



Cooper Charter Township

1590 West D Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-6321
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August 11, 2020

Notice of Construction Water Main Installation and Service Connections

Dear Resident,

In response to perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) being detected in residential potable wells at concentrations greater than the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) Health Advisory Level, the City of Kalamazoo will be providing municipal water service in your neighborhood and connection to your home should you request it. This will be accomplished by installing a new water main within the road right-of-way and then extending individual service lines to homes. The project is scheduled to begin in late August and to be completed by end of summer in 2021. Homes can be connected to the public water supply after each segment of water main adjacent to the road has passed pressure and bacteriological testing. We do not yet have a definitive work schedule from the contractor who will perform the work but will post that as soon as it is available.

A map showing the streets along which water main will be installed can be found on the following websites: City of Kalamazoo, Cooper Township, City of Parchment, Richland Township. These websites will have a link to our engineering consultant's website (Prein&Newhof) where the map will be hosted and updated daily. Prein&Newhof link: <https://www.preinnewhof.com/construction-updates/>

The work will involve:

- Lane and road closures/detours within the project area
- Tree trimming and removal within the right-of-way (ROW)
- Removal and restoration of sections of roads and driveways
- Open cut trenching, digging, and backfilling operations
- Directional drilling to install some service connections
- Access to your home to prepare plumbing for municipal water
- Access to your home to install a water meter
- Abandonment of your existing potable well after you are connected to municipal water
- Restoration activities.

The City of Kalamazoo has contracted with Engineer Prein&Newhof for construction observation. Contractors on the site include the two prime contractors, Lounsbury Excavating and USA Earthworks. You may also see a few small subcontractors performing concrete or restoration work. Construction related impacts to you will be minimized during the completion of this project. Provisions have been made to ensure you continue to receive mail service, parcel deliveries, school bus services, and refuse service. Additionally, access to your home and access for emergency vehicles will be provided at all times.

Service Connections

The water service connection to your home will be completed after water main installation is complete. Prior to your water service being installed, you may see a City of Kalamazoo, Contractor, or Prein&Newhof representative stopping by to review your property. In preparation for your service replacement, you may also notice flags or paint marks placed on your property that mark the location of other underground utilities (gas, electric, phone, etc.). When it is time to install your service connection to your home a representative from one of these organizations will contact you to schedule access to your home.

The work will require shutting off your water service for several hours and providing access to your home. In the interest of time, crew efficiency, and safety, please be sure that on the day of your installation the area around the water meter/water service entrance into your home is free of obstacles – including cabinetry, drywall and stored items. If you plan to have someone on site to allow admittance to our crews, we do ask that the person be at least 18 years of age.

On your scheduled installation date, the new service line, water meter, mounting bracket and appurtenances will be installed. Additionally, since your pressure tank and well pump will no longer be necessary, they will be removed during the completion of this project. If you would like to keep either of these items, please let us know in advance, or at the time of installation.

Installing water service requires digging in the yard; it will be restored to the original condition. The City of Kalamazoo recommends watering your lawn after the restoration has been completed to help the new grass grow. It takes time for the grass to grow back. Please avoid driving or parking on the freshly seeded areas until the grass has been fully restored.

Meters, Meter Pits, and Service Lines

Select homes that do not have basements or that have long (greater than 200'), or challenging service connections will have a water meter pit/vault installed on their property. The pit/vault will be installed just outside of the ROW (about 20' from the edge of the road) and it will house the water meter. All other homes will have the meter installed in the basement. Please note that once the meter is installed, the City of Kalamazoo is only responsible for maintaining water lines between the water main (road) and the meter with the following exception:

For homes receiving meter pits/vaults, the service line between the pit/vault and the home will have a 2-year warranty from the date of installation. After 2-years, the property owner is responsible for all water lines located down-stream of the water meter.

Costs and Fees

Water services installed with this project will be provided to your home for no initial cost to you, except for a small, refundable, deposit to start your water account. You will be responsible for paying for water usage and a quarterly water meter fee. The City will invoice you on a quarterly basis for these items.

You will soon receive a New Water Service Application with instructions on how to submit it should you desire service at this time.

If you elect to not be connected to the public water system at this time with the project, all future costs for the service line to your home, in-home connection, and well abandonment will be your responsibility.

Thank you for all your cooperation and patience as we work together on these water system improvements.