



# Newsletter

March 2024

## Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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## Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: [hpwsd.org](http://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.*

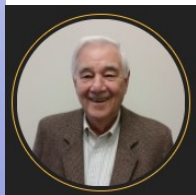
## District Secures \$14M in Ecology Funds

WA State Department of Ecology published its State Fiscal Year Draft Water Quality Funding Offer List. HPWSD secured \$14M to implement repairs to the Sewer collection system in order to eliminate the *Inflow & Infiltration* (I&I) problems the system faces and reroute sewerage from along the bluff to Pointes Drive E. While the list is a draft, the funds are guaranteed. Yet to be determined in the final list are the grant to loan ratios each recipient will receive. In the current draft, the entire amount is assigned as a low-interest loan (1.2%) to be repaid by 2045.

Century West Engineering will work with Ecology in an effort to reduce the loan component, but the good news is that the project will move forward. By making the improvements to the collection system and eliminating I&I, the District will be in compliance with its permit and the federal Clean Water Act. The Wastewater Treatment Plant will also treat and discharge millions of gallons less wastewater during more rainy months, which will significantly ease the toll on treatment equipment and lower electricity costs used to run that equipment. Treating less wastewater will also lower consumption of expensive treatment chemicals. Following the completion of this project, the wastewater collection system will be much more robust many times over and ready for many years to come.



## Remembering Former Commissioner McNabb



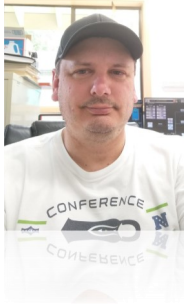
Following the passing of former commissioner Dr. David "Dave" E. McNabb, the District reflects with gratitude on his years of service to the District and the vast knowledge he brought to the table. Dave was elected to the Commissioner Position 2 seat and began his term in January of 2016. A lifelong researcher and scholar, Dave was a professor at Pacific Lutheran University and author of over a dozen books, including books about *Water Resource Management*, *Global Water Sustainability* and *Public Utilities*.

Dave helped guide the District during major events and transitional periods. Several major capital improvement projects were completed throughout his term. The dilapidated drinking water treatment facilities were upgraded and Well #4 was brought online, a \$1.1 million project that resulted in the implementation of a state-of-the-art treatment system at both Well facilities. In the summer of 2018, Dave helped transition the District from paying contract operators to hiring a four-person dedicated staff; with the other commissioners, he selected and hired former General Manager, David Carnahan.

Dave ended his term in February 2020, but continued supporting the District and staff in various ways, including supporting the District during public meetings and providing pertinent research or literature he came across to staff. The District is thankful for his constant dedication to the District over the years.

# General Manager's Report

## Major Water Main Break Impacts Thousands



This is a recent headline I read from a newspaper article. It actually happened in a county in New York State. The break occurred on a Wednesday night and impacted the whole system serving 45,000. The mayor said that repairs would be done on Thursday night, then by Saturday or Sunday, the reservoirs would be full and the system would be pressurized. But there would still be a boil order notice for another 48-72 hours. That means it could be 3-4 days without any water at all and up to a full week before people could have clean drinking water available at homes.

Honestly, for me, this is a scary story, because it can happen here too. We have a water system that is holding up for now, but this scenario is always in the back of my mind. And until such time that we can replace our water mains, we have to be prepared for this possibility. For us at the District, we have to be ready to respond if this happens. It can happen at any time, even if it's inconvenient for us. It has already in some sections of the Pointe, as some residents can attest to. Though it may not have lasted a week, when it last happened—two days before Thanksgiving—it may have seemed just as bad.

Water main breaks are not just inconvenient for us, it is for all of you too. So I just want to remind everyone of the importance of keeping water stored at your house, both for drinking and non-potable purposes. If you haven't already, contact the Disaster Prep Committee to get signed up for a water barrel. That way, no matter what the reason is for a water outage, you'll be prepared for it in an emergency until the District's four-man staff can restore service.

In the meantime, let's hope this scary story doesn't become our reality!

— Jeff Palmer, General Manager



visit [www.nacwa.org/toilets](http://www.nacwa.org/toilets)

# TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS™

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



## Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

**"Wash your produce in a bowl of water instead of running water from the tap. Never use running water to thaw food—defrost food in the fridge.**

**Store water in the fridge instead of running the tap."**

# Apprentice Attains Another Certification



The District congratulates Wastewater Apprentice, Jaron, for attaining another certification, this time on the Drinking Water side as a Water Distribution Manager I. Late last year, he attained his Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I certification. With this additional certification, he is better cross-trained to assist in operating both the Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment systems. Operational staff are training for additional certifications for professional growth and to meet the District's goal of operator redundancy through cross-training.



## "Do Not Flush" Wipes Awareness Survey Results

The last of three surveys measuring the impact of the bill passed by the state legislature in 2020 to require labeling of wipes as "do not flush" was conducted in January. The results were encouraging. It showed that overall familiarity of the label rose from 67% before the bill passed to 73% 18 months after the law went into effect in July 2022. As is typical, behaviors often lag behind awareness, but this increase indicates that the bill has made some difference. WA Assoc. of Sewer & Water District's (WASWD) partnership with the Responsible Flushing Alliance and the wipes industry organization, INDA, will continue as we try to assess the impact on behavior. We will also be watching for results of a collection study conducted in California.

**SAVE OUR SEWER SYSTEM!**

# NO WIPES in the PIPES

Only flush the three P's...  
Pee, Poop and toilet Paper!



**DO NOT FLUSH THESE PRODUCTS:**

- "Flushable" wipes
- Disinfecting and cleaning wipes
- Sanitary products
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Cardboard and paper products
- Fabrics

No matter what the package says,