



Newsletter

September/October 2017

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.

New Water Treatment System Completed

Following five years of planning and design, and almost a full year of construction, the District's new water treatment and monitoring systems are complete and online! The new systems will optimize the District's water treatment process, including arsenic removal, by replacing inefficient, failing drinking water treatment equipment and by providing real-time remote monitoring of the wells, treatment systems, and reservoir.

The \$1.3 million dollar project is funded through a 20 year, 1.5% Washington Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan.

Construction on the project was almost complete when the State Legislature failed to meet its deadline to pass the state's 2018-2019 capital budget, which included funding of DWSRF projects. The District's project funding has been suspended pending passage of the capital budget.

Not wanting to delay completion of this vital project so close to the finish line, the Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District Board of Commissioners chose not to suspend construction and to utilize the District's financial reserves to pay the final project costs until a capital budget is passed. At that time, the District will receive reimbursement under the loan for the final project costs.



Old, outdated, failing water treatment system



New, efficient, optimized water treatment system

Wells Have Met Summer Water Demand—But Just Barely!

Hartstene Pointe has been under a Water Advisory during the summer months. So far our wells have been able to keep up with the high demand, but there have been some close calls.

Average water demand has been at about 80% of the wells' pumping capacity. There were several days of high demand in which the wells were pumping non-stop, just barely able to keep up.

High water demand also delayed completion of the new water treatment system, leaving no water to perform the necessary backwashing of the new filters, even during off-peak hours in the middle of the night.

Please help avoid a water shortage by conserving water:

- Only hand water plants sparingly;
- Do not leave hoses or sprinklers running unattended;
- Check faucets, showerheads, and toilets for leaks, and fix leaks promptly.



Additional Sewer Smoke Testing Scheduled

The District will conduct additional smoke testing of sanitary sewers on **September 12th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**. The sewer lines will be filled with non-toxic smoke in order to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system.

On the testing day, you may notice smoke coming from sewer vents on the outside of homes or out of the ground along sewer lines. On the inside of your house, smoke may come out of the plumbing fixtures. **This should not happen if your plumbing is in good working order.** You can minimize the chances of smoke entering your home by running water into sinks, tubs, floor drains, and showers beforehand.

For additional information and answers to frequently asked questions about smoke testing, visit our website, hpwatersewer.com.

Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:



"One drip every second adds up to five gallons of water per day! Check your faucets and showerheads for leaks."

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

Commissioner's Corner

Time flies! As I end my nearly ten years as a Commissioner, I'd like to share some of what the District has accomplished since it was first formed in 2008.

The early days were frustrating. The water and sewer systems had been poorly maintained by Mason County, and a great amount of time and effort were required to bring them up to acceptable productivity and the required standards.

Now, the new water treatment and monitoring systems provide better water quality and reliability. Meeting state mandates for installation of water meters and wastewater intake screen changes have been completed, and the replacement of Well 1 is in progress.

To better communicate with subscribers, we publish this newsletter and a comprehensive website. We have various options for bill paying, including online. The annual budget hearing provides an opportunity for input from subscribers.

Our annual budget process includes five-year plans and projections for maintenance and capital funding, fund requirements, and operating costs.

We can turn on the tap, touch the flush lever, and it all works from beginning to end. Our dedicated contract staff has been the key to our accomplishments, bringing outstanding expertise and years of experience.

Serving as a commissioner has been a learning process, as well as rewarding. Your support has been great and much appreciated. Meetings are no longer four to five hours long, so attend one or two!

- Commissioner Mary Alice Cary



Annual Meeting and 2018 Budget Hearing

Saturday, November 11th, at 10:00 am
HPMA Clubhouse, 202 E Pointes Drive East