



Newsletter

May/June 2019

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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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.

Reducing Nutrients in Puget Sound

(This article originally appeared the Department of Ecology's Website. <https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Puget-Sound/Helping-Puget-Sound/Reducing-Puget-Sound-nutrients>)

Excessive levels of nutrients from human sources are changing Puget Sound's water quality, adversely affecting the nation's second largest marine estuary. Excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and carbon, can lead to low dissolved oxygen, which impacts the health of aquatic life...



Noctiluca scintillans bloom at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines, WA.

What are excess nutrients?

Nutrients, such as nitrogen and organic carbon, are an important part of a healthy marine ecosystem, but too much nitrogen results in excessive algal growth and puts the health of the Puget Sound off balance. This algal growth occurs because nutrients act like fertilizer for algae and aquatic plants. When these algae and plants die, their decomposition uses up oxygen that marine animals need to survive.

Why are they a problem?

Too much nitrogen and carbon in Puget Sound can lead to low dissolved oxygen, especially in shallower areas and bays. Low dissolved oxygen causes stress on aquatic species. In addition to low levels of oxygen, other effects of excess nutrients include:

- Acidification, which can prevent shellfish and other marine organisms from forming shells
- Shifts in the number and types of organisms that live on the seafloor, resulting in changes in the food chain
- Increases in nuisance macro-algae, which can impair the health of eelgrass and shellfish beds
- Increases in harmful algal blooms and other nuisance species, such as jellyfish changes in food web dynamics.

Where do they come from?

Natural processes and human sources contribute nutrients to Puget Sound. Nitrogen and other nutrients are also contributed to the Sound through ocean upwelling, which is when cold, nutrient-rich water (which is also low in dissolved oxygen) moves from deep waters to surface waters. Nitrogen is also deposited by air into marine waters Human sources of nutrients can lead to the excess or imbalance of nutrients in Puget Sound...

HPWSD is Committed to a Clean Puget Sound

At Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District we are committed to producing the cleanest wastewater effluent possible. We are proud to say that our effluent water meets all of the current requirements for nutrient removal. We value our beautiful Puget Sound and the amazing wildlife that it shelters.

Our operators and staff work extremely hard to help ensure that this most precious resource we all know and love can be enjoyed for generations to come.



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Installing a high efficiency showerhead could save close to one gallon of water per minute."

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

General Manager's Report

Fun in the sun!

It's almost summer, and we all know what that means: swimming, boating, bike-riding and of course my absolute favorite, barbecuing! As we all gear up for some fun in the sun, I have a couple quick things that I wanted to make sure you are aware of.



The first is that we have completed the pilot study for Well 4 and are now waiting on final approval from the Department of Health (DOH) before we can officially put this well online. This means that currently we are depending primarily on Well 2 to supply sufficient water to this community. In recent months Well 2's production has been on the decline and so we do ask that you keep that in mind, especially as we approach the drier months. The good news is that most of the plants in this area (rhododendrons, salal, fir trees, etc.) are highly drought-tolerant, so there is no need for excessive watering during dry weather.

The second is that we will be doing some spring cleaning and beautification projects on our facilities throughout the community over the next few months. This will include the installation of a fence around our Well 4 facility.

Thank you for partnering with us in our efforts to serve this beautiful community!

- David Carnahan, General Manager

Commissioner's Corner

Your Commissioners' Roles

The role of a HPWSD Commissioner depends in large part on how well the district staff is performing its job and fulfilling its responsibilities. The most important task of the commissioners, therefore, is to ensure their General Manager is an effective leader with an in-depth understanding of the operations of a Water-Sewer District and who has hired and oversees an excellent staff. This Board of Commissioners has done just that.



This accomplishment allows the HPWSD Board of Commissioners to focus their energy and attention on:

1. Setting policies and budgets
2. Developing long-range planning approaches
3. Monitoring overall direction and customer satisfaction, and
4. Increasingly playing a role in state legislative activities that affect small water and sewer districts.

This last focus is becoming especially important in the South Sound region because the HPWSD must compete for the same grants, loans and other funding possibilities as much larger districts that have many times the staff and resources. As the State of Washington continues to tighten regulations affecting this region, the HPWSD is increasingly impacted, and as a result must spend more dollars in order to comply. This situation requires us as Commissioners to attend conferences and meetings, seminars and webinars, and to participate in organizations like the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD), the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW), and others in order to keep up with the latest approaches to problem solving and operational efficiency; the latest thinking on new technologies; and the latest opportunities for funding through new grant money and other sources. More and more we as Commissioners have been addressing these demands as we continually strive to improve the services and strengthen the reliability and redundancies of the District and its infrastructure.

- Robert Scarola, President, Board of Commissioners

Interested in becoming a commissioner? Position #3 is up for election



Candidate filing open May 13-17
Contact the Mason County Auditor's Office
for filing instructions and requirements