

Evanston to install new automated water meter system

Posted: Tuesday, Jun 30th, 2009

BY: AMBER SAWYER, Herald Reporter

The City of Evanston will begin installation of a new water meter read system on July 13. The 250 customers in the test run phase should be receiving letters from the installer, SL-serco, to schedule a time for installation.

Water Department Supervisor David Albrecht said the new system will allow the city to get water meter readings through a radio transmitter, with the towers installed on existing towers.

If there is a need to get a reading at a time other than the regular monthly reading, it can be done without a city employee going on-site to check.

Albrecht said his department has been stretched for the past several years, but the expertise he has in the department has helped them maintain.

He said after the complete installation of the system, scheduled for January of 2010, they will have more time to put into preventive maintenance.

"It will save at least 160 man hours a month," Albrecht said.

Right now the city also employs three meter readers who work one week per month.

"It's been a challenge in the last few years to keep meter readers," Albrecht said. "But that's not why we're going to the radio reader system."

Albrecht said meters typically have a 20-year lifespan, and the current system is 25 years old.

If you have questions or concerns, call the public works department at 783-6450 or SL-serco at 800-388-7173