



Newsletter

February 2025

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

(360) 427-2413
772 E Chesapeake Dr.
Shelton, WA 98584
Email: info@hpwsd.org
Website: hpwsd.org

General Manager:

Jeff Palmer
gm@hpwsd.org

Commissioners:

Carl Anderson
Commissioner1@hpwsd.org
Stefan Birgh
Commissioner2@hpwsd.org
Stacy Swart
Commissioner3@hpwsd.org

Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: 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.

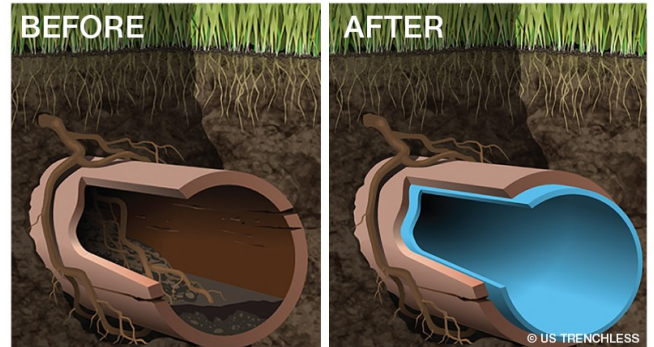
Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project Bid Awarded

On December 19th of last year, the District officially opened sealed bids for the upcoming Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (WIRP). Three bids were received following the solicitation period and all three bids were similar in scope and cost estimates. Century West Engineering, the District's contracted engineering firm, reviewed each bid to ensure each bid was reasonable and verified that the submitting contractors are in good standing with the State.

The District Board of Commissioners awarded the project to Rognlin's Inc., which submitted the lowest, responsible bid; this selection complies with state procurement laws. The construction bid amount totals \$15,495,802. In order to secure loan funds necessary to move forward toward completion of the project, an amendment with WA State Dept. of Ecology was submitted totaling \$17,770,592 to fund construction, construction management and potential change orders. The loan will be repaid over twenty years beginning one year following completion of the project with an interest rate of 0.4%; \$5M of the loan is considered *forgivable principal* that will not need to be repaid.

Rehabilitation of the infrastructure throughout the sewer system is expected to begin in the coming months and the entire project should be completed by the end of 2025. Once a timeline of repair work is known, updates will be provided to the community so that homeowners are aware of affected areas and can prepare accordingly.



Upcoming Commissioner Position Opportunities



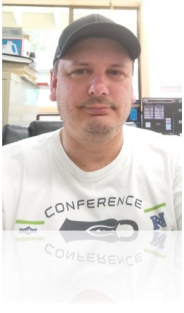
The District announces upcoming vacancies on the three-member Board of Commissioners. This is an opportunity to serve your community in a significant and unique way. The Board is tasked with ensuring the overall efficient operation and financial well-being of the District. Commissioners prepare for meetings by reviewing contracts, billing & financial reports, policy updates, regulatory changes and other items related to water & wastewater utility management.

Position #2 will be on the County General Election ballot in November this year for a two-year short term beginning 1/1/26 and Position #3 will be on the ballot for a full six-year term, also beginning on 1/1/26. Filing to run for the position is open the week of **May 5-9, 2025**. To qualify, a candidate must be a citizen and a registered Mason County voter living within the District.

All interested individuals are encouraged to contact the District Office to express their interest and receive support in the exploration of candidacy. The Board meets for two to three hours on the first and third Thursdays at 1:00 pm, at the District Office.

General Manager's Report

Addressing Potential Water Waste



There are a number of ways people inadvertently waste water every day, further draining a precious resource and potentially draining their wallets needlessly.

Water waste can go unnoticed due to everyday habits when you're going through familiar routines, but District staff are well aware of the impacts at our treatment plants. Do you leave water running from the tap when washing dishes? (*pro tip: most dishwashers use much less water per load than handwashing, especially newer models and washing only full loads*) Do you wash batches of produce under running water, instead of filling a bowl with water for washing (10 gallons can be lost in 5 mins)? Do you leave water running while shaving or brushing teeth (could save 8-10 gallons/day)? Do you take frequent or long showers? Do you run your washing machine more frequently than needed or wash partial loads in an older-model?

Conserving water saves our treated water and reduces unnecessary wastewater treatment. Excessive water drained from sinks or showers ends up being treated alongside sewage, even though sink/shower water is not as full of contaminants and pollutants and would require less treatment.

There are many ways to save water, especially if you haven't paid attention to your own daily habits, which in some cases can save you money. Try to think about ways you can save throughout your day!

Learn more about water statistics and how to save:



← www.epa.gov/watersense/statistics-and-facts
—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

"Have water drips and leaks repaired as soon as they're discovered, no matter how minor they may seem. Even leaks that seem insignificant add up to more water waste than you might expect!"

Think you know a lot about treatment plants? Let's see how much of a water treatment expert you really are again with the last question of this series! (see bottom of page for answer)

How many gallons of wastewater does the average person generate each day?

- a) 20 gallons
- b) 50 gallons
- c) 100 gallons

Operations Staff Departure/New Hire

After one year working for the District, Jared, a skilled, certified wastewater treatment plant operator, has moved on. The District is thankful for his hard work and dedication over the past twelve months. As a jack of all trades, he found solutions to everyday challenges and brought his wealth of experience to the table.

As Jared moves on, Ethan was hired for Operator training through an Apprenticeship Program that we have utilized in the past. Ethan began in December and will receive on-the-job training from District staff on-premises. He will also study through classwork under industry professionals at Evergreen Rural Water of WA, which operates the state's only recognized apprenticeship program through Labor & Industries. The apprenticeship puts him on track to attain industry certifications through not just the classwork, but hands-on operations across the District's treatment facilities.

Where to Properly Dispose Medications

Medicines that are flushed or poured down the drain end up polluting our waters, impacting aquatic species and contaminating our food & water supplies. Most medicines are not removed by wastewater or septic treatment. Scientists find medicines in surface, ground and marine waters as well as soils and sediments in the PNW. Even at very low levels, medicines in the environment hurt aquatic life. Using a medicine take-back program is a simple, sensible way to reduce the amount of medicines entering the environment. At least three locations in Mason County where you can safely drop off medicine include:

- Mason General Hospital
- Shelton Pharmacy
- Neil's Pharmacy

If you are unable to drop off your medicines for disposal, the WA Dept. of Health offers a mail-in service: dob.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/healthy-home/safe-medication-return As a last resort, dispose in the trash instead of unsafely flushing down the drain.

Quiz Answer: (C) That's right! We use a lot more than we think. Several contributing factors include how much water a person consumes or uses for showers/laundry/etc., plus a person's diet and lifestyle can contribute.