



Newsletter

November 2023

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413
772 E Chesapeake Dr.
Shelton, WA 98584
Email: info@hpwsd.org
Website: hpwsd.org

General Manager:
Jeff Palmer
gm@hpwsd.org

Commissioners:
Andrew Hospador
Commissioner1@hpwsd.org
Jim Anderson
Commissioner2@hpwsd.org
Stacy Swart
Commissioner3@hpwsd.org

Pay Your Bill 24/7
Online: hpwsd.org
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 in the District Office, 119 E Liberty Rd. 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.

Record Turnout at Public Hearing

Commissioners and Staff would like to say thank you to those who were able to participate in the public hearing on October 7th introducing the upcoming Sewer Infrastructure Rehabilitation project. With an estimated 75 Hartstene Pointe residents in attendance (about 30 of which by teleconference), many engaged with good questions to Matt from Century West Engineering and gracious support for the District. Juggling questions/comments from both those in-person and those joining via teleconference was challenging, but the respectful and patient engagements by all helped the meeting go as smoothly as possible, which is greatly appreciated by commissioners and staff.

As mentioned in previous newsletters and at the meeting, updates will be provided in upcoming newsletters, on the District website and in the mail. For the immediate future, you will continue seeing surveyors around the community. *Please be aware, surveyors may have to perform their work on driveways and on private property. All work done by surveyors will be conducted in a professional manner and personnel will be easily identifiable.*



For any who were unable to attend the meeting and would like more information, feel free to reach out to the General Manager, Jeff.

Apprentice Passes Certification Exam



The District is extremely pleased to announce that Jaron, the District's Wastewater Treatment Apprentice successfully passed the state's certification exam to become a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (WTPO), Group I. Jaron is not only a hard worker in field operations, but has put in a lot of work in the classroom and through book study.

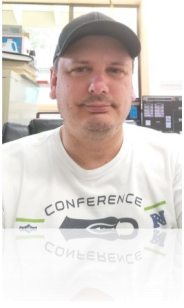
The District partnered with Evergreen Rural Water of WA (ERWoW) to provide this apprenticeship opportunity. Through ERWoW's apprenticeship program, Jaron takes classes from industry professionals, both in the class and through hands-on work in the field. This apprenticeship doesn't just help its participants attain their certifications. In order to apply to WA Dept. of Ecology to take a WTPO exam, an operator must have documented enough wastewater-related hours of work over a one-year period. Due to the quality and comprehensive nature of the training ERWoW apprentices receive, they are eligible to take WWTPO exams at the Group II level six months earlier than they would be able to otherwise. ERWoW is the only organization in WA State that has a recognized apprenticeship program that offers early eligibility. Jaron applies the knowledge he's learned to his work every day. Congratulations, Jaron!



APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
Building a Foundation For Your Future

General Manager's Report

Upgrading the District's Laboratory



Every Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is required to conduct regular sampling of incoming raw sewage and the final treated effluent. At Hartstene Pointe, we have a number of laboratory tests that have to be performed. Some are performed on a daily basis, some weekly, some quarterly. Some tests we are able to perform here (in-house), while other tests have to be sent in to an accredited laboratory.

Any testing we do in-house is beneficial: it's less expensive, we see the test results sooner and can thus make operational changes sooner. Sending samples out to a laboratory saves us from having to purchase a lot of expensive lab equipment; however, it costs time for someone to drive these samples, we have to pay for the testing services and we typically don't get results sent to us until up to a month later. And that makes it a challenge to make real-time operational changes based upon sample results.

One of the tests conducted is for fecal coliform in our final effluent, to make sure it's not polluting Puget Sound. We are required to have this test done twice a week. This is a test we've been sending into the lab. We recently purchased our own equipment to perform this test in-house and we're working on attaining approval from the Dept. of Ecology to become an accredited lab for these tests.

Yes, this meant spending money now to purchase this equipment, but it will end up saving us time and money in the long run and allow us to see the results the next day, instead of waiting 2-4 weeks for the lab to send them to us. If you would like to know more about this, feel free to contact me.

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager



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Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Wash fruit and vegetables in a partially filled sink or in a container of water, instead of allowing water to run continuously. Collect the water you use for rinsing and use it to water houseplants."

After six years serving as a commissioner on HPWSD's Board, Andrew Hospador will complete his term at the end of the year. While his name is on the November general election ballot, he encourages voters ***not*** to cast your vote for him, as he will not be available to fill the seat.

Budget Season

November is budget season for HPWSD. Budgeting is a complex process and commissioners and staff do their best to plan for yearly expenditures and plan for revenues needed to meet all of the District's financial obligations. Some revenues will need to go toward much-needed capital improvement projects and others toward the rise of costs due to inflation. The District faces rising costs of goods and services just as the general public does. Commissioners will discuss the 2024 fiscal year proposed budget at its regular meeting on November 2 and a special meeting on November 9. The Board must authorize a final budget at its regular meeting on November 16.

It's Time to Winterize



It's time to start thinking of winterizing your home for the season. Freezing temperatures can cause pipe bursts that can cause major leaks. Major leaks can lead to major property damage.

The best way to winterize an unattended home is to turn off water service at the meter and drain the pipes—this is particularly easy to do for island home owners, but other homes can drain their pipes once water is off by opening the lowest water fixture in the home's plumbing. Some homeowners leave a dripping faucet, which we discourage, but be aware that excess water consumption can incur extra monthly charges. It's also a good idea for homes to maintain a 55 -degree minimum to guard against pipes freezing.

Many outdoor spigots actually house the valve body several inches inside a home's insulation, thus preventing the need to cover them in the winter, but many (especially older spigots) house the valve body at the tap and could burst in freezing temperatures. If you're unsure, it's best to be on the safe side.

Take some time to winterize and save yourself from a headache later on!