



Newsletter



2024

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413

772 E Chesapeake Dr.

Shelton, WA 98584

Email: info@hpwsd.org

Website: hpwsd.org

General Manager:

Jeff Palmer

gm@hpwsd.org

Commissioners:

Carl Anderson

Commissioner1@hpwsd.org

Jim Anderson

Commissioner2@hpwsd.org

Stacy Swart

Commissioner3@hpwsd.org

Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: 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.

WA Dept. of Ecology Declares State-wide Drought

Washington Drought Declaration



On April 16, WA State Dept. of Ecology declared a drought emergency for almost the entire state. Forecasted runoff continues to be below the state's statutory threshold for drought conditions. That threshold is met when an area is expected to receive less than 75 percent of normal water supply and there is a risk of undue hardship for water users and the environment. Ecology relies on streamflow forecasts provided by the National

Weather Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and also consider data for precipitation, soil moisture, and other factors.

Streamflows and reservoir levels in some areas are far below normal, with forecasts indicating little likelihood that conditions will improve. These conditions are leading to undue hardship for water users, including small community water systems.

Source: WA State Ecology Website



What does this mean for the Hartstene Pointe community? While the District always promotes conservative water use, drought conditions can lower water levels in aquifers and can stress small water systems, so everyone is encouraged to be especially mindful of daily water use and look for ways to save.

Wastewater Project Special Meeting

District commissioners and staff would like to thank those who were able to attend the latest Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (WIRP) special meeting on April 27th. There were at least fifty (50) in attendance. The team at Century West Engineering (CWE) presented updates to the WIRP, focusing largely on the plans to install grinder pumps in order to relocate the east bluff sewer line. Attendees were able to ask questions and provide input.

A special thank you to Pam and Alan for all of their assistance in setting up the clubhouse for the meeting. Slides from CWE's presentation are available on the District's website on the WIRP webpage. If you were unable to attend and have questions about the project, please reach out to Jeff, the GM, who can help provide answers. The District prefers direct communications regarding its projects, since more accurate information can be conveyed rather than relying on second-hand information.

Another meeting is expected to be held sometime in June to provide project updates to the community. A date has not yet been determined, but once the meeting is scheduled, it will be posted in the next newsletter and on the District's website, in addition to a sign posted near the Pointe entry.



General Manager's Report

WA State Water-Sewer Utility Operator Certifications



Every so often, you'll see in our newsletter an announcement about one of our employees passing a certification exam. I'd like to elaborate about these.

As required by law, every public water system or wastewater treatment plant is required to be staffed by a certified operator. These operators must have the required level of training and experience, then pass a WA State exam to attain their certification(s). Each of these certifications has four levels and passing an exam is required for each level. At Hartstene Pointe, operations must be overseen by a Group (level) II Water Treatment Plant Operator and Group II Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Operators with more advanced levels of certification are a definite asset to the District, bringing greater insight and problem-solving skills to the team. The different certifications are as follows:

Drinking Water

- Water Distribution Manager (WDM)
- Water Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO)
- Cross-Connection Control Specialist (CCS) *only one level*

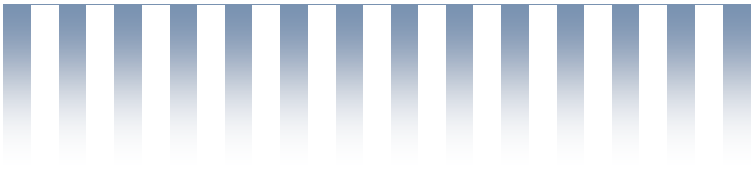
Wastewater

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (WWTPO)

In April, two of our operators, Jared and Jaron, both successfully passed their exams for the WDM II, and Jared passed his exam for the WTPO I. I'm very proud of the hard work and effort they both have put into obtaining these and proud of the whole team for all they do here.

Please join me in a round of applause for these guys!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Check toilets for leaks. Place a few drops of food coloring in the reservoir above the toilet—if the color ends up in the toilet bowl, you likely have a leak, wasting water all day long."

DOH Site Visit

The GM reached out to WA State Dept. of Health (DOH) for advice regarding drinking water treatment solutions. The treatment systems incorporate chemicals and a filtration system to produce water that meets EPA standards. It's not as simple as introducing these chemicals to raw water and letting it process. There is a balance needed for each chemical and filtration time. This requires constant monitoring.

Water samples are analyzed by lab testing to ensure Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants and pollutants set by EPA are not exceeded. The water is safe to drink. At times the water can be discolored. While not harmful, it can be disconcerting to look at, whether in a drinking glass or a bathtub. Staff regularly schedule to flush water mains to help with this.

DOH visited facilities on April 29th and offered some tips. Based on data collected during the visit, DOH will further research and offer advice with the hope to help the District produce a higher aesthetic quality water.

Think Before You Flush

It's a common habit for many to flush unwanted items down the drain. Wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products...there are many items that should never be flushed down the toilet.

In 2023, a study was conducted to reveal what's often flushed down the drain. They collected, sorted, identified and logged 1,745 samples from two different locations in CA. The breakdown of the items collected included: 34% wipes that were labeled with the "Do Not Flush" symbol (baby wipes, cleaning wipes, makeup wipes, etc.), 65% other non-flushable items (paper towels, feminine hygiene products, trash, etc.) and 1% wipes labeled as "flushable."

Flushing these items causes serious problems for treatment plants. For starters, many of these items clog up machines or have to be manually retrieved by operators to dispose of properly. In some cases, "flushable" wipes can even clog up a home's plumbing —this is because they don't break down in the water as well as toilet paper.

When flushing, always remember only to flush the 3 P's:



TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

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