Newsletter



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.

Protect Your Pipes this Winter!



Winter is right around the corner! There are plenty of things to love about this time of year. It's a season for thankfulness, spending time with loved ones, good cheer, and good food. It's also a great time to enjoy a cozy fire, sip your favorite hot beverage, and wrap yourself in a warm blanket while staying out of the cold!

Unfortunately, freezing winter temperatures can also bring some challenges. When temperatures drop, exposed water pipes can freeze and potentially burst, leading to costly water damage and repairs. Fortunately, there are several simple steps you can take to help protect your plumbing this winter:

- **Insulate exposed pipes:** Make sure any water piping underneath your home is properly insulated. Many water leaks during winter occur where pipes are exposed to cold temperatures. This is especially common with island homes at the Pointe.
- **Protect outdoor faucets:** Disconnect and drain garden hoses from outdoor spigots, then install insulated faucet covers to help prevent freezing.
- **Keep water moving:** During periods of extreme cold, allow a small, steady trickle of water to run from an indoor faucet, particularly if you have pipes that are vulnerable to freezing. Moving water is less likely to freeze than standing water.
- **Prepare your home before leaving:** If you plan to leave your home for an extended period during the winter, consider shutting off your home's main water supply and draining the plumbing by opening your faucets. This can help minimize the risk of water damage if something freezes while you're away.

A little preparation now can save you a lot of headaches later! Stay safe, enjoy the holiday season, and take a few minutes to protect your home from freezing temperatures.

New Lift Station Pump Hoist Procured

The District recently purchased a new hoist to make removing and servicing lift station pumps more efficient. The hoist features an adjustable arm that allows operators to lift pumps straight up and out of wet wells rather than pulling them at an angle. It also has a hydraulic jack for height adjustment and is powered by two 6-volt deep-cycle batteries. Instead of manually cranking pumps out, operators can use the electric winch to do the heavy lifting, saving both time and physical effort.

District Operator Mark also put his welding skills to work by attaching a steel mounting plate to a tow hitch, allowing the hoist to be mounted in the receiver of either District truck. This gives operators the ability to back up to any of our wet wells, remove a pump, and load it directly into the truck for transport and repairs.

Investing in better tools makes our jobs safer, easier, and more efficient. This new hoist is a great example of a practical improvement that will benefit District operations for years to come!

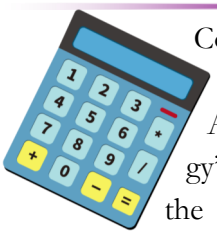
History of HPWSD

For Pointe homeowners who weren't around in the 2000s and remembering back to that time for those who were, the water and sewer systems used to be operated by Mason County Utilities. The community was dissatisfied with management, decades of deferred maintenance and deterioration of the systems, so the community took action in 2007.

In July 2007, HPMA's Board of Directors received a unanimous recommendation from its Utilities Committee to investigate forming the Pointe's own water and sewer district, taking back control from Mason County.

Serving on the committee at the time were some of our current and former neighbors, including William Parisio (committee chair), Robert Vivian, Roy Ferguson, Roger Ray, John Diehl, Ron Jamtgaard and Joe W. Their many hours of exploration and communication led to the community's decision to legally establish HPWSD, with the official transfer of finances and operations on 11/4/09. Since then, major improvements to the infrastructure have taken place.

2027 Budget Talks Underway



Commissioners began discussions for the direction of the preliminary 2027 budget. At this time last year, WA Dept. of Ecology's amortization schedule for repayment of the sewer project projected $234,822 due December 2026 and $469,644 due in 2027. Commissioners budgeted accordingly.

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Following project amendments due to in-field changes to the project, repayments for the project are presently delayed. Due to these changes, commissioners do not anticipate changes to base rates for the upcoming year.

Commissioners are exploring amending the District's current fund policies and structure, including setting aside debt repayment funds into interest-earning accounts through the WA State Investment Pool.

Several capital improvement projects will be in the works for 2027 as well. Look out for more information in future newsletters.

Stratification in Water Reservoirs



Reservoir cleaning earlier this year

When spring and summer approach, stored water flow and temperature will gradually increase in all water storage tanks. Increase in the water temperature typically results in *chemical and thermal stratification* along with an increase in biofilm growth and a decrease in the chlorine residual. The sun warms the outside of the storage tank and the heat inside increases the corrosion of metal above the water line in the headspace of the storage tank. The system operator cannot control the sunlight or ambient temperature, but with a robust active mixer, they can eliminate stratification and reduce headspace temperature.

When water in the tank is completely blended, the action from an active mixer will bring the colder and fresher water to the top of the tank potentially dropping the temperature, as well as eliminating chemical stratification. Without a mixer, thermal stratification will create a separation of the warmer water from the colder water and allow for a temperature separation that can be seen externally on a water storage tank. Temperature testing can confirm thermal stratification. Chemical stratification is another concern that can be verified by sampling the top and bottom of a storage tank or by using a sump pump (that is properly disinfected) to verify the chlorine residual at multiple levels within a water storage tank.

The mixer in the District's reservoir—located behind the RV access road—was installed in 2018 and has reached its end of life. Crews will procure and install a new mixer before the next warm season approaches.

—Adapted from a Water Online Article



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"November is a prime time to check for leaks in faucets, under-sink areas and toilets. One out of ten homes have leaks wasting 50 or more gallons of water per day!"