



Newsletter

June 2021

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: hpwatersewer.com

By Phone: 360-427-2413

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 via teleconference. Visit our website or contact the office for instructions on how to join. 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.

Bottled Water vs. the Tap

Bottled water is certainly convenient—perfect for a picnic, barbecue or a road trip. The District's commissioners were surprised to learn, though, that water quality regulations set for bottled water companies are less strict than the standards set by the WA State Department of Health for drinking water. In fact, water quality standards in Washington State are among the highest in the country. In Washington, not only are suppliers of drinking water required to filter out *pollutants* that are harmful to one's health, but also *contaminants* that are merely visually displeasing—this is not the case in many parts of the U.S.



Bottled water sales have tripled in the last twenty years. Why has the trend shifted to the common scenario where consumers purchase cases of water to drink at home? Perhaps because many water systems are treated with chlorine. The chlorine dosage is carefully calculated to disinfect the water and even your house's pipes. While the water provided by the District is perfectly safe to drink, a scent of chlorine is not necessarily pleasant. One practice District staff uses on a daily basis is to set water aside in a pitcher before leaving the office at the end of the day for use the following day (yes, staff drinks water from the tap)—this allows the chlorine to dissipate. An hour is all it takes to allow chlorine to dissipate.

For more about de-chlorination, visit:

www.cleancoolwater.com/how-to-dechlorinate-tap-water/

Much of the bottled water on the market is simply filtered tap water, with a big price tag markup. The truth about bottled water is that although regulated by the FDA, compliance enforcement is practically non-existent. The District's operators routinely test treated water to ensure it is safe to drink.

The purchase of bottled water for consumption here at the Pointe essentially shunts financial resources away from the District at a time when these funds are needed in order for the system to survive, let alone support the push to build reserves for upcoming underground infrastructure projects. Undertaking these important projects is vital to the health and sustainability of this community.

If there are concerns about our water quality, please consult our website—on the *Water Quality* page, the latest Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) provides detailed data about the properties of the District's treated water. Perhaps consider installation of a filter at the tap, use of filtered water dispensed from the fridge or a filtration pitcher.

Consider, also, the environmental impact—plastic water bottles end up in landfills or recycling centers. Using reusable water containers is a great way to offset the waste of plastic bottles.

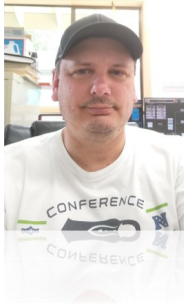


Learn more

www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/327395/

General Manager's Report

Looking Forward



It's hard to believe it's been a month already since I took over this position. And it's been a very busy month! Since David left, I have been fulfilling my new role as General Manager and my old role as WWTP operator. But I have had amazing support from our Board of Commissioners and District staff. Joe and Lorenzo both have stepped up to help handle the extra work. And I also want to include my deepest gratitude to Dave Swart, who has been helping us as a volunteer.

We posted an opening for the WWTP operator position and I will be interviewing qualified candidates. Once we hire that person, it will help tremendously. We also have purchased our own mini excavator. This will save time and money in the long run, as we won't have to wait for a rental to be delivered or pay for each time one is needed. It's already proven to be a very useful tool!

In the meantime, we will continue our ongoing work of repairing water leaks that are popping up, installing radio-read water meters, flushing water mains, in addition to our regular activities. So I ask for your continued help in reporting water leaks you may see, being patient with us in our response time, and (something still near to my heart) remembering to follow the Three "P" rule about what you flush down the toilets.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

Only Flush the 3 P's: Pee, Poop, & Toilet Paper

Are there any grant writers in the community? We could use your help!

As many are well aware, there are major projects that need to be tackled in the future, which will carry with it heavy expenses. Century West Engineering is helping to look for funding sources, but if you are an expert and are willing to help, please reach out to us!

Cross Connection Control

The District's operators are all trained to keep an eye out for *cross connections*. Lorenzo is the latest member of staff to earn his certification as a *Cross Connection Control Specialist*. Cross connections are points in a water system that have the potential for *backflow*. Think of backflow as water flowing in the wrong direction, caused by either back-pressure or back-siphonage. Backflow is a concern, since it has the potential to contaminate the water supply.

Last summer, when an independent contractor struck a 6-inch water main on Nantucket Road, staff quickly isolated that area from the rest of the system and sent water samples from all corners of the community for laboratory testing. Fortunately, the results reported that the water was safe and the system was not contaminated. This procedure was in keeping with the District's *Cross Connection Control Program*.

As part of this program, staff identify potential points of cross connection. In District facilities, these points are protected with backflow prevention devices and are tested annually to ensure they are functioning properly.

Cross Connection Control is an important part of water safety and staff work with the community to protect against backflow.

Water Leak Repair

The District appreciates the open communication between residents and the District office. When there is an apparent leak, we know we can rely on the community to contact us.

Two sizeable leaks were reported and staff responded (even on a Sunday). The most common culprit that causes leaks are worn out fittings that were either installed improperly or with wrong parts.

Recently, an excavator was procured to use for future infrastructure projects and already it has proven to be a tremendous asset. Soon, this capital asset will have paid for itself, as rental equipment expenses in the past added up quickly.

Evergreen Rural Water and Century West Engineering both applauded the District's effort to procure excavating equipment, both confirming that the District will save many thousands of dollars on upcoming projects.



**If you're an electrician, the District would welcome your help—or at least your advice!
Contact the office if you would like to help!**