



March 1, 2023

Re: Lead Water Service Notification

Dear Resident,

As your water utility, our first priority is providing you with safe, reliable water service. Based on our records, your property is one of the 1,503 properties served by the Village of Winnetka that may have a lead water service line from the water main to your property line and/or from the property line into your house. While the Village's water treatment process incorporates a treatment to minimize the potential for lead to dissolve into water, residents served by lead service lines are at higher risk of lead exposure than households without lead pipes. If you are not already aware, legislative changes enacted by the State of Illinois require the future replacement of your service line.

Background

In August 2021, the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (415 ILCS 5/17.12) was signed into law. Effective January 1, 2022, this act requires the eventual replacement of all lead service lines in the State of Illinois. The statute dictates various timelines for complete lead replacement according to the size of a given jurisdiction. The Village's potable water system contains 4,494 service connections. Of these service connections, approximately one-third of service lines are lead and/or partially lead. In Winnetka's case, all lead water services must be replaced by 2038. When a lead water service line is repaired or upgraded, the entirety of the lead service must be replaced. Partial service replacements are no longer permitted, and, although emergency repairs to a lead service are permitted, they will require the entire replacement of the lead service line.

In the near term, there are three scenarios in which you may be required and/or elect to replace your lead service line: i) an emergent service line leak, ii) a water main capital improvement project impacting your lead service line, and iii) a voluntary decision on your part to replace your lead service line and take advantage of a new Village cost-sharing program. The following summarizes the three scenarios.

Scenario 1: Emergent Replacement of Leaking Lead Service Lines (LSL)

If a leak in your lead service line is identified, the entirety of the service line must be replaced. Legislation permits emergency repairs to be completed, but the lead service line must be completely replaced within 30 days. If the water line service leak is located on the public side of the parkway valve (i.e., b-box), the Village will complete an emergency repair, after which a customer will have 30 days to secure contractor quotes and have the entire lead service line replaced. If the leak is on the privately owned side of the parkway valve, the customer will need to have a contractor make an emergency

repair on the private property side, after which the customer has 30 days to complete the replacement of the entire lead service line including that section of the service line located within the public right-of-way.

For 2023, the Village will cover 50% of the replacement cost, up to \$5,000, for the replacement of a leaking lead water service line. This reimbursement amount is intended to assist with contractor costs, permitting fees, water meter replacement, and tapping fees associated with the installation of a new service line and connection to the Village's water main. Customers are asked to secure quotes from at least two licensed, bonded plumbers for the work to install a new 1 ½" copper line from the water main into your house or building.

If a customer elects to refuse completing the replacement of a lead water service line, the affected property owner is required to sign a waiver. The Village of Winnetka, Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will maintain a record of this waiver. If replacement of the service is not completed by the property owner, any associated lead mitigation efforts are the sole responsibility of the homeowner.

Scenario 2: Replacement of Lead Service Line (LSL) Associated With Water Main Projects

The Lead Service Line Notification and Replacement Act prohibits the partial replacement of a lead water service line. As a result, customers with a lead service line impacted by a water main improvement project will be required to replace their lead service line. Prior to 2022, any water services constructed with lead were replaced from the new water main to the property line with a 1-1/2" copper line as part of a water main replacement project. The cost for this service line replacement work was funded by the Village. Prior to the Lead Service Line Notification and Replacement Act, replacement of the remainder of the service line from the property line into the house was optional and at the sole discretion of the property owner. This historical approach frequently resulted in the partial replacement of a lead service line, as most property owners elected not to pursue replacement of the portion of the lead service line on private property. This approach no longer complies with the new legislation, which mandates fully replacing the lead service line unless the property owner signs a waiver from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In order to assist customers with a lead water service that will be impacted by a Village-initiated water main project, the Village will reimburse a customer up to 50% of the cost, not to exceed \$5,000, for the replacement of their lead service line from the property line into the house. This reimbursement is intended to assist with the replacement cost, which also includes the cost of a new water meter and inspection. As part of the water main capital improvement project, the Village will fund replacement of the lead service line from the water main to the property line. Impacted customers will have the option of using a Village contractor or retaining their own licensed contractor to perform the private property service line replacement. In order to assist you in making this decision, staff will provide

each impacted customer with a cost estimate for the Village contractor to perform this work.

Customers electing to use the Village’s contractor will be required to enter into an agreement for their portion of the service line replacement cost. The customer will be responsible for payment within 30 days of the completed service line installation. Customers needing additional time to pay for their portion of the private property service line may contact the Village to discuss payment arrangements.

This year, the Village will be completing capital improvements in the areas listed below. The work scope includes replacement of the water main, abandonment of the old main, transferring of water services, entire replacement of any lead services, restoration of the right-of-way, and road rehabilitation work.

2023 Capital Improvement Project Areas

Elm Street	Lincoln Avenue to Sheridan Road	Water main replacement Water service transfers Road rehabilitation
Cherry Street	Maple Ave to Sheridan Road	Water main replacement Water service transfers Road rehabilitation
Spruce Street	Glendale Avenue to Locust Road	Water main replacement Water service transfers Road rehabilitation
Scott Avenue	Randolph Street to Gordon Terrace	Water service transfers Road rehabilitation

Residences with lead water services in these areas will be required to completely replace their service. In the coming weeks, affected customers will receive a separate correspondence which will confirm if your property is impacted and provide you with a cost for the Village contractor to replace the private property section of your lead water service.

Scenario 3: Voluntary Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Program

For 2023, the Village has established a Voluntary Lead Service Line Replacement Program, open to those residents who voluntarily elect to replace their lead service line. The Village will extend reimbursement up to 50% of the cost, not to exceed \$5,000, for the replacement of the lead service line from the water main into the house. Eligible costs include your contractor’s costs to install the service line as well as any applicable costs from the Village, such as a tapping fee, inspection fee, and new water meter. Customers are asked to secure quotes from at least two licensed, bonded plumbers for the work required to install a new 1 ½” copper line from the water main into your house or building. Individuals are not eligible to participate in this program if the service line replacement is part of a new house construction or building addition. For the 2023 calendar year, this

program is available to the first twenty residences that apply and remit payment for the required tapping fee.

Customers interested in the Voluntary Lead Service Line Replacement Program should contact the Permit Coordinator in the Community Development Department, located at Village Hall at 510 Green Bay Road in Winnetka, or by calling 847-716-3520. In order to qualify for reimbursement in 2023, the property owner must pay the tapping fee which ranges from \$1,950 to \$3,250 depending on the size of the water main, to confirm their eligibility in the program. Again, this program is being offered on a first come, first served basis.

Continuation of this program in forthcoming years is subject to budget consideration.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Water & Electric Office at 847-716-3558 or LSL@Winnetka.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Keys

Director of Water & Electric