



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel
Mayor



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

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

January 12, 2012

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Thompson's request, I am providing you with information regarding a sewer 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 private contractor will install a new tumbling basin at W. 61st Street and St. Louis. Following, our crews will install a new sewer main in W. 61st Street, from S. St. Louis Avenue to S. Central Park Avenue. Finally, our contractor will install a new sewer in S. Central Park Avenue, from W. 61st Street to W. 61st Place. The old pipe dates back to around 1900 and needs to be replaced.

We are coordinating with Alderman Thompson'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 Powers
Commissioner

cc: Alderman JoAnn Thompson
16th Ward



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1900? That's about the time the old sewer main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



HAMBURGER

- Hawaii became a U.S. territory.
- The hamburger was created by Louis Lassing in Connecticut.
- Actor Spencer Tracy was born.
- The U.S. Navy's first submarine made its debut.
- The second modern Olympic Games opened in Paris, and lasted for 5 months.
- L. Frank Baum wrote The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.
- The first electric bus became operational in New York City.
- English handwriting experts established the art of calligraphy.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: After our private contractor installs a new tumbling basin at 61st Street/St. Louis, the Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer main in W. 61st Street, from S. St. Louis Avenue to S. Central Park Avenue. Then, the contractor will install a new sewer main in S. Central Park Avenue, from W. 61st Street to W. 61st Place.

Reason: The old pipe dates back to around 1900 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by W. 60th Street on the north, W. 63rd Street on the south, S. St. Louis Avenue on the east, and S. Hamlin Avenue on the west benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

Timing: Work by the contractor at 61st Street/St. Louis will commence in mid-January, with completion anticipated for mid-February. Installation of the new sewer in 61st Street will start in mid-February, and end in mid-March. Installation of the new sewer in Central Park will begin in late March, with completion anticipated for mid April. Restoration of the damaged streets/parkways will follow (mid April to mid May). Dates may change depending on weather and other factors. If there is any appreciable change, we will notify you.

Traffic: We will allow traffic to flow outside of our working hours. When we are working in the street, we have to close it to traffic for reasons of safety. You will always be able to reach your home or business, even if it means putting a metal plate in place. Outside of working hours, a lane will be left open for local traffic only.

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.

CONTACT NUMBERS

24-HOUR SERVICE AND INFORMATION LINE

3-1-1

ALDERMAN JOANN THOMPSON

773-434-3399

ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE

312-742-1029



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will our sewer or water service be interrupted? Neither should be. But we can't be absolutely certain. Whenever you are doing heavy construction, there are bound to be surprises. Sometimes we find a water service from a house well away from where our records indicate it is. Sometimes, old pipes are brittle and prone to breaking when there is the vibration of digging.

Will I get notice if there is a shutdown? We will try to give you notice prior to a shutdown. But it all depends on the circumstances. If necessary, we will perform the emergency shutdown immediately and then tell you about it. Safety and avoiding property damage are prime considerations.

What about restoration of curb and parkway damage? When we finish the job, we will pave the street and address curb and parkway issues. We promise to leave your parkway and curb at least as good as we found them.

What about improvements I've made in the parkway? If there are ornamental plants, brickwork, sprinkling systems, etc., in your parkway, we certainly try to avoid them. The City of Chicago, however, cannot assume responsibility for privately made improvements. We will work with you to avoid any problems along these lines.

Why should I be nice about this? We are renewing your neighborhood and helping reduce the risk of local flooding during heavy rain. We intend to be good neighbors, although we are aware that our work is inherently disruptive. We will work with neighbors, Alderman Thompson and others, to ensure that this disruption is minimal and that the experience is as agreeable as possible.