



# Hartstene Pointe Water – Sewer District

## Newsletter

July/August 2013

### Commissioners

Mary Alice Cary

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### District Office

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General Manager/Water Manager,

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### Customer Service

#### Account information

7:30 am-4:30 pm

(360) 876-2545,

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### 24 Hour Emergency (360) 876-2545

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 1 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 HPWSD.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity service provider.

### Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks Project

The Hartstene Pointe Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was recently inspected by representatives of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The inspection found that the WWTP does not meet the screening requirements that became effective July 1, 2012. A smaller sized bar screen or mechanical screen is recommended to meet the requirements.

The WWTP headworks currently include two manually cleaned bar screens, with bar spacing at approximately 1.25 inches. The operator manually cleans the bar screens each day and reports any significant fouling of the screens that occurs, mostly from fecal matter and toilet paper, but also other debris and trash that is flushed into the system by subscribers.

The District has been working with the Washington State Department of Ecology and our engineers to make modifications to the wastewater treatment plant influent screen to meet the present Ecology mandated screen size of 3/8 inch to prevent non-biodegradable materials from entering the treatment basins.

The District has chosen to install a self-cleaning mechanical screen in the primary channel and a manually-cleaned screen in the other channel. The self-cleaning screen will reduce maintenance costs by decreasing the number of labor hours required to keep the screens clean. The self-cleaning screen will also prevent spills by maintaining at least one free-flowing channel during times of high influent flows. Because the WWTP is not manned 24 hours per day, periods of high inflow could otherwise overwhelm a manual screen in between cleanings, causing a sewage overflow. There will also be an electronic ultrasonic level sensor which will set off an alarm if the inflow level becomes too high.



The Clean-Flo Spiral self-cleaning screen the District plans to install

The District had considered installing a grinder pump which would have ground the solids and non-biodegradables to a size that could pass through the screens. This would allow the District to forego the self-cleaning screen while still minimizing the chances of an overflow due to a clogged screen. However, the District decided against installing a grinder pump because it would still have allowed discharge of non-biodegradables into the Puget Sound.

The final headworks screen design will be completed this summer for submittal to Ecology for final approval. The District plans to pay for these upgrades, currently estimated at a total cost of \$170,000, with cash reserves rather than taking on additional debt.

**Reminder:** Please remember to use water wisely during these busy, warm months at the Pointe. Have a great summer!

## Meter Reading

The District is concluding the setup process for the water meter data collection software in preparation for reading of customer water service meters. Subscribers will see the meter readers,



identified by their bright yellow vests, collecting monthly water usage data from meters at the meter box. **Please keep your water meter box free from obstructions and available for data collection.**

At this time, the data collected from the meters will be used to aid the District in locating water leaks, identifying water usage trends, and meeting the requirements of Washington State's Water Use Efficiency Rule.

Eventually each subscriber's water usage data will be available on their bill so they can see their own usage trends. The District has no plans at this time to bill subscribers based on their usage, but is collecting the information for water conservation purposes only.

## Water Leaks

The District is continuing to search for and repair water leaks throughout the system. Recently one very large leak was discovered and repaired, resulting in a 16,000 gallon, or 25%, reduction of the District's average daily water use.

Leaks in the water system result in high operational costs and needless waste of water. If you know of or suspect a leak, please report it to the District office.



## Think Before You Flush

Drains, toilets, and trash cans are not all the same. Disposing of trash down drains and toilets can lead to sewer overflows and back-ups that can cause harm to human health and our local environment.

### In the kitchen

Grease sticks to household and sewage pipes. Over time, grease build-up will block the entire pipe and result in raw sewage backing up into your home or overflowing into the street or waterway. Follow these four simple steps to keep things running smoothly:

- 1) Don't put produce stickers down the drain.
- 2) Don't put grease, fats, or oil of any type down your drain or garbage disposal.
- 3) Do use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash or compost them.
- 4) Do scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash can, or compost them.

### In the bathroom

Think trash, not toilets. Flushing the wrong thing down the toilet damages your household plumbing, your environment



and the wastewater treatment system. If it isn't from your body or toilet paper, put it in the trash instead of the toilet.

### "Flushable" products

The label might say "flushable," but disposable wipes, kitty litter, and personal products can clog sewer lines and damage pumps and other equipment. Not only are these problems expensive to fix, they can also cause raw sewage overflows into homes, businesses, and the Puget Sound. So, think trash, not toilets, and please encourage your guests to do the same.

## Budget Hearing /Water Conservation Public Forum

The District will have a public hearing to receive comments in regard to the 2014 budget. The hearing will also serve as a Water Conservation Public Forum through which customers can learn about using water efficiently and help set water use efficiency goals for the District. The hearing will be held November 9, 2013 at 10:00 am at the HPMA Clubhouse.

**Reminder: the District Office does not have set office hours, but will return messages within 24 hours. If you experience a problem with your water or sewer service call our 24 Hour Emergency Number (360) 876-2545.**