



Dedicated to Service

Newsletter



2024

Upcoming Commissioner Seat Vacancy

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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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.



Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District announces an upcoming vacancy on the 3-member Board of Commissioners. This is an opportunity to serve your community in a significant and unique way. The Board is tasked with ensuring the overall efficient operation and financial well-being of the District. The appointee filling the vacancy of Position #2 will serve for the remainder of an original six-year term, expiring in December 2027. To qualify for appointment to the Board, the individual must be registered to vote within the District (RCW 29A.24.075).

While there are no additional requirements to serve as a commissioner, anyone interested in an appointment to this office is encouraged to become familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the position and to attend an upcoming Regular Meeting. No one pursues this position with a “work history” as a water-sewer commissioner, and the role is specific to our District, so the appointee will be supported while gaining an understanding. An individual familiar with water-sewer systems, budgetary processes, and policy-making may feel more effective more quickly. Principle duties are to establish and carry out policy while meeting regulatory requirements; supervise the GM; follow laws for record-keeping; and provide financial accountability to assure that District revenues cover operations, debt service and reserves.

Preparation for meetings generally includes reading (contracts, monthly financial reports, a water utility management handbook, regulatory changes, and new policies) and additional reading, communication and training that supports a commissioner’s efforts to stay on top of the ever-evolving state of the industry. It’s important to be aware of our major sewer infrastructure replacement project that is underway, as we are moving forward into the construction phase.

All interested individuals are encouraged to contact the District Office to receive support in the exploration of appointment to Position #2. A letter of interest can be subsequently submitted in person, via email or USPS. The Board meets for 2-3 hours on the first and third Thursdays at 1:00 pm at the District Office. We look forward to new working relationships.

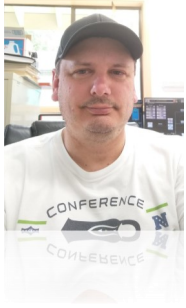
Public Meeting Announcement

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 opportunities to address questions and concerns about project details. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



General Manager's Report

Wastewater Surveillance Update



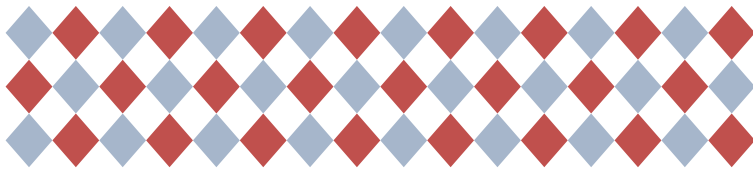
In past newsletters, we've shared that we voluntarily participate in the national wastewater surveillance program. Across the country, wastewater samples are collected and sent to laboratories for testing. When we first started, our samples were only being tested for COVID-19; now, they are also tested for RSV and Influenza. The CDC believes that by monitoring these diseases, the next pandemic can be averted.

Last year, I was invited to attend a related workshop that was held in Tukwila. This year, I had the opportunity to attend another workshop in San Francisco. These workshops were sponsored by the Water Environment Federation (wef.org), which is a not-for-profit organization. They reimbursed me for my travel and lodging, so the District was spared the expense.

It was a quick trip—I flew down on a Tuesday afternoon, attended the workshop on Wednesday and flew home that night, but I feel it was worth it. These workshops are attended by utility personnel, health officials (city, county and state), laboratory personnel, WEF employees and CDC officials. Everyone in attendance offered input on ways to improve the program and it was really interesting to hear all the various perspectives.

If you'd ever like to know more about it, feel free to contact me—I'm happy to share!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



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Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Never use water to thaw food. The safest and most water-efficient way is to defrost food in the refrigerator. Keep this in mind and plan ahead for holiday barbecues and get-togethers!"

U.S. Residents Targeted by Utility Scammers on Google



It is a sad truth that everywhere you look, there are people trying to scam you. One fraud scheme the District wants to make you aware of: scammers are running fake ads online related to utility bills. Scammers try to direct victims to their call centers, where they collect identity information and try to subsequently extort money from these victims.

Remember to be extremely vigilant before calling anyone, especially if that number came from an advertisement. If in doubt, go directly to your utility company's website and look for a form or phone number that you can verify before dialing. For Hartstene Pointe accounts, contact us at the Water-Sewer District Office—our contact information is printed in the front of this newsletter. You can also stop by our office, located at 119 Liberty Rd. just beyond the Fitness Center by the commercial gate.

Sump Pumps

Living in an area where there is substantial rainfall, sometimes water gets into places where you don't necessarily want it. Such places can be the crawl space under your house or a basement. Water shouldn't stay in those places for long, so many houses have a sump pump installed to remove the unwanted water when it accumulates.

The sewer system has a major problem with rainwater making its way to the wastewater treatment plant, thus overwhelming it. The daily flows to the plant range from 40,000 gallons on a dry day to 700,000 after heavy rainfall. With the upcoming work being done to improve sewer lines, there will be significant reductions in those flows. However, if a home's sump pump is tied into the sewer pipes serving that house (which is unlawful), rainwater would continue flowing to the plant for unnecessary treatment and cause flow violations. The Pointe's stormwater ditches and culverts are intended to shunt surface water from roadways and also from collected runoff that's been tight-lined from residences, carrying it out to Puget Sound.

If there is a sump pump at your house or you know of one elsewhere at the Pointe, please be a good steward of the community and investigate where it pumps to. Needed corrections should be made (once Permitted) to the drainage system in order to bring your residence into compliance with both HPMA and HPWSD.