



# Newsletter

September 2020

## Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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**Pay Your Bill 24/7**  
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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 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.*

## Apprenticeship Training to Begin

The District receives invaluable support from Evergreen Rural Water of WA (ERWoW) in a wide variety of ways. And now, ERWoW is partnering with HPWSD to train the District's newest employee, Lorenzo, through its *Apprenticeship Program*. The program is comprehensive, up-to-date with current industry-best practices and (as the approved training sponsor through L&I) permits enrollees to earn Group Two certifications after two years of apprenticeship, instead of three.

This apprenticeship program began in spring of 2019 and districts across the state that have enrolled employees rave about the results. Apprentices learn through a combination of structured, on-the-job training (in this case, here at Hartstene Pointe) and through classroom training. It's a win-win-win situation for everyone:

1. The District—at low cost—receives quality training for its operator-in-training and a fast-track to employee certifications.
2. The employee receives a valuable education, while networking with others in the industry, and attains national occupational credentials.
3. The Water and Wastewater industries gain needed, qualified operators to manage operations around the country.




Why are districts across the state so excited about this program? "It takes more than 380,000 highly-skilled water and wastewater personnel working to ensure the public supply of safe drinking water in the United States. Advancements in water treatment and supply technology have increased the skills and training required of this workforce. Water professionals are ultimately responsible for meeting stringent regulatory standards, replacing aging infrastructure, recruiting and

training new operations specialists, and responding to and recovering from disasters. Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is excited to be numbered with other participating Districts who are investing in the water and sewer workforce of the future.

If you'd like to learn more about how this program works visit the web link below.  
(source: <https://www.ernwov.org/Portals/29/Apprentice%20fact%20sheet.pdf?ver=2019-07-09-162815-013>)





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

**“One drip every second adds up to five gallons of water per day! Check your faucets, shower-heads and toilets for leaks.”**

## General Manager's Report



Some of you may already be aware that during a recent inspection of the District's wastewater outfall a break in the line was discovered. This break is several hundred feet off shore and approximately 45 feet deep. The cause of the damage is unknown at this time, however, we'll do our best to update you as soon as the investigation is completed.

Over the past week we have taken all of the necessary steps to notify HPMA, the Department of Ecology, Mason County Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, the Squaxin Tribe and the Department of Fish and Wildlife of the break in the line. Additionally, we have scheduled repairs for the second week of September.

There are a couple of things that are important to understand regarding this break. The first is that this is a break in the wastewater effluent discharge line (Outfall), which means that the water discharging from the break is treated wastewater that *already* discharges into Puget Sound from this line. In other words, there is nothing that is being discharged into the Sound as a result of the break that wouldn't normally already be discharged. Secondly, the District takes its responsibility for public health and safety very seriously; consequently, we recommended that HPMA not allow swimming on the southern portion of the spit until repairs to the outfall can be made. This is a precautionary measure that was recommended by Mason County Department of Health.

While we await the repair of the outfall we ask that the community respect the beach closures in the area of the spit.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we endeavor to serve this amazing community.



- David Carnahan, General Manager

## 2021 Budget Planning Underway

It's that time of year! Preliminary budget planning for 2021 started earlier this month and plenty of work lies ahead. As many of you know, the District places high value on transparency and is proud to use the annual budget hearing as an opportunity to connect with the community, answer questions and explain budget details. Usually by this time of the year, the board of commissioners has set a date for a budget hearing and annual meeting; unfortunately, due to the present state of emergency, a public meeting at HPMA's clubhouse is not possible this year. In pursuit of transparency and community communication, the District is looking for avenues of budget process delivery that will make all budget documentation accessible. The goal is that by October 1st billing a 2021 budget summary will be sent out with the newsletter and full 24-page documentation will be made available online or by request. This will give the community ample time to review the District's proposed budget, ask questions and give feedback before the board of commissioners discuss and vote on budget approval at a public, teleconference meeting in November. Stay tuned for more information.

## How to Properly Winterize Your Home

All too often people winterize their homes by letting faucets drip...and drip.....and drip. While this may prevent pipes from freezing, it is an enormous waste of valuable, treated water. Many residents at the Pointe leave in September for extended periods of time, but even if you are still here, there are ways you can prepare your home for winter:

1. Insulate your outdoor fixtures—you can find low-cost insulated covers at any hardware store like this one  
2. Keep your home at above 50° to prevent pipe bursts
3. If leaving for an extended period, turn your water off at the meter or property shut-off and drain your plumbing from the lowest point (e.g. a faucet in your basement or outdoor spigot)

Protect your home and partner with us to conserve water this winter.