



Newsletter

July/August 2016

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Billing Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 1 pm in the District Office. 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.

Well No. 1 Replacement Project

The Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District plans to begin construction this summer on a new well to replace the existing Well No. 1. This project was planned to begin next year, however the current well has deteriorated rapidly over the past few months. Water production is dangerously low, and it has become necessary to expedite replacement of the well. Fortunately, thanks to our sufficient financial reserves and forethought, there are funds available for the project to be completed this year without a special assessment or rate increase.

A well rehabilitation and pump replacement were performed on Well No. 1 in early 2014. The rehabilitation had limited success, and by the fall of 2015 well production returned to its pre-rehabilitation water production levels and the new well pump had failed.

New Well Construction

The replacement well will be built for improved water quality and increased water production. Well No. 1 has historically produced 50 gallons per minute (gpm), however current production is averaging only 35 gpm. The design of the new well will aim to produce the well's water right of 110 gpm, or upwards of 108,000 additional gallons of water per day. This will allow for less reliance on Well No. 2, which has poor water quality. With proper maintenance, the new well should last at least 50 years.

We hope to begin construction in July and have the well completed and on-line by September. During the well drilling, residents can expect loud noises emanating from the drill site throughout the Pointe. Construction will take place no earlier than 8:00 am and no later than 5:00 pm.

The project may pose inconveniences to residents, especially as it will take place through the summer months. However, it is extremely important that the project be completed as soon as possible in order to avoid a water shortage.

Please Conserve Water

According to the National Weather Center, temperatures this summer are expected to be well above average. Add to that the expected increase in summer population here at the Pointe, and we will be pushing the limits of how much water the District's wells can currently produce.

Until the new well is on-line, we ask that homeowners, renters, and guests take extra care to conserve water. Visit our website, hpwatersewer.com, for tips on how to reduce water consumption this summer.



Pharmaceuticals Polluting Puget Sound

In a recent study, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found an alphabet soup of drugs and other personal-care products in wastewater and in the tissue of salmon in Puget Sound. Estuary waters near the sewage treatment plants were found to contain a cocktail of up to 81 different drugs.

The findings are of concern because most of the chemicals detected are not monitored or regulated in wastewater, and there is little or no established science on the environmental toxicity for the vast majority of the compounds detected. However, other recent studies have shown that juvenile chinook salmon migrating through contaminated estuaries in Puget Sound die at twice the rate of fish elsewhere. The drugs could be part of the reason, as they have the potential to affect fish growth, behavior, reproduction, immune function, and antibiotic resistance.

Drugs that humans take can get into the water in a few different ways. The most obvious is flushing leftover supplies down the toilet. Also, when a human takes a pill, their body may not absorb all of the drug and will eliminate the remaining amount in urine which then will be flushed down the toilet. These residues are not easily biodegradable, and wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove them.

What Can Be Done?

The EPA is adding various pharmaceuticals to a watch list of potentially harmful contaminants that warrant investigation. Researchers are looking for more effective wastewater treatment methods, and there has been a call for research into how to make

pharmaceuticals biodegradable or better absorbed.

At home, unused pills, personal care products, and other chemicals should never be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. There are two prescription drug take-back boxes located

in Mason County: in front of the Mason County Sheriff's Office (322 N 3rd St, Shelton, WA) and at the North Mason Regional Fire Authority (460 NE Old Belfair Highway, Belfair, WA). You can also search for a medication drop box near you at rxdrugdrop-box.org or speak to your local pharmacist.



No Chemicals Down the Drain



Anti-bacterial soaps, disinfectants, and other harsh chemicals can wreak havoc on beneficial bacteria crucial to the wastewater treatment processes. Additionally, many chemicals cannot be fully removed and pollute our beautiful Puget Sound.

Chemicals, oils and greases, personal care products, medications, food waste, and other trash should be disposed of in the garbage can, not down the drain or into the toilet.

Andrew Hospador Appointed Commissioner Position 3

At the June 9th regular meeting, the Board of Commissioners appointed Andrew Hospador to Commissioner Position 3, left vacant by the resignation of Roger Ray.



Andrew Hospador taking his Oath of Office

The Board followed the process set forth in Washington State Law for making appointments to vacant non-partisan elected offices. Commissioner Hospador will fill the position as an appointed commissioner until after the 2017 general election, at which time the office will appear on the ballot.

Before his appointment, Commissioner Hospador was a regular attendee of the District's meetings as well as an active member of the Hartstene Pointe Community. The Board thanks Commissioner Hospador for his willingness to serve.



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Hand-water your lawn or garden instead of using sprinklers. Set lawn mower blades one notch higher because longer grass equals less evaporation."

Watch for more of Drippy's tips in future newsletters and on the District website, hpwatersewer.com.