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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

Howard B. Brookins, Jr.
Alderman, 21st Ward

October 27, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

I'm writing to tell you about a significant project coming to W. 94th Street, S. Morgan Street, and W. 90th Street. This is good for everyone who lives in the vicinity, but it will require some adjustment as the work goes forward.

I have asked Water Management Commissioner John Spatz to provide full information packets to neighbors along the way.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call my office. Together, we can all work to make this a model of community building in both the literal and figurative senses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Brookins, Jr.
Alderman



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

At Alderman Brookins' suggestion, I'm writing to introduce a full packet of information on the sewer construction project coming to W. 94th Street, S. Morgan Street, and W. 90th Street. We want to make certain you are fully informed and know how to get any questions answered or concerns addressed.

I have asked our project managers to assemble this packet of information for your use. I have also instructed all concerned that we must conduct ourselves as good neighbors—however temporary—during the term of this project. This means respecting and enhancing your “quality of life” whenever possible. While heavy construction always involves some noise and dust, we will do everything possible to maintain a clean and safe work site.

Please feel free to call Assistant Commissioner Tom LaPorte (312-742-1029) at any time with concerns or questions. He will either be able to address your concern, or bring it directly to me.

Thank you, in advance, for your patience 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 1899? That's the year the old sewer main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



ALFRED HITCHCOCK

- The pain reliever acetylsalicylic acid was named "aspirin" and sold by Bayer around the world.
- The first auto repair shop opened in Boston.
- The Gideon Society was established to place Bibles in hotels.
- Carnation processed its first can of evaporated milk.
- Voting machines were approved by the U.S. Congress for use in federal elections.
- The Bronx Zoo opened in New York.
- Filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock was born.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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94th STREET/MORGAN STREET/90th STREET SEWER PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: In the first phase of this project, our contractor will install support structures at W. 90th Street and S. Aberdeen Avenue. Following, the Chicago Department of Water Management will install a new sewer in W. 94th Street, from May to Elizabeth; in S. Morgan Street, from 90th street to 91st Street; and in 90th Street, from May to Morgan.

Reason: The old sewer pipe dates back to 1899 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by W. 90th Street on the north, S. Vincennes Street on the east, W. 91st Street on the south, and S. May Street on the west will benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

Timing: Our contractor will begin their work shortly, if they haven't already, with completion of this part of the project scheduled for mid-November. We will begin installing new sewer main in late November or early December. We expect to complete this work by late December or early January (restoration of the street and damaged sidewalks/parkways will follow). Dates may change depending on weather and other factors. If there is any appreciable change, we will notify you.

Traffic: "Through traffic" will be permitted while our contractor installs the support structures at 90th Street and Aberdeen.

While we install the new sewer main, we may have closures to "through traffic". Our excavation and the equipment involved all take up space, and safety, of course, is the foremost consideration. 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 HOWARD BROOKINS, JR.

773-881-9300

ASSISTANT WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER TOM LAPORTE

312-742-1029



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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

94th STREET/MORGAN STREET/90th STREET 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 Brookins, and others, to ensure that this disruption is minimal and that the experience is as agreeable as possible.