



# Newsletter

## August 2022

### 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.*

## Legislation Passed Regarding Wipes

WA State became the first state in the country to pass a new "Do Not Flush" law July 1st.

According to WA Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD), July 1 is the date that the "Do Not Flush" symbol must be on packaging of disposable wipes products sold in WA State, reported Renton Reporter. This includes baby wipes and cleaning wipes. The goal is to benefit the environment, wastewater infrastructure, and residents throughout the state, added the agency.

These disposable wipes are a nuisance, clogging pipes and creating wastewater overflows to waterways.

*“These disposable wipes are a nuisance, clogging pipes and creating wastewater overflows to waterways.”*

The law was originally passed in 2020. Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon is the primary sponsor.

“Utilities across the country spent an estimated \$440 million in

a year removing clogs caused by improperly flushed single-use wipes products. Here in Washington state is no exception,” said Judi Gladstone, WASWD Executive Director, reported Renton Reporter. “Proper disposal of wipes in the trash can is the easiest way to help our planet and help our community at the same time.”

Additionally, according to Renton Reporter, “these products can congeal with fats, oils, and grease to create concrete-like masses known as fatbergs. This can result in sewage spills, contamination of the environment, and infrastructure damage at wastewater facilities.”

WASWD notes that these clogs inconvenience community residents’ budgets, as they have to repair the damage caused by flushing disposable wipes.

According to Renton Reporter, approximately 60% of consumers note that they have disposed of something non-flushable in the toilet during the previous year in a 2021 survey conducted by



WASWD, Association of Washington Cities, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, and the Responsible Flushing Alliance.

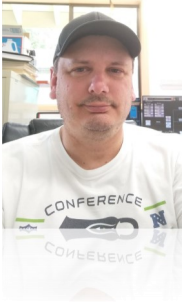
“We are hopeful that this new labeling of disposable wipes will help reduce the practice of flushing wipes that cause so many problems in our wastewater systems,” Gladstone added, reported Renton Reporter.

Source: [www.wwdmag.com/home/news/21004745/do-not-flush-disposable-wipe-law-goes-into-effect-in-washington?](http://www.wwdmag.com/home/news/21004745/do-not-flush-disposable-wipe-law-goes-into-effect-in-washington/)



## General Manager's Report

### Consumer Confidence Report / Water Meter Boxes



Last month's newsletter had a link on it to our 2021 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). I wanted to give a little more info to anyone unfamiliar with it. EPA requires community water systems to deliver a CCR, also known as an annual drinking water quality report, to their customers. These reports provide Americans information about their local drinking water quality. It shows what samples were collected, what the results were, what the risk of contamination is. Not everyone is interested in reading it, but it is required that we publish it. Rest assured, if there is ever evidence of contaminants above a safe level, we will share that information ASAP, instead of waiting for an annual report.

I also have a request to make. Every month, we read water meters at each home. When the water boxes were originally installed, some of the chosen spots were not as convenient as others. Due to this, there are areas where bushes have grown over/around them, making them difficult to access. We are in the process of replacing meters. As we go to replace these meters, we need easy access to the water box. So my request is to ask homeowners to trim around your water box for us. Not only will this make it easier for us, thus saving time, it will allow you to trim it better than we could. We are not landscapers and would be trying to get it done quickly, so it may not look as nice (unintentionally) as you as an owner could do. If you don't know where your meter is, contact us!

All of us at the District appreciate your assistance and support, and wish you a happy summer!

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



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## Upcoming Capital Projects

The District is finally in a position to move forward with several capital projects that have had to wait due to covid-related restrictions and labor shortages. The staff are excited to get these projects started.

The installation of new radio-read water meters is an ongoing project that is slated for completion by the end of the year. This will save the District thousands of dollars in labor hours and allow staff to work on other projects. The new meters also aid in leak detection. There is also cause to complete this project, as the software and hardware used to communicate with the reading equipment is no longer supported and the hardware shows signs that it is reaching the end of its life.

Upgrades to the District's SCADA system, which controls the water and wastewater systems, are needed and planned by the end of the year (depending on the vendor's schedule). These upgrades will make the SCADA system more secure from cyber attacks. Additionally, the upgrades will make the system more robust, reliable and add functions that are currently unavailable.

Administrative staff are soliciting quotes for a portable generator that will be available in case of extended power outages to power lift stations and Well #2. Obtaining this capital asset continues the District's commitment to being prepared for emergency conditions.

Various backup pumps used in lift stations and pumps used for primary wastewater treatment are in need of repairs or replacement. Fixing backup pumps will add reliability to lift station function and fixing the pumps at the wastewater treatment plant will help in the treatment process. Some of the pumps appear original to the facilities, so replacement is long overdue.

Commissioners and Staff are looking forward to move ahead with these and other projects.

Meet Jaron, the District's new apprentice.

Jaron began work on July 25th and is eager to learn and willing to work hard. He is enrolled in Evergreen Rural Water's apprenticeship program. Evergreen's highly-trained staff will teach him through

classwork and hands-on learning. In partnering with this apprenticeship program, the General Manager, Jeff, who is a certified water and wastewater operator, will work with Jaron daily to help with his training. The District welcomes the addition to the crew.

