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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER

THIRD FLOOR - CITY HALL
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-6832

LESLIE A. HAIRSTON
ALDERMAN, FIFTH WARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

BUILDINGS

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AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

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October 20, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

I am writing to introduce a packet of information from the Department of Water Management. Our neighborhood infrastructure is about to improve, and we want you to know about the project in advance. I also want you to know my office will be paying close attention both to the work and to its impact on your lives and property.

Specifically, the project will see a new water main installed in S. Kenwood Avenue, from E. 73rd Street to E. 75th Street. My office will be working with the department to ensure that your convenience is kept in mind as the project proceeds.

I have asked Commissioner John Spatz to be sure you are well informed about this project. Please feel free to call my office at any time, if we can be of service.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie A. Hairston
Alderman



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



Department of Water Management
John F. Spatz, Jr.
Commissioner

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

At Alderman Hairston's request, I am providing you with material related to a project coming to your neighborhood. I want to be certain you are well informed, and that you know where to call if there are any questions or concerns.

Our crews are installing 1,271 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Kenwood Avenue, from E. 73rd Street to E. 75th Street. The old main dates back to 1893 and needs replacement.

I have asked my staff to assemble this material for you, and also to stay in close touch with the project. We know that construction always has some inconveniences and noise associated with it, but we want to do everything we can to minimize the inconvenience and conduct ourselves as good and thoughtful neighbors during our time in your street.

Please feel free to call Assistant Commissioner Tom LaPorte at (312) 742-1029, at any time. In the meantime, thank you in advance for your understanding and good will.

Sincerely

John F. Spatz, Jr.
Commissioner



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



Department of Water Management
John F. Spatz, Jr.
Commissioner

Do you wonder what was happening in 1893? That's the year the old water main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



MAE WEST

- The World's Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago.
- Henry Perky and William Ford patented shredded wheat.
- The first bowling magazine, which was called Gut Holz, was published.
- France issued the first driver's licenses, which included a required test.
- Katharine Lee Bates wrote "America the Beautiful," in Colorado.
- Lizzie Borden was acquitted in the murder of her parents in New Bedford, Massachusetts.
- New Zealand became the first country to grant all its women the right to vote.
- Actress Mae West was born.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: The Department of Water Management is installing 1,271 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Kenwood Avenue, from E. 73rd Street to E. 75th Street.

Reason: The old main consists of 6-inch pipe, and we want to expand capacity. Further, the old pipe dates back to 1893, and we can expect increasingly frequent breaks if we don't replace it.

Timing: Work starts shortly, if it hasn't already, and we expect the job to be completed in late April 2010 (restoration will follow in late May 2010). This, of course, is an estimate. Sometimes there are unexpected developments in the street, or other circumstances (e.g. weather) that force us to adjust our schedules.

Traffic: We will allow traffic to flow on S. Kenwood Avenue without interruption, but we will have to restrict parking around our work zone.

Parking: We will post our work area for "No Parking" as needed, during work hours. We are agreeable to parking outside of those hours, but will have to insist that cars be moved by the start of the next workday. We will try to preserve as much parking as we can.

Service Interruptions: We will have to interrupt water service for a brief period when we transfer service pipes to the new main. This will always be done with plenty of notice. The other possibility is that a break in the old main might force an immediate shutdown. This is common during construction. We are replacing some pretty old pipes. We will make sure neighbors know what is happening if that occurs.

CONTACT NUMBERS

24-HOUR SERVICE AND INFORMATION LINE
3-1-1

ALDERMAN LESLIE A. HAIRSTON
773-324-5555

ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE
312-742-1029



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



Department of Water Management
John F. Spatz, Jr.
Commissioner

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if there is a problem? There are always surprises in any construction project. If you have any concerns or questions, you can ask our foreman in the street. You can also call Assistant Commissioner Tom LaPorte directly at 312-742-1029. His cell is on the voicemail message, in case it's off hours.

Can I park when you're not working? We have no problem with you parking outside of our working hours. We have to insist that cars be out of our way at the start of the workday.

Will this ever end? Yes. As a matter of fact, the job is slated to conclude in late April 2010. Restoration will follow late May 2010. We always hesitate to promise specific dates, since we are at the mercy of other factors like weather and emergencies elsewhere in town.

Will you shut my water off? Yes, maybe a couple of times. When we switch over the services from the old main to the new main, we interrupt service. We give you 24-hour notice when this is to happen. In any construction project, there is also a risk that an old pipe will break. They can be fragile. This may necessitate an emergency shutdown. If we do this, we will let you know what is happening, even though we may be unable to give prior warning.

Why should I be nice about this? The crew working in the street will work hard to be good neighbors, and to respect both your convenience and your quality-of-life. By working together, we can complete this important project as friends working for the improvement of our community.