



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor



Department of Water Management  
Thomas H. Powers, P.E.  
Commissioner

## WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

July 25, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Dowell's request, I am providing you with information regarding an upcoming water construction project in your neighborhood. I want to be certain you are well informed about the project, and that you know where to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Our crews will soon be installing 1,327 feet of 8-inch water main in W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, from S. Morgan Street to S. Halsted Street. The old main dates back to 1891 and needs to be replaced.

We are coordinating with Alderman Dowell's office, and she has made clear we are to put great importance on your convenience and the quality of life in this neighborhood through the whole term of this project. Good communication is the key.

I have asked my staff to assemble the attached information for you and to monitor the project closely. We know that construction always involves inconveniences and noise. We will do everything possible to minimize inconvenience and noise and to conduct ourselves as good and thoughtful neighbors in the course of our presence on your street.

If you have questions or comments about the project, please feel free to contact Assistant Commissioner Tom LaPorte at 312-742-1029 at any time, you may leave a message.

Thank you for your understanding and good will.

Sincerely,  
Thomas H. Powers, P.E.  
Commissioner

cc: Alderman Pat Dowell  
3rd Ward



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1891? That's the year the old water main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



- Fig Newtons were produced for the first time.
- The Wrigley Company was founded in Chicago, originally selling products such as soap and baking powder.
- Stanford University opened its doors.
- Thomas Edison patented the radio.
- Congress created the U.S. Courts of Appeal.
- Carnegie Hall in New York City opened.
- George A. Hormel and Company introduced Spam.
- James Naismith invented the game of basketball.



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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Project:** The Department of Water Management is installing 1,327 feet of 8-inch water main in W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, from S. Morgan Street to S. Halsted Street.

**Reason:** The old main consists of 6-inch pipe, and we want to expand capacity. Further, the old pipe dates back to 1891, and we can expect increasingly frequent breaks if we don't replace it.

**Timing:** Work starts in a few weeks, and we expect the job to be completed in late November. This includes restoration. 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 W. 54th Street 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 PAT DOWELL  
773-373-9273**

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



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## 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 November. This includes restoration. 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.