



Newsletter

January 2020

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413

772 E Chesapeake Dr.

Shelton, WA 98584

Email: info@hpwatersewer.com

Website: hpwatersewer.com

General Manager:

David Carnahan

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Commissioners:

Andrew Hospador

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David McNabb

Commissioner2@hpwatersewer.com

Stacy Swart

Commissioner3@hpwatersewer.com

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 in the District Office. 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.

The Importance Fiscal Responsibility

At your water-sewer district, we take fiscal responsibility very seriously. As we have a small staff, we have extra checks and balances—enforced through policies and procedures—to ensure expenditures are scrutinized and funds are appropriately allocated.



December 16th was an interesting morning for our office. We received two emails from the State Auditor's Office (SAO) within two minutes. The first was a press release regarding the recent fraud investigation conducted in Tacoma and the second, an email informing us that our clean, biennial accountability audit report was released.

First, a snippet from the fraud report:

The Office of the Washington State Auditor released its report on a major fraud investigation involving the Pierce County Housing Authority. The finding, nearly \$7 million in misappropriated public funds, is the largest case of its kind on record for a Washington local government.

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) investigation found that the authority's former finance director used a variety of schemes to misappropriate \$6,948,277 in funds since 2016. SAO detected the misappropriation during a routine financial audit, when auditors questioned wire transfers of large sums of money out of state.¹

Contrast that with *our* recent experience with the auditor's office. In October, we welcomed April, a state auditor, into our office to conduct an accountability audit; we are required by law to be audited every two years. She spent two weeks poring over two years worth of meeting minutes, resolutions, contracts, billing, payroll, procedures and policies.

Not only did April's published report contain no findings or management letters (which is great news), but in her presentation to the district's board of commissioners, she made a special point to commend the General Manager David Carnahan, Projects & Accounts Manager Joe Sartori, and previous Accounting & Administrative Services Manager Miceal Carnahan (now a consultant) for their work.

Per district policy, invoices are compiled and prepared for payment by the District Clerk, each invoice is approved by the General Manager for submittal to the board of commissioners and audited by the internally-designated Audit Commissioner, then submitted to the board of commissioners for authorization. This is an example of a procedure that the auditor reviewed and considered robust and in good practice.

We are proud that our community can be confident knowing that the funds entrusted to us are wisely and transparently managed, safe-guarded from misappropriation and ultimately invested in supporting our infrastructure to serve the entire Pointe.

¹ Source: <https://www.sao.wa.gov/state-auditors-office-uncovers-7-million-misappropriation/>



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Proper winterization of pipes within and around your home is an important part of conservation. Help your water system beat the cold and prevent leaks. Winterize!"

Watch for more of Drippy's tips in future newsletters and on our website, pwatersewer.com

General Manager's Report

Thank you for another Great Year, Hartstene Pointe!

With the new year upon us, I decided I would take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to this amazing community for all of the support that we have received throughout 2019. With your help we were able to wrap up a major well project, overcome severe drought conditions, help bring fiber optic service to a portion of the Pointe, repair and replace important system components and pass a conservative, yet forward-looking, budget for 2020.



Additionally, many of you have personally reported several major water leaks throughout 2019 that would have otherwise taken our staff months to discover, saving the District and the community many thousands of gallons of water.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District's mission is that we are Dedicated to Service and long-term Sustainability. We are here to serve our subscribers and we truly care about each and every member of Hartstene Pointe.

Thank you, Hartstene Pointe, for continuing to partner with us as we endeavor to attain our mission of providing quality water and wastewater service for many years to come.

Happy New Year!!

- David Carnahan, General Manager

Monthly Billing Begins

The January 2, 2020 bill is the first to be billed on a monthly basis and will be due February 20. Going forward, bills issued on the first business day of each month will be due on the 20th of the following month.

Welcome, Stacy Swart!



I have been a full-time resident here at the Pointe for the past 3.5 years. My husband, Dave, and I moved here from east Pierce County in anticipation of our retirement.

I worked with young children as a pediatric Occupational Therapist for 20 years, and moved here from the east coast in 1988 to attend Graduate

School at UW.

Many of you know me as the coordinator of neighborhood gatherings for the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Prior to that I served on the Permit Review Committee, where I learned a lot about our unique community, the pace of our growth and the subsequent demands placed on our aging infrastructure.

I have appreciated the transparency of the Water-Sewer District staff and Board of Commissioners, and I am pleased with our current water quality. I look forward to serving on the team that can claim responsibility for the standards that have been set and maintained.

- Stacy Swart, Commissioner

Commissioner Vacancy

Are you a resident of Hartstene Pointe? Are you free the first and third Thursdays of every month at 1 PM? If so, have you considered being a part of the Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District's Board of Commissioners?

The District is expecting one vacancy to be filled via appointment in late February. If you are interested in participating at the board level, please contact the General Manager.

The Board invites applicants to submit letters of interest for consideration by 2:00 pm on February 4, 2020 by email or to the district office, 772 E Chesapeake Drive, Shelton WA 98584. The board will review letters of interest and select applicants for interviews at its regular meeting on February 6, 2020 at 1:00 pm at the District Office.

Please note: If you previously submitted a letter of interest, you must submit one again to be considered.