

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL - ROOM 200
121 N. LaSALLE Street
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-3166
(312) 744-6820
FAX: (312) 744-9009

REPLY:

PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE
34TH WARD CENTER

507 W. 111TH STREET - 60628
TELEPHONE: (773) 928-6961
FAX: (773) 928-8562



CARRIE M. AUSTIN
ALDERMAN, 34TH WARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

COMMITTEE, RULES AND ETHICS
(VICE-CHAIRMAN)

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

FINANCIAL

HEALTH

HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

POLICE AND FIRE

ZONING

January 7, 2010

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 at South Harvard Avenue (West 117th Street to West 119th Street). My office will be working with the Water Department to ensure your convenience is kept in mind as the project proceeds.

I have assigned my Chief-of-Staff Chester Wilson, Jr. to the responsibility of ensuring 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,

Carrie M. Austin
Alderman, 34th Ward



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

At Alderman Austin'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 1,318 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Harvard Avenue (W. 117th Street to W. 119th Street). The old main dates back to 1892 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

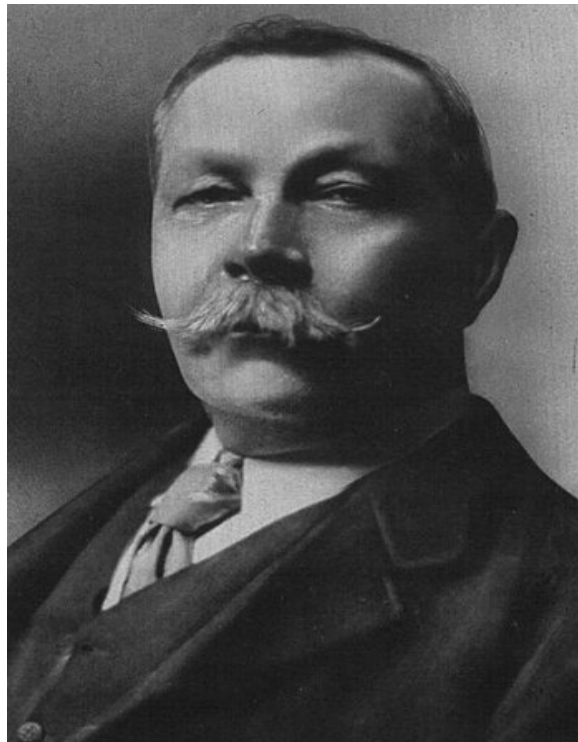


City of Chicago
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Mayor



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1892? That's the year the old water main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

- Former President Abraham Lincoln's birthday was declared a national holiday in the United States.
- Arthur Conan Doyle published The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.
- Ellis Island became a new reception center for immigrants.
- The first basketball game was played.
- The escalator was patented by inventor Jesse W. Reno.
- Macadamia nuts were first planted in Hawaii.
- Tchaikovsky's ballet, "The Nutcracker Suite", made its debut.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: The Department of Water Management is installing 1,318 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Harvard Avenue (W. 117th Street to W. 119th Street).

Reason: The old main consists of 6-inch pipe, and we want to expand capacity. Further, the old pipe dates back to 1892, 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 (restoration will follow in late May). 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. Harvard 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 CARRIE M. AUSTIN
773-928-6961**

**ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE
312-742-1029**



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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. Restoration will follow in late May. 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.