

# 2020 Street & Utility Improvement Newsletter

April 23, 2020

## Neighborhood Meeting #3:

Thursday, April 30 at 6 PM  
Houston Community Center

## Project Scope:

- Street Reconstruction
- Sidewalk Replacement
- Storm Sewer
- Sanitary Sewer
- Watermain

## Project Schedule:

### **Construction Begins:**

May 4, 2020

### **Substantial Completion:**

September 25, 2020

### **Final Completion:**

June 25, 2021

## City of Houston

105 West Maple Street  
PO Box 667  
Houston, MN 55943  
Michelle Quinn, City Administrator

## Contractor:

**Zenke Incorporated**  
La Crescent, MN

## Bolton & Menk, Inc.

2900 43<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 100  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Phone: (507) 208-4332  
Fax: (507) 208-4155  
[www.bolton-menk.com](http://www.bolton-menk.com)

## Steve Vrieze

Primary Resident Contact  
Resident Project Representative  
Cell: (507) 696-4859  
E-mail: [steve.vrieze@bolton-menk.com](mailto:steve.vrieze@bolton-menk.com)

## Matt Mohs, P.E.

City Engineer  
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## Project Overview

Competitive bids for this project were received and the project was awarded to Zenke Incorporated, from La Crescent, MN on April 13, 2020.



## Informational Meeting

The contractor recently notified us that he tentatively intends to begin work the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a change from initial thoughts of the project starting at the end of May. With the project right around the corner, we are scheduling Neighborhood Informational Meeting #3 which will be held on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. The governor's stay-at-home mandate will still be in effect; however, it is important that we offer to meet one more time before construction begins. The Community Center will be arranged to abide by the social distancing recommendations.

The meeting's agenda will include: 1) meeting Steve Vrieze who will be the Resident Project Representative, 2) discussing the contractor's proposed schedule, 3) discuss "what to expect" during construction, 4) review frequently asked questions regarding this type of construction project, 5) review the communication plan for the project, and 6) Questions and Answers.



## Contacts

**If you have questions or concerns at any time during the construction project, please contact Steve Vrieze at 507-696-4859, or [steve.vrieze@bolton-menk.com](mailto:steve.vrieze@bolton-menk.com).**

Contacting Steve is most often the quickest means of answering questions and addressing concerns related to the project.



## Project Timeline

**Work is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>.** During the first week, the contractor will remove trees. Any trees planned for removal will be wrapped with colored ribbon prior to removal.



## Project Website

Additional information concerning the project including schedules, contacts, meeting information, maps, and more can be found on the project website:

<https://www.bolton-menk.com/houston2020>.

## Alert

### **A Note on COVID-19**

As you are well-aware, COVID-19 has affected our lives in many ways this spring. To keep both residents and construction personnel safe, the project team will be doing our best to abide by social distancing and other guidelines established by the CDC.

Having said this, these projects will require some interactions between residents and project personnel. In some cases, we may be requesting access to your home in order to reserve or restore utilities.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID-19 RELATED PROJECT CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT STEVE AT 507-696-4859. On another note, if you or a member of your family is sick, please notify us so we can limit potential exposure.**

### **Property Access**

During construction, access through the construction zone will be difficult and/or limited depending on the construction activity taking place. Local traffic should obey road closed signs and find alternate routes around the active construction zone.

When possible, the contractor will provide temporary gravel for driveway access within the construction site. Direct driveway access may be limited during the day when excavation and other construction activity is occurring adjacent to driveways. In addition, when concrete curb, walk, and driveways are being constructed, access to driveways will be restricted for extended periods.

Wet weather will also make access difficult for periods of time. Please monitor the weather throughout the summer and plan accordingly. If rain is forecasted, residents are advised to park on adjacent streets

so vehicles are not trapped in driveways or stuck in mud.

Please also be advised that if you choose to drive on the closed road, there can sometimes be construction debris or other items that can damage vehicles. Driving through the construction site is at your own risk. If you are concerned about access during construction, or have questions, please contact Steve at 507-696-4859.

### **Garbage and Mail**

Garbage and recycling collection will continue its regular schedule during construction. You should set your garbage and recycling containers out as you normally would. During times when the garbage truck is unable to access the front of your property, the contractor will label and move them to an accessible location for pickup and return them to you after collection.

Mail delivery will continue during the project. The contractor will set up temporary mailboxes in a centralized location that will be accessible to the postman. You will be notified if your mailbox location will be affected.

### **Disruptions to Electrical and Water Service**

Water service will be provided throughout most of construction. However, planned short term shutdowns and disruptions will occur. During these times, residents will be provided a notice delivered to the front door. Your residence will be connected to a temporary water supply system until the new piping is installed and tested. This may result in a decrease in water pressure and warmer than normal water. Installation of temporary service will require entry into your home. If you have any concerns with this, please contact Steve at 507-696-4859.

Short-term interruptions to electrical service will also occur. You will be notified of any planned interruptions.

### **Private Improvements in Right-of-Way**

If you have improvements such as landscaping, retaining walls, shrubs, bushes, flowers, sheds, irrigation systems, etc. in the right-of-way, it is not the contractor's responsibility to work around them. The property owner is responsible for securing these private improvements and moving them if necessary to allow the project to be constructed. Neither the contractor nor City is responsible for damages incurred to these improvements. Any underground improvements, such as irrigation lines, dog fences, etc., should be located so they are readily visible. Contact Steve at 507-696-4859 with any questions.

## Construction Safety

### **Work Area**

It is very common on these types of projects that area residents (especially children) become quite curious about the work the Contractor is performing. We ask that you please be respectful of and stay well clear of construction zones. Many hazards and dangers exist from heavy machinery, trenches, loose material, confined spaces, hot asphalt, etc. and often times are not recognizable by the general public. The Contractor has responsibility to ensure safety on the project and within the construction area. Any direction from the Contractor regarding safety must be heeded; likewise, if you observe an unsafe condition please report it to the RPR immediately.