

Sailor Street Improvements - 2020 Construction Newsletter

April 22, 2020

Construction:

- Bituminous Streets
- Sanitary Sewer
- Watermain
- Water & Sewer Services
- Storm Sewer

Construction schedule:

Start: April 27th, 2020
Finish: October 15th, 2020

Final Lift: June 30, 2021

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Project Website

A new website was just recently created to provide updates and information about the various projects going on in Blue Earth. Go to the link below to find information and to sign up for email or text notifications. This will replace the previous method of mailed newsletters and email updates.

<https://clients.bolton-menk.com/be2020/>

Overview

As you know, the City of Blue Earth is undertaking a construction project to improve the city streets and utilities along Sailor Street (from Third to Seventh Street), Fourth Street, Fifth Street, and Sixth Street (from T.H. 169 to East Street). The project will be broken into three phases which can be found on the project website and will include the removal and replacement of sanitary sewer, water and storm sewer facilities along with new street construction. Newsletters like this one, will be sent out to the email group during certain milestones to help keep residents informed. In addition to this, small updates will be provided weekly to keep you up to speed. It is important to note that information and scheduling might change due to weather and unforeseen issues. We will do our best to keep you up to date with the construction progress and changes. Bolton & Menk, Inc. is the City's engineer for the project. They will act as an extension of City Staff in monitoring construction work and interacting with the contractor daily. Should any questions or concerns arise during the construction process, please contact Bolton & Menk's representatives listed on the lower left side.

Project Timeline

Competitive bids for the work were received on April 15, 2020, and the project was awarded to Dirt Merchant from Mankato, Minnesota on April 20, 2020. In addition to their own staff, Dirt Merchant will employ several subcontractors for the project.

Later this week, Ben Rosol will be marking tree removals throughout the project limits. Information regarding tree removals can be found below.

Dirt Merchant is currently scheduled to begin Phase 1 on or after April 27th. Phase 1 will consist of underground utility work along 6th Street and Sailor Street (from 7th Street to 5th Street). Dirt Merchant will be grinding the existing bituminous pavement throughout the entire project. This ground up bituminous will be rolled and maintained to provide access to residents on Phase 2 and Phase 3. Phase 2 will start following the underground work of Phase 1. As the underground work is completed in each phase, the contractor will place aggregate base (gravel) for temporary access to driveways. Concrete curb and paving will likely be done later in the season once several areas are ready.

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Questions

Private Utilities

CenterPoint Energy will also be working in the area to relocate the gas lines. This work is not under the direction or supervision of the City but is necessary to prepare for the proposed utility and street construction and to update their aging facilities. CenterPoint's work has been underway, and they are hoping to finish up service work on or before 5/1/2020.

Trees

Some tree removals are necessary to construct the street improvements. Trees that are identified for removal will be marked with pink ribbon later this week. The tree removal schedule is not yet known. If you have any questions about your tree, please contact Ben Rosol. A new 2" diameter Autumn Blaze Maple tree will be installed for every tree removed on the project. Mr. Rosol will coordinate the location of the new tree with you.

Water Shutdowns

Occasional water shut-downs will be required for the crews to make connections to the existing water lines. We ask for your patience and understanding, as the Contractor will do their best to provide reasonable notice and reduce the length of any water shut downs required. Typically, we will try to ensure at least a one-day notice is given for shutdowns and the outage limited between 2 to 8 hours long.

Access

As the project moves forward, parking and access to your property will continue to change. When construction is being conducted adjacent to your property you may have to park in the alley, at a neighbor's house or on a side street, where your vehicle is safe and out of the way. Access will be intermittent during underground construction and for longer periods during street grading, curb and pavement construction. Rain will also have an impact on property access. We realize access will be difficult and thank you for your patience. We will communicate access restrictions on a regular basis throughout the project. You may contact Ben to discuss your needs and concerns.

Garbage, Recycling & Mail

Until further notice, continue to place your garbage and recycling bins where you normally place them for each scheduled pick-up. We ask that you please have your garbage or recycling bins at the end of your driveway by 7:00 a.m. the day it is supposed to be picked up. This will help the contractor know that garbage and recycling bins need to be moved to side streets. The contractor will contact and coordinate with the pick-up companies. Please write or display your house number prominently on your bins so they can be returned to you.

The contractor will contact and coordinate with the postal service on how mail will be delivered during the project. Temporary mailboxes will be installed where needed.

COVID-19

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has been changing our everyday lives. The Governor's Stay at Home Order specifically lists public works and the construction trades as exempt from the order. Therefore, construction will proceed while practicing social distancing and other strict guidelines to help prevent the spread of the virus.