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November 16, 2009

RE: S. Sangamon Street, from W. 77th Street to W. 79th Street
New Water Main Project

Dear Resident:

The Chicago Department of Water Management will be installing a new water main in S. Sangamon Street t (W. 77th Street to W. 79th Street). I have asked Commissioner John Spatz to provide full information packets to residents and business affected by these infrastructure improvements.

If your have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call my office.

In Your Service,

Latasha Thomas
Alderman, 17th Ward



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

At Alderman Thomas' 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 1,241 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Sangamon Street, from W. 77th Street to W. 79th Street. The old main dates back to 1890 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 1890? That's the year the old water main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



CY YOUNG IN ACTION

- The first U.S. college-level dairy school opened at the University of Wisconsin.
- W.B. Purvis patented the fountain pen.
- Idaho and Wyoming became states.
- Congress created the Weather Bureau.
- Rubber gloves were used in surgery for the first time.
- X-rays were discovered by Wilhelm Rontgen.
- Cy Young pitched and won his first major league baseball game.
- The literacy rate in the United States was estimated at 13.5%.
- Rose Kennedy, Colonel Sanders, Groucho Marx, and Dwight D. Eisenhower were born.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: The Department of Water Management is installing 1,241 feet of 8-inch water main in S. Sangamon Street, from W. 77th Street to W. 79th Street.

Reason: The old main consists of 6-inch pipe, and we want to expand capacity. Further, the old pipe dates back to 1890, 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 mid-December (restoration will follow). 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. Sangamon 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 LATASHA R. THOMAS

773-723-0908

ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE

312-742-1029



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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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 mid-December. Restoration will follow. 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.