



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayor



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

## WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

May 3, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Dowell'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.

A new tumbling basin will be installed and a connection will be made at 59th St. and Normal Avenue. Following this preliminary construction, our crews will be installing a new sewer main in 59<sup>th</sup> Street, from Normal to Parnell, and in Parnell, from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 340' south. The old pipe dates back to 1890 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 Powers  
Commissioner

cc: Alderman Pat Dowell  
3rd Ward



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1890? That's the year the old sewer 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.



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## **59<sup>th</sup>/NORMAL PROJECT PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Project:** A private contractor will install a new tumbling basin and make a connection at 59<sup>th</sup> and Normal. Following, the Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer in 59<sup>th</sup> Street, from Normal to Parnell, and in Parnell, from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 340' south.

**Reason:** The old pipe dates back to 1890 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by 59<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, 60th Street on the south, and Parnell on the east/west will benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

**Timing:** Our contractor's work will start mid-May, with completion anticipated for late June. We will begin installing the new sewer main in early November, and expect to be done by late December. Restoration of the street and damaged sidewalks/parkways will follow in the spring of 2012. Dates may change depending on weather and other factors. If there is any appreciable change, we will notify you.

**Traffic:** Our excavation and the equipment involved all take up space, and safety, of course, is the foremost consideration. We may have some closures to "through traffic". You will always have access to your property.

**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 PAT DOWELL  
773-373-9273**

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



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## **59<sup>th</sup>/NORMAL SEWER PROJECT 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 Dowell, and others, to ensure that this disruption is minimal and that the experience is as agreeable as possible.