



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel
Mayor



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

WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

December 20, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Pawar'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 crews will soon be installing a new sewer main in W. Berteau Avenue, from N. Damen Avenue to N. Ravenswood Avenue. The old pipe dates back to 1893 and needs to be replaced.

We are coordinating with Alderman Pawar's office, and he 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 Ameya Pawar
47th Ward



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1893? That's the year the old sewer main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



MAE WEST

- The World's Columbian Exposition opened in Chicago.
- Henry Perky and William Ford patented shredded wheat.
- The first bowling magazine, which was called Gut Holz, was published.
- France issued the first driver's licenses, which included a required test.
- Katharine Lee Bates wrote "America the Beautiful," in Colorado.
- Lizzie Borden was acquitted in the murder of her parents in New Bedford, Massachusetts.
- New Zealand became the first country to grant all its women the right to vote.
- Actress Mae West was born.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project: The Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer main in W. Berteau Avenue, from N. Damen Avenue to N. Ravenswood Avenue.

Reason: The old pipe dates back to 1893 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by Cullom on the north, Belle Plaine on the south, Ravenswood on the east and Damen on the west will benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

Timing: Work will begin in January, with completion anticipated for March. Restoration of the damaged streets/parkways will follow. 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 on Berteau 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 AMEYA PAWAR
773-868-4747
info@Chicago47.org
www.Chicago47.org

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 Pawar, and others, to ensure that this disruption is minimal and that the experience is as agreeable as possible.