



Newsletter

July 2021

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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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.

Getting Ready to Test-Pump Well #3



In 2018, Well #4 (to the right of the mail room) was connected to the District's water system to replace the adjacent Well #1, which was rapidly declining in production. Well #4 is a great asset and is the District's main producer of water.

Recognizing that Well #4 should not sustain the system alone as Well #2 (to the left of the clubhouse pool) proves to become less useful, the District plans to have the adjacent Well #3 test-pumped to determine its potential for production. Well #3 was initially drilled and subsequently abandoned due to its high content of arsenic. Since the District has for years treated to remove arsenic, leveraging the potential production of Well #3 is now possible.

An additional high-producing well would add robustness to the system for several reasons. First, it would ease some burden off of Well #4. Second, a high-producing Well #3 would allow for Well #4 to be taken off-line for periodic maintenance. And additional pumping capacity may allow for more capacity for new connections, as the District approaches its current allowable limit.

For clarification: the District has never planned to impose a moratorium on new construction; administrative staff and commissioners are working with its engineering firm to address raising the limit imposed by the Department of Health for new connections.

We will post updates on this project in future newsletters.

Making Every Drop Count!

2020 was devastating across the state as wildfires scorched earth and destroyed communities. Unusually warm and dry conditions and droughts really hurt firefighters' efforts to fight the fires. It is expected that the State Department of Ecology will advise the governor to declare a state of drought in Mason County, as they have already done so for nearby counties. The District asks that residents continue to be wise in consuming water—many residents already consistently conserve water. Thank you!

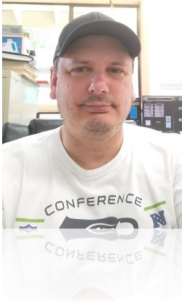
Summer will be *hot*, so please do drink lots of water! Staying well-hydrated is important to staying healthy and health is priority #1.

Stay cool and enjoy the summer!



General Manager's Report

Summertime Begins



Good news – summer is officially here! After dealing with the wet and gloomy weather for months, many look forward to this time of year.

Bad news – these same hot, dry conditions bring the risk of drought, increased water use, and wildfires. Perhaps adequate water supply has been on the minds of our community.

I want to take this opportunity to address some of these issues from the standpoint of the District.

Although employees are not on-site around the clock, staff are able to monitor and control the District's water and wastewater treatment systems 24 hours a day. This is accomplished through SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems – complex networks, made up of software and hardware components. Using SCADA, staff are able to monitor things like water usage, the reservoir level, and make adjustments to water treatment chemicals and well pumping rates, etc. Staff are alerted (on cell phones and/or computers) any time the SCADA system detects anything that is outside of the parameters set to operate within. There are some things that employees have to physically be present to adjust/fix, but often they are able to make necessary adjustments from wherever they happen to be – at home, on the road, etc.

I feel fortunate that many Hartstene Pointe residents are conscious about conserving water. Summertime brings a lot of people to the Pointe, but every year the water supply is able to support the community.

As always, thank you for being team players with the District!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

**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!

Fire Insurance Rating

Administrative staff received quite a number of phone calls relating to the District's fire hydrants. The District recently took over control of the community's fire hydrants from HPMA. Staff are responsible to maintain the hydrants and ensure that they are available to meet the needs of water district operations. Hydrant valves are now routinely exercised, which is good.

Although the fire department can use these hydrants, they were never intended to provide an adequate source of water supply for structural fire suppression – the infrastructure is not and never has been capable of doing so. The District's consulting engineering firm will assess the possibility of improvement upon the existing hydrant system, from a logistical and financial standpoint, when infrastructure replacement is tackled.

With all that said, the fire department *can* use the hydrants to refill the tanks of apparatus, while not actively pumping water at a fire scene. This is a huge advantage for our community, because fire apparatus do not have to leave the community to refill its tanks. Elsewhere on the island, where hydrants are not available, fire apparatus are required to go miles away (sometimes to the Pointe) to refill their tanks.

Residents have asked about the *fire insurance rating* at the Pointe. To be clear, these ratings are based on multiple factors, including proximity to manned fire stations and their staffing numbers. Thus any improvements to the hydrant infrastructure *would not* aid in reducing fire insurance ratings. Ratings are currently out of the control of the Water/Sewer District.

In better news, this month the District was informed that the FireWise certification has been renewed. Thank you to members of the Fire Safety Committee and the citizens in our community who actively work to reduce the fire risk here at the Pointe.



visit www.nacwa.org/toilets

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**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!**