



# Newsletter

## October 2024

### Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413  
772 E Chesapeake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
Email: [info@hpwsd.org](mailto:info@hpwsd.org)  
Website: [hpwsd.org](http://hpwsd.org)

General Manager:  
*Jeff Palmer*  
[gm@hpwsd.org](mailto:gm@hpwsd.org)

Commissioners:  
*Carl Anderson*  
[Commissioner1@hpwsd.org](mailto:Commissioner1@hpwsd.org)  
*(To be appointed)*  
[Commissioner2@hpwsd.org](mailto:Commissioner2@hpwsd.org)  
*Stacy Swart*  
[Commissioner3@hpwsd.org](mailto:Commissioner3@hpwsd.org)

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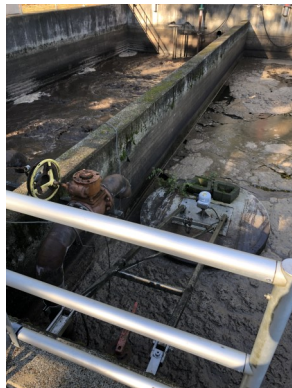
**Billing Office Hours**  
Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Tuesdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Thursdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

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 Common Treatment Myths



When it comes to wastewater treatment, there are plenty of misconceptions floating around. These myths can lead to misunderstandings about how treatment plants operate and the role they play in safeguarding public health and the environment. Let's break down a few common treatment myths:

**Myth 1: All Wastewater is Treated the Same Way** While most people think of treatment as a one-size-fits-all process, the truth is that different contaminants require different methods. Treatment plants use various stages of filtration, biological processes, and chemical treatments based on the type of waste and local regulations.

**Myth 2: Wastewater is "Clean" After Initial Treatment** Primary treatment removes larger particles, but it's far from complete. Full treatment requires additional stages, such as secondary and tertiary treatments, to ensure the water is safe for discharge into the environment.

**Myth 3: Wastewater Treatment is Only About Water** Treatment plants don't just handle water—they also manage biosolids, remove harmful chemicals, and prevent hazardous pollutants from entering natural waterways. Plants are complex systems working to ensure both water and surrounding ecosystems stay protected.

Understanding the truth behind these myths highlights the critical work done by treatment plants and their operators, ensuring clean, safe water for communities everywhere.

Source: <https://www.tpomag.com/bytes/2024/09/debunking-common-treatment-myths-what-you-need-to-know?news>

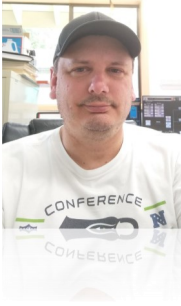
## Stefan Birgh Appointed as Commissioner #2

Stefan Birgh has lived in Washington state most of his life. He graduated from Western Washington University with a Business Degree. He has over forty years experience managing businesses in the Construction, Home Automation and Security Fields. During this time he developed budgets and was responsible for all aspects of financial management. He has extensive experience in construction and facilities maintenance, including understanding the life cycles of buildings and infrastructure as it applies to forecasting capital improvements. He recently retired from Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association where he served as General Manager for eleven years. Stefan is excited to be part of the team at HPWSD as the District is planning and implementing projects to refurbish its aging water and sewer infrastructure. He can be reached at [commissioner2@hpwsd.org](mailto:commissioner2@hpwsd.org)



# General Manager's Report

## Wastewater Surveillance Testing Ended



Over 2 years ago, I was contacted by a company to ask if we'd be willing to participate in a wastewater surveillance program. Wastewater surveillance has been around for a long time, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDC got involved to boost efforts. The idea is that by testing wastewater, they can see if there is an upward trend in an area, hopefully identify hotspots and prevent it from growing. I thought this was intriguing and since it came at no cost to the District, I agreed to be a part of it.

This company, Biobot, originally had a contract with the CDC for this project. That contract expired, but Biobot offered to continue this program at their own expense. To ease costs, Biobot is continuing to test at a smaller number of wastewater systems, but our small, remote location is not one of them.

While there never was any trend that caused any worry here, it was still interesting to see how there were occasional, small spikes. They also tested for influenza and RSV, which also never gave any significant cause for concern.

So for now, our participation in the wastewater surveillance program has ended. There is always a possibility that Biobot could ask us to start again, or another company could approach us for the same thing. Either way, I'm more than happy to volunteer for it again. I believe in this work and if it has potential to prevent another pandemic, I will support it as much as possible. I encourage you all to read this report about it:

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26767/wastewater-based-disease-surveillance-for-public-health-action>

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



visit [www.nacwa.org/toilets](http://www.nacwa.org/toilets)

# TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

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



## Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

**"Toilets can waste a lot of water, especially older ones. Interested in reducing water usage? Consider upgrading your toilet! Newer toilets reduce the amount of water used per flush."**

Think you know a lot about treatment plants? Let's see how much of a water treatment expert you really are over the next several newsletters! (see bottom of page for answer)

When was the first recorded water treatment system used?

- a) 2000 B.C.      b) 500 A.D.      c) 1800 A.D.

## System-wide Flushing Scheduled



The crew will be performing quarterly flushing October 7-11. A reminder: please give the crew plenty of space so that they can safely perform this task.

You may experience a brief period of low water pressure when flushing is taking place near your property. Flushing is a common practice in a lot of older water distribution systems and helps clean the water main lines, so that we can deliver the best drinking water to your home.

If you notice any discolored water coming from your tap during this time, run water until it turns clear.



## Call Before You Dig

Have you ever noticed the paint marks on the road, or perhaps a driveway or common area, and wondered what they were? It's not someone being mischievous. These are called *locate marks*, and not only are they very important, they are required by law.

Digging anywhere in the state of Washington without calling for a "utility locate" is against State law. Failure to call may result in fines, charges for damages, and criminal convictions. This is because you never know where underground utilities may be. The call is free and only the utility companies are billed a small amount for each *locate* called in. 811 is the number to call at least 2 business days before any digging is initiated. Utilities in the area are notified, so that they can put paint marks on the ground to show where utility lines are. If it's not an area where paint can be applied, colored flags can also be used. See right for what the various colors represent. For more information, visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) or [callbeforeyoudig.org](http://callbeforeyoudig.org)

### UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

White	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
Pink	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
Red	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
Yellow	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
Orange	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
Blue	POTABLE WATER
Purple	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
Green	SEWER AND DRAIN LINES



Know what's below.

Call 811 before you dig.

[www.DigSafeWA.com](http://www.DigSafeWA.com)

Quiz Answer: (a) As far back as 2000 B.C., people had devised methods for water treatment. The earliest documented methods come from ancient Greek writings that suggested heating water by boiling it over fire and using the sun. They also discussed filtering water using gravel and sand.