



Dedicated to Service

Newsletter

June 2024

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Pay Your Bill 24/7
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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.

May 10th Water Service Disruption



On May 10th there was a major water leak being repaired and it ended up requiring the District to shut water off to almost the entire community. You may have seen the photo in the email that went out to subscribers. Someone had installed a galvanized fitting with a brass valve, which is a bad combination. Electrolysis occurs and the galvanized parts always end up with holes. Since it was buried several feet underground, the leak had been going on for a while until it finally surfaced. It was a significant leak and needed to be repaired right away.

When these repairs are performed, operators try to limit the number of homes that will experience interruption of service. Quite often water service to a single driveway can be isolated; occasionally, services need to be shut off for a section of a road between intersections. Unfortunately, in this instance, crews had to shut off the main line on Nantucket Road, which affected most Pointe residences. Once repairs were done and the water was back on, there were some issues with discolored water, which required flushing hydrants to clear it up.

Please be aware that we hate to interrupt anyone's water flow and realize that it can be quite an inconvenience. Having to flush the hydrants when there's a drought declared by Ecology is also frustrating. Both were necessary evils to repair something that should never have happened in the first place.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during these times.

Ecology Drought Continues

The state-wide drought condition declared by WA Dept. of Ecology on April 16 is ongoing and expected to continue through summer months and likely beyond. As more residents return to the Pointe for the summer or weekends, please be conscious and deliberate with how you consume water. Operators noticed a spike in water consumption as residents remembered our country's fallen heroes over Memorial Day weekend. As the community dives into summer and plans celebrations, join us in being responsible and mindful of water use. Thank you!

Public Meeting Announcement

The District will hold another special public meeting with updates to the Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project on **Saturday, July 27 at 10:00 am** at the **HPMA clubhouse**. Commissioners, staff and project engineers will have more information by that time to share with the community. There will be an opportunity to address questions and concerns about project details. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



General Manager's Report

The Telephone Game



Remember the old “telephone” game or “whisper down the lane” game? It was a popular children’s game starting with a group of kids in a line or circle. The first kid would whisper a message to the second one, who would pass it to the next, until the message had been repeated to the very last child. Then the final message would be compared to the original message to see what had changed during the retelling—it usually changed a lot.

Even as adults, we still tend to engage in that game, although not intentionally. We end up doing it in the form of re-telling of gossip or rumors, but it still has the same end result. Due to the unreliability of average human recollection, the final message doesn’t match up to the original. Believe it or not, it also happens at the Pointe. Sometimes, the District hears some of these rumors and it can be quite surprising to hear something water-sewer related that never came from us!

Hopefully you’ve heard—from us—that we have a major sewer project in the works. So far, we have held 3 public outreach meetings on Saturdays, in order to officially tell you what is happening. At those meetings, we try to let you know as much as *we* know up to that point. We also have monthly newsletters that go out with our billing, either a paper copy in the postal mail or a digital copy via email. Newsletters are also available on the District’s website. We use them to inform everyone of anything important happening with the District.

Please share [this](#) info with your neighbors—read the newsletters, attend the meetings and visit our website. You can also email or call me at gm@hpwsd.org or (360) 427-3413 ext. 3 to ask questions. *These* are the sources for accurate information. You can help us control the whisper down the lane effect!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

“If you like indoor or outdoor plants, there are many beautiful household plants that are drought-resistant and require little attention or care—just place them where you like and enjoy!”

I.T.'s High Water Consumption

Information Technology continues to evolve rapidly as it has the past few decades. Data used to be widely stored on forms of media you held in your hand, whether it was a disc, USB drive, an SD card, etc. These days, much of our data is stored in a “cloud” service, such as those provided by Google, Amazon and Microsoft. With this comes convenience, a certain level of security and backup service to prevent loss of data.

Along with convenience, though, there is a downside that needs to be brought to everyone’s awareness. Cloud computing infrastructure generates a lot of heat and in order to address that, billions of gallons of water are used to cool heated components. In 2022, Google consumed approximately 5 billion gallons for water to cool its data centers.

Initiatives and innovations are exploring solutions to cool infrastructure in a more sustainable and eco-friendly way. Even so, there needs to be more transparency from data centers industry-wide and a drive to responsible water use.

Soil Boring Project Work Performed

Phases of the Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (WIRP) are ongoing and as part of the project, soil boring was performed at various sites of the Pointe on May 13 & 14. Soil boring is the process of drilling a hole in the ground to collect samples of soil and bedrock. It is used to determine the soil's physical and chemical properties and assess the suitability of the site for various engineering projects.



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