



Newsletter

JUNE

2026

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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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.

Bluff Trail Opens, Hydroseeding in September

The District is pleased that in cooperation with contractors and HPMA, the Bluff Trail is open for Pointe residents to enjoy. Throughout the sewer project, this trail was closed for everyone's safety as open trenches were exposed for infrastructure installation. In May, contractors worked to restore the length of the trail, laying a wide rock path and placing rich soil along the perimeter. This restoration is an improvement to conditions prior to the onset of the project.



Engineers and contractors plan to hydroseed soil in September, during the season when weather is ideal for optimal establishment & growth. As indicated by HPMA-installed signs, please stay on the path and off soil. Local wildlife will trod soil, which will settle over the summer months; hydroseeding is expected to be successful considering these conditions. Reminder: bicycles are not permitted on HPMA trails, including the Bluff Trail.



As the summer season approaches, take some time to enjoy this beautiful pathway!

Commissioners Restructure Staff Responsibilities

In 2018, the then-Board of Commissioners transitioned from contracting day-to-day operations to hiring employees who work directly for the District. This transition brought a number of benefits, including consistency of operations, dedicated attention to improving processes and focus on infrastructure improvements. Jeff Palmer was one of the original employees brought on in 2018, serving as the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator until 2021 when he assumed the role of General Manager for the past five years. Prior to his employment at the District, he performed work at the plant both with Mason County and as a contract operator. Jeff has moved on from his position—we are thankful for his time working at the Pointe and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

The commissioners are moving forward with a reorganization of staff responsibilities to streamline operations and costs. The lead operator, Jaron, is now the *Operations Manager* and will balance office work/project management with continued operations in the field. The Project & Accounts Manager, Joe, is now the *Finance & Administrative Manager*; he will continue performing additional duties that he has assumed in recent years. The two managers will work closely with commissioners to continue the District's commitment of service to the community.

Accountability Audit Completed



The WA State Auditor’s Office (SAO) conducts routine accountability audits for every government agency and entity in the state at least once per year or once every two years, depending on the specific size and/or type of the government. “Performance audits evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of government programs with the goal of making them work better.” (sao.wa.gov)

The February newsletter highlighted the progress of SAO’s audit of the District’s fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The audit team assigned from the Port Orchard Office chose four areas of focus for comprehensive evaluation:

- Accounts payable ▪ Procurement
- Open Public Meetings Compliance ▪ Financial Condition

Specific areas of accounts payable examined included general disbursements, petty cash transactions and credit cards (if applicable).

SAO completed the audit and HPWSD is pleased to share that the audit report concluded with no *findings* or *recommendations* to the Board of Commissioners.

Audits are time consuming for office staff, who attend weekly meetings with SAO staff, locate/provide requested documents from archives and address questions from auditors. The lead auditor expressed appreciation for the “District staff’s dedication to the audit process...specifically Joe (Project & Accounts Manager) for his prompt communications and responses to all requests.”

District commissioners & staff return the thanks to SAO for upholding high standards of government accountability and transparency.



2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Published

The 2025 CCR is available on the District’s website:

<https://hpwsd.org/ccr2025.pdf>

Drinking water systems publish CCRs annually to disclose sources of water, properties of raw and treated water, in addition to the processes employed for water treatment.



Drippy the Droplet’s Water-Saving Tip:

“Educate household members: Encourage everyone to adopt water-saving habits, like turning off taps while brushing teeth, washing dishes, scrubbing vegetables, etc.!”

Reservoir Inspected, Cleaned

Every 3 to 5 years, our 80-foot water tower is inspected and, if needed, cleaned. Traditionally, many companies use professional divers to inspect and clean the inside of tanks. This work can be challenging and potentially hazardous due to the conditions inside the tank, including increased water pressure at greater depths.

On May 19th, we had our water tower cleaned by Integrated Underwater Services, a company that takes a different approach. Instead of using divers, they use remotely operated robots to inspect and clean the tank.

A two-person team completed the work. One technician climbed to the top of the tower to access the entry hatch and lower robots into the tank (sterilizing first), while the other operated the equipment from the ground using a specialized computer system.

The operation involved two robots working together: one recorded before-and-after camera footage, while the other performed the cleaning. The photo (see right) shows the cleaning robot, designed for remote cleaning of tanks. If you’ve ever wondered what a \$90,000 Roomba looks like, now you know!



In just one day, this team of humans and robots safely and efficiently completed the job, helping ensure our water tower remains clean and ready for years to come.

Shout Out to District’s First Board of Commissioners

The Hartstene Pointe community was provided water and sewer services from the local systems, operated by Mason County Utilities, for many years prior to the Water & Sewer District’s formation in 2008. In the early 2000’s, local residents were dissatisfied with the lack of maintenance and attention toward the aging infrastructure and voted to form Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District, an independent local special purpose district, which governs autonomously under chapter 57 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

Since 2008, the District has had elected commissioners who serve to ensure quality water and sewer services are provided to the community, while moving forward with operations and important capital projects.

Three of your neighbors were instrumental in forming a firm foundation for the future of today’s water –sewer district and the current commissioners wish to recognize them for their hard work and dedication—THANK YOU Mary Alice Cary, Bill Parisio and Roger Ray for your civil service!