIONER #1 ELECTION RESULTS

At time of publication, preliminary results indicate Carl Anderson received 70% of the November 7th election votes and is the apparent Commissioner #1 elect. The Auditor's office will certify the election results by the end of November and the new commissioner will be sworn in at the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in January 2024. An article will be included in the next newsletter introducing the new commissioner.

# District Thanks

## Commissioner Hospador



The District extends its gratitude to Commissioner Andrew (Andy) Hospador, who was elected Commissioner #1 in 2017 after serving an appointed short term prior to his election. For more than six years, Commissioner Hospador has served the District, providing his unique perspective with his background in engineering and management. Andy served in multiple roles, as board secretary and as the audit commissioner.

Andy's term will be fulfilled at the end of 2023 and we all wish him the best as he will have more time to enjoy retirement. Thanks, Andy!

## Flushing Scheduled for December

Operators will flush water mains around the Pointe during the first two weeks of December, depending on weather conditions. Periodic water main flushing is an industry-best practice to clear mains of sediments that accumulate over time. Flushing will occur during the day. Depending on the area where operators are flushing throughout the system, you may experience a drop in water pressure and/or discolored water. Once flushing in your area is complete, you may have to flush your own plumbing by running water until clear (an opportunity to collect that water for another use).

## 2024 Water & Sewer Rates

The Board of Commissioners approved the fee schedule for 2024. As of January, base rates for residential water and sewer services will be as follows:

Water:	99.90
Sewer:	90.00
<b>Total Monthly:</b>	<b>189.90</b>

The increase will help the District meet its financial obligations in 2024, accounting for inflation and looking ahead at needed capital improvement projects. The District has faced increased operational costs, especially in treatment chemical costs, rising costs in gasoline and diesel. Most of the District's other charges and fees remain unchanged.