



## Hartstene Pointe Water – Sewer District

### Water-Sewer Update

March/April 2012

#### Commissioners

##### Mary Alice Cary

Commissioner2@hpwatersewer.com

##### Roger Ray

Commissioner3@hpwatersewer.com

##### Nancy Nelson

Commissioner1@hpwatersewer.com

General Manager/Water Manager,  
Mont Jeffreys, gm@hpwatersewer.com

Waste Water Operator,  
George Campbell

#### District Office

772 Chesapeake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
(360) 427-2413  
info@hpwatersewer.com  
www.hartstenepointe.us

#### Customer Service

Account information - 7:30 am-4:30 pm

(360) 876-2545,

customer\_service@wsud.us

#### After Hours Emergencies

(360) 876-2545

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 HPWSD.*

*Hartstene Pointe Water Sewer District is an equal opportunity service provider*

#### 2012 Planning Produces Ambitious Work Plan

District Commissioners held a special Worksession February 2<sup>nd</sup> to outline a work plan for 2012. With the booster pump and meter installation project wrapping up (see below), the District can now focus on other important items on the long “to-do” list of projects that have been neglected over the years prior to District formation.

First on the list are two projects necessary to bring the utility into compliance with new state and federal regulations. The screen that filters sewage influent as it enters the waste water treatment plant must be brought into compliance with new regulations. The screen is necessary for removing items that hinder the waste water treatment process. A large amount of debris shows up in the sewage that will not readily decompose and should be removed before it enters the settling basins. Commissioners reviewed two alternatives recommended by District engineers at their February 26 meeting and directed the design and installation of a mechanical, self-cleaning screen due to the long-term operational cost savings over a 20 year life-cycle. The plan will be submitted to the state Department of Ecology for approval and the \$171,000 project should begin early summer.

The second compliance driven project involves refurbishing the drinking water treatment system. The thirty year old treatment units have outlived their useful life, causing frequent backwashing which wastes precious water and increases the load on the waste water treatment plant. The federal standards for acceptable levels of naturally occurring arsenic requires optimizing the treatment process to more efficiently reduce levels. The system currently in use, though effective, was installed by Mason County as a temporary test unit. Preliminary engineering is underway. The engineers will review alternatives, make recommendations and provide cost estimates for each alternative. Commissioners are hopeful the project will be ready to go to bid by the end of the year.

The District has submitted a preliminary plan to Department of Ecology for continuing work to abate excessive stormwater inflow and infiltration into the sewer collection system. The excessive stormwater threatens the treatment plants' ability to properly treat waste water during heavy rains. Causes of excessive inflow and infiltration are most likely due to leaks in the sewer mains and/or the side connections from homes to the main. The problem may in part be caused by property owner's hard-lining gutters and sump pumps discharges into the sewer system. Directing stormwater into the sewage collection system is prohibited and homeowners must redirect any rain run-off so that it naturally filters into the ground or directed into HPMA drainage ditches.

The remaining projects include developing operations manuals and policies that direct District operations, maintenance of utility assets and establishing an emergency communications system to alert homeowners in cases of emergencies (see below).

## Lifting the Building Moratorium....We're Almost There!

*Meter Installation 90% Completed*



A request to lift the building moratorium in Hartstene Pointe has been sent to the Department of Health and a favorable response is expected soon. The moratorium was placed on the community in 2008, almost immediately after the District was formed, due to the inability to access all of the water stored in the reservoir. The water is fed into the distribution using gravity and the elevation of the reservoir was not sufficient to supply enough water to meet increased demand. A booster pump was installed in January/February which will sustain pressure and allow access to more water stored in the tank. If you are planning to build, please be sure to contact General Manager, Mont Jeffreys (360) 427-2413 or [gm@hpwatersewer.com](mailto:gm@hpwatersewer.com) to be informed of the status of the request.



Meter installation is nearly complete. Progress has been slowed at times because of difficulty locating service connections which in many cases have not been located since lots were first connected into the system. Some service connection points are buried under 30 years of duff, soil build up, under driveways, stairs and decks and even under firewood stacks.

*Thank you to everyone for your patience, assistance and good nature as we work to complete these important projects!*

### District Passes First State Audit

The District received a favorable report from the Washington State Auditor's office for accountability and compliance with state laws and regulations as well as compliance with the District's own policies and procedures. The Auditor's Office reviewed District internal controls and performed audit procedures for the years 2008-2010. The District passed its first accountability audit with no findings.

According to the Audit Report, "the District's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets." The audit examined accounting and financial reporting, utility billings and receivables controls, cash receipting, compliance with open public meetings and public records laws and procurement laws and regulations. The report is available on the State Auditor's website [www.sao.wa.gov](http://www.sao.wa.gov); Report No. 1007193.

Timing of the audit was also favorable as the District had recently completed a competitive bid process for the booster pump station construction and meter installation project. "It was good to know we had conducted the bid procurement process correctly. It's the District's goal to be good stewards of our customers' finances", said Mary Alice Cary, District Commissioner.

Commissioners used the opportunity to clarify implementation of procedures required by state law, especially open public meetings and public records disclosure. The District will be audited every three years.

### We Need Your Phone Number for Emergency Communication

State law requires municipal water service customers to be notified within 24 hours when drinking water quality has been compromised. The District is establishing an automatic telephone communication system to serve this purpose. The District requests your assistance by providing us with an ideal telephone number for contacting you in case of emergency. The number can be for a cell phone or regular land line.

**PLEASE HELP US - Call, email or write us and provide us a telephone number we can use to notify you in cases of emergency. (360) 427-2413 or email us at [info@hpwatersewer.com](mailto:info@hpwatersewer.com). Mailing address: 772 Chesapeake Dr., Shelton, WA 98584.**

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District will not share, sell or use your information for any purpose other than District business.