



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel  
Mayor



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

## WATER MANAGEMENT CUSTOMER NOTICE

February 6, 2012

Dear Neighbor,

At Alderman Graham'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 connection structure at S. Laramie Avenue and W. Jackson Boulevard. Following, the Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer in W. Jackson Boulevard (Laramie – Lavergne), in S. Lavergne Avenue (Jackson – Quincy) and in S. Leamington Avenue (Jackson – Van Buren). The old pipe dates back to 1908 and needs to be replaced.

We are coordinating with Alderman Graham'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 Deborah Graham  
29th Ward



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Do you wonder what was happening in 1908? That's the year the old sewer main was installed beneath your street. Among other things:



## THE MODEL T CAR

- For the first time, a ball signifying the new year dropped in Times Square.
- A New York City regulation made it illegal for women to smoke in public.
- The first Mother's Day was observed.
- Cincinnati Mayor Mark Breith stood before city council and announced that, "women are not physically fit to operate automobiles."
- Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Murdock became the first people to travel across the U.S. by car; they left Los Angeles and arrived in New York City in 32 days, 5 hours, and 25 minutes.
- The first horror movie, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, premiered in Chicago.
- Henry Ford introduced the Model T car.
- The first Gideon Bible was placed in a hotel room.
- Jack Johnson became the first African-American Heavyweight Boxing Champion.



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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Project:** After our private contractor installs the connection structure at S. Laramie Avenue and W. Jackson Boulevard, the Department of Water Management will be installing a new sewer in W. Jackson Boulevard (Laramie – Lavergne), in S. Lavergne Avenue (Jackson – Quincy) and in S. Leamington Avenue (Jackson – Van Buren).

**Reason:** The old pipe dates back to 1908 and needs to be replaced. The area bounded by Adams on the north, Van Buren on the south, Lavergne on the east, and Laramie on the west benefit from improved drainage and reduced risk of flooding.

**Timing:** Work by the contractor at Laramie/Jackson will commence in early March, with completion anticipated for early May. Installation of the new sewers in Jackson, Lavergne, and Leamington will follow, and we expect the work to be completed by mid-July. 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 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 DEBORAH GRAHAM**

**773-261-4646**

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