



# Newsletter



2025

## Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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## Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: [hpwsd.org](http://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 9:00 am 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.*

## Drinking Water Treatment, Why it Matters

### Why are drinking water treatment plants important?

Water is an essential element of life: it accounts for 70% to 80% of the weight of a human being. The quality of water is an important parameter that affects all aspects of the well-being of ecosystems and mankind, from human health, to food production, economic activities and biodiversity. Water from the environment often carries impurities that make water unsafe to drink without treatment. These may include:

-  *Microorganisms*, such as bacteria, protozoa and viruses
-  *Chemical pollutants*, like pesticides, nitrates or PFAS
-  *Metals & Minerals* that can cause hardness or corrosion issues
-  *Sediment & organic matter* that affect clarity & taste



Treatment plants reduce or eliminate these risks to meet the requirements of the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act* in addition to local regulatory standards.

### How does a water treatment plant work?

The process differs depending on the qualities of the water sourced—most plants follow a similar sequence:

1. **Coagulation & flocculation**—Chemicals are added to bind small particles into dense clumps, known as *flocs*
2. **Sedimentation**—Floc settles to the bottom, separating from cleaner water
3. **Filtration**—Water passes through filter media, such as sand, gravel or membranes to remove fine particles
4. **Disinfection**—Chlorine, chloramine, ozone or ultraviolet light is used to inactivate pathogens
5. **Finishing steps**—Some plants add corrosion inhibitors or fluoride (HPWSD does not)

Treatment Plant types vary according to how water is sourced and the properties of its content. Hartstene Pointe water operates a *groundwater treatment system*, which focuses on targeted issues including iron and arsenic removal.

### Why it matters

Water treatment plants safeguard public health and enable modern life. Today, they face challenges from aging infrastructure, stricter regulations and emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and microplastics. Utilities are investing in advanced treatment technologies and improved monitoring to keep drinking water safe as conditions change. —Adapted from a [waterworld.com](http://waterworld.com) online article



Filtration equipment & controls at one of the District's water treatment plants

# General Manager's Report

## Introducing Mason Water Group



Earlier this year, our staff was invited to participate in a newly-formed, local non-profit called *Mason Water Group*. It was started by local leaders of utilities throughout the county who saw a need to proactively address challenges that utilities face today and in years to come. Since September, operators from over a dozen utilities meet to learn and share solutions with each other.

The monthly meetings have already proven to be valuable. Industry professionals have engaged in meetings, offering presentations on a variety of topics. The first guest speaker was from WA Department of Health (DOH) to share how things operate in the state, provide a list of valuable contacts at DOH and field questions from those in attendance. The next guest speaker was from Furrow Pump, who gave a presentation about pumps that are used in water treatment and explained functions and operations of various pumps.

In addition to the informative presentations, the meetings are great opportunities to network with other local utility operators who serve communities across Mason County.

We look forward to the mutually beneficial affiliation with Mason Water Group and its members going forward.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager



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

**"Prepare for colder months by protecting pipes and plumbing fixtures from being exposed to freezing temperatures, especially if away for extended periods of time."**

# District Welcomes New Operator

Commissioners are excited to announce the addition of Kelly to the staff as the District's new *Water Distribution Manager*. Kelly has been a certificated water operator in Washington State for years and is already in training to attain certifications in wastewater treatment in order to be cross-trained. Pictured is Kelly already hard at work repairing a water service line (see related article below).



## Resident Helps District Locate Leak

Last month, an email was sent out to the community soliciting help to locate a water leak. Based on flow readings recorded in the District's systems, operators knew there had to be a leak somewhere. After hours of strategic searching, operators & volunteers asked for help. Thanks to a phone call from a resident on Pointes Drive East, the leak was found and subsequently repaired. The District always appreciates help from the community identifying anything out of the ordinary. If you notice running or pooling water in a location that draws your attention, please promptly report it to the District office so operators can investigate.

