



Newsletter

October 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.

Hydroseeding Bluff Trail Path Completed



As part of the restoration phase of the sewer rehabilitation project, Bluff Trail hydroseeding was successfully completed by contractors on Tuesday, September 29th. Weather conditions were ideal, as it rained throughout most of the day. The path along the bluff is now re-opened.

A few residents volunteered to clean up common areas, removing debris and dead vegetation. Several trees were planted

as well, in accordance with plans submitted and approved by HPMA. Other grounds disturbed due to the project were restored earlier this summer.

District commissioners and staff are pleased with the results and hope residents will enjoy the restored path for years to come.



Water System Plan Update Underway

District staff, engineers and WA Department of Health (DOH) are collaborating to update the District's Drinking Water System Plan. Part of developing an updated Water System Plan includes getting an updated capacity assessment. The District's current plan permits the District to serve 498 residences. Currently, we serve 485 connections, so there is still room for expansion. Following capital upgrades to the water system, DOH will likely increase the District's allowed capacity.

Rumors of the District imposing a "moratorium" still persist. The District has not in recent years ever discussed a moratorium, so please reach out to the District directly with any questions, rather than perpetuate and imply false information.

Lift Station Pump Faults

A lift station pump was removed from service after multiple failures to start. A knotted pet waste bag was found to be the culprit, preventing the impeller from rotating normally. The District would like to remind everyone to be mindful of what goes down drains and gets flushed. Plastic bags should never be flushed in any wastewater collection system, since wastewater treatment plants are not designed to process plastic bags and this could result in polluting Puget Sound. "Toilets are not trash cans." Thank you for your cooperation in flushing only the **three 'P's**: Pee, Poop and Toilet Paper.

Draining, Flushing Hot Water Heaters

Draining a home's hot water heater is a task that should be done at least once annually. It's a simple task that can save homeowners' time and money. Fortunately, this is usually relatively simple and straightforward.

Why Draining Water Heaters is Needed?

Water contains minerals that can cause a number of problems. Sediment can build up over time if the water heater is not drained annually. Areas with hard water should consider draining and flushing more frequently, since hard water is water with higher mineral content.

How to Drain Your Water Heater

Step One: Shut off the cold water supply on the top of the water heater

Step Two: Disconnect power to the water heater and wait for the tank to cool completely (typically just a few hours)

Step Three: Attach a water hose to the drain valve at the bottom of the tank

Step Four: Turn on the hot water tap at a nearby faucet and open the tank drain valve—consider collecting the drained water for later use, such as plant watering

Step Five: Once the tank is empty, turn the cold water supply valve on the tank to flush the tank with clean water until it runs clear from the draining hose

Step Six: Close the drain valve and remove the hose before restoring power to the water heater

Performing regular maintenance can extend the life of a water heater up to seven years. Inspecting & replacing sacrificial anode rods also extends the life of a tank (more on that next month). Only take on what you are comfortable doing. For any household maintenance task you are uncomfortable performing, be on the safe side and hire a knowledgeable, licensed professional.



Leaving the Pointe for an extended period?

Consider shutting off water to your property and draining pipes to prepare for the colder months. If your sewage discharges to a grinder pump, please take time to run clean water down the drain immediately before leaving. Doing this will help eliminate sewage from sitting at the bottom of the tank, creating strong odors and creating hydrogen sulfide gas. Have you already left? Please contact the District.

Proper Water Sample Collection

Laboratory testing is part of a District operator's regular routine, both for drinking water at the well treatment facilities and for wastewater at the wastewater treatment plant. Some of these tests are performed in-house, while more complex tests are performed at an accredited laboratory. In all cases, operators are trained to pay attention to many details to ensure integrity and accurate results are achieved.



A number of these details include the location of sample location, the type of bottle used to store the sample, maintaining within a specified temperature range and testing within a defined hold time.

Sampling locations should be spread out to represent the entire system being evaluated and should remain consistent when results are compared over time.

During collection, proper technique minimizes sources of error. Bottles are closed until sampling, and operators intently avoid touching the inside of bottles and caps.

Analyzing samples as soon as practical and documenting collection, preservation, storage, and analysis times can help support confidence in the final result.

Proper sample collection and storage are foundational to reliable water analysis. Starting with the applicable method, following sample-handling requirements, and maintaining consistent collection practices can help reduce avoidable errors before testing even begins.

—Adapted from a Water Online Article

Seasonal Worker Hired, Training

District commissioners and administrative staff are pleased to announce that the seasonal worker, who began work in June, will be retained as a regular employee. Mark has proven to be a hard worker with a wide range of valuable skills. He's taken upon himself a number of preventative maintenance tasks, such as tuning up mechanical equipment. He is also an expert heavy equipment operator, using excavation equipment and the Vacuum trailer efficiently and safely with ease.

Mark joins District Operator Kelly in cross training in both drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment. They are scheduled to begin Evergreen Rural Water of WA's "QUEST" program, which provides training toward attaining certifications. Evergreen Rural Water is Labor & Industries' only accredited such trainer in WA State.