



Dedicated to Service

# Newsletter



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)

*Stefan Birgh*

[Commissioner2@hpwsd.org](mailto:Commissioner2@hpwsd.org)

*Stacy Swart*

[Commissioner3@hpwsd.org](mailto:Commissioner3@hpwsd.org)

### 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.*

## North Beach Leak Repairs



You probably noticed or heard about a lot of digging activity going on around North Beach for the last couple of months and may have been curious about it. Or maybe you were affected by the water being off one day. Here's an update on it all.

Back in July, there was a food truck at HPMA's North Beach Picnic Area for the 4th of July celebration. It was parked on the grass and ended up getting stuck in a very mushy spot. This was reported to District staff on July 5 and operators had the area under observation for the next couple of months, as it was not known if it was a water leak or one of the naturally wet areas in the Pointe. The District also does not have accurate maps of the underground water system, so staff could not be sure where a potential culprit water line would be. Since it would require extensive digging with the District's mini excavator, staff waited for summer crowds to taper off before restricting access to the area. Staff were able to accomplish two things during this project: the source was determined to be a water leak, which was repaired; the water line that feeds the North Beach restrooms and shelter was located. Staff will work to restore the grass area soon.

In an unrelated incident, a severe water leak surfaced on October 11, across the road from North Beach. This required shutting off the water main from Pointes Drive West/Bos'n Road to Pointes Drive East/Chesapeake Drive. An email blast was sent out to inform everyone. Please be aware that in such a situation, when the staff don't have time to wait, informing everyone ahead of time is not always possible. Due to the surrounding conditions, a contractor was hired to perform a safer, controlled excavation using a vacuum truck so that staff could repair the leak. The project took most of the day, but thankfully the repairs were completed and water service restored on the same day. The photo shows the fitting that caused the leak and proves yet again why brass and galvanized plumbing should not be used together.



The District thanks everyone for their patience during these repairs.

## Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project Status

Finalized plans for the upcoming sewer project were completed by Century West Engineering and submitted to the WA State Department of Ecology for review and approval in September. Ecology's engineers approved the plans late last month. The District can now solicit bids from qualified contractors and move forward into the construction phase of the project.

# General Manager's Report

## World Toilet Day

Mark your calendars: November 19 is *World Toilet Day*. I know this sounds a bit odd, but bear with me.



I recently read an article about *World Toilet Day*, noting that wastewater operators are part of a profession that has saved more human lives than all doctors combined. This is because public sanitation prevents all manner of miserable and oftentimes fatal waterborne diseases.

According to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, some 3.5 billion people live without safe toilets and 419 million people have no toilets at all - they go out in the open.

Most of these issues exist in the developing world, but it really wasn't so long ago that the U.S. had serious deficiencies. Until the 1970s, minimally treated sewage was routinely discharged into rivers and streams. The Clean Water Act of 1972 started turning that around. A lot of money was invested in wastewater treatment plant construction and upgrades, and tens of thousands of operators were hired and trained.

It's useful for people to remember how much progress has been made—how much better the world is—because of humble things like toilets, sewers and treatment facilities. So *World Toilet Day* may seem a funny thing, but because of humble things like toilets, the world is a better place.

For more information, visit [www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day)

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



# TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

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

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



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

**"Is your toilet leaking? A small drip can go undetected and can waste a lot of water! You can check for a leak by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank and check the bowl after 15 minutes."**

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)

**What process is commonly used to remove solid particles from wastewater in the initial treatment stage?**

- a) Chlorination      b) Filtration      c) Sedimentation

## Prepare to Avoid Freezing Pipes



In this area, we don't deal with long, deep freezes like other parts of the country, but when temperatures dip down like last January, it can lead to frozen pipes. Every year, a number of homes around the Pointe suffer household damage due to freezing pipe bursts.

(island houses especially). The damage can be costly to repair. Prepare in advance to avoid pipe bursts.

District staff like to help when they are able. After a freezing pipe burst occurs and staff are called to shut off water, they respond ASAP. This helps homeowners avoid further damage caused by running water and also helps minimize water loss. However, after a pipe bursts, shutting off water service is all staff can do to assist. Besides it being outside the District's area of responsibility, staff have no way to thaw frozen pipes and do not repair household plumbing. The saying is that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To save money and headaches, here are some tips & suggestions to help prevent pipes from freezing:

- While away, shut off the home's water for the winter and drain pipes, or leave cabinets under any sinks open so that warm air inside the building can reach these pipes (leave heating thermostat set to 55°F)
- Ensure pipes in crawlspaces are well-insulated
- Make sure crawlspaces are enclosed so wind cannot blow into it
- Leave a faucet running a very small stream and choose one on the opposite side of the house from the water meter... yes, there is a possibility it could lead to higher water bills, but it would still be cheaper than hiring a plumber to repair a burst pipe
- Ensure that all exposed exterior pipes are insulated and older spigots with valve assemblies outside are adequately covered and protected



**Quiz Answer:** (c) It's all about letting gravity do the work! The principle behind sedimentation is relatively straightforward. It relies on the natural process of gravity to separate solids from liquids. Heavier solids gradually sink to the bottom of the treatment basin, awaiting further treatment.