



Newsletter

May/June 2017

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413

772 E Chesapeake Dr.

Shelton, WA 98584

Email: info@hpwatersewer.com

Website: hpwatersewer.com

General Manager/Water Manager:

Mont Jeffreys

gm@hpwatersewer.com

Acct. and Admin. Services Manager:

Miceal Carnahan

acct@hpwatersewer.com

Commissioners:

Mary Alice Cary

Commissioner1@hpwatersewer.com

David McNabb

Commissioner2@hpwatersewer.com

Andrew Hospador

Commissioner3@hpwatersewer.com

Billing Address

PO Box 94453

Seattle, WA 98124-6753

Pay Online

hpwatersewer.com

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.

Washington State Tax Transparency and Public Utilities

Recently, the [Seattle Times reported Washington State ranks next-to-last in a recent tax transparency index](#), which means Washingtonians have no idea how much they are paying in state and local taxes. The “opaque” taxes Washingtonians pay include Public Utilities Excise Taxes, like those charged to the Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District.

According to the report, excise taxes make up 18% of the State’s total tax revenue. Excise taxes are indirect taxes charged on the sale of a good or service which are passed on to the consumer through higher prices. Often, people have no idea they are paying these taxes, let alone how much they are paying for the tax, since the tax is built into the cost of the product or service.

Hartstene Pointe residents collectively pay over \$20,000 annually in Public Utilities Excise Taxes charged to the District by the State, despite the District being a governmental entity. This includes a 5.029% tax on water distribution, a 3.852% tax on sewer collection, and a 1.5% tax on wastewater treatment. This amounts to about \$7.50 of each of your bi-monthly water/sewer bills.

Sewer Issues? We Can Help!

The District now has a sewer line inspection camera for investigating and locating sewer line issues. This can save hundreds of dollars in fees a plumber would charge to locate the source of sewer issues.

Please contact the District if:

- Sewage backs up into your home
- You smell sewage outside your home
- A manhole cover is missing or out of place
- A cave-in or ground settlement develops in your yard or street near a sanitary sewer



When you call us with an issue, we will respond as quickly as possible to investigate.

If a problem is found in the District sewer line, we will service the line and correct the issue. If the problem is found to be your private line, we will inform you as soon as possible so you may contact a plumber to service your line and repair any damage which may have occurred.

Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:



"Planning a landscaping project or looking to add some beauty to your yard? Choose native plants which require little to no irrigation during the dry summer months."

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

False Payment Sites

Some utilities have reported that, without their knowledge or consent, several websites have set up false payment sites to take payments for their organizations. A few of these sites include, but are not limited to:

- Doxo.com
- Billpaymentonline.net
- Tio.com
- Prismmoney.com

As a reminder, the District ONLY uses Xpress Bill Pay to accept online payments, which is a PCI compliant and secure online payment site. For more information about Xpress Bill Pay's commitment to online security, visit www.xpressbillpay.com/security.

Commissioner Elections

Two District commissioner seats are up for election this year:

- Commissioner Position 1, a six-year term to begin January 2018
- Commissioner Position 3, to complete an unexpired term, beginning after the election is certified in November and ending December 31, 2019



Individuals registered to vote within the District may file as a candidate with the Mason County Elections Department during candidate filing week, May 15 - 19. For more information, visit the Mason County Elections website,

wei.sos.wa.gov/county/mason/en/elections.

2016

Consumer Confidence Report

The District's 2016 Consumer Confidence Report, with important water quality information, is now available. The full report can be viewed online at:

hpwatersewer.com/97912.html

The report is also posted on the District's bulletin board in the HPMA clubhouse. If you would like a full copy of the report mailed to you, please call the District, (360) 427-2413, or send an email to info@hpwatersewer.com.

You Now Have 3 Ways to Pay Your Water/Sewer Bill



1

Online

View and pay your bill, setup Autopay, and go paperless at hpwatersewer.com

Click on:

ONLINE PAYMENTS **xpress**
BILL PAY

2

By Mail

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District
PO Box 94453
Seattle, WA 98584

3

By Phone

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Monday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Call: (360) 427-2413