



CITY OF COLUMBUS

105 N. DICKASON BOULEVARD COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN 53925-1565
920.623.5900 FAX 920.623.5901 www.cityofcolumbuswi.com

Column #32 – Orange Barrels on Every Corner

“Under the Clock Tower”

Someone, somewhere at some point in time said, “In Wisconsin, we don’t have four seasons, but two: winter and road construction season.” One of the things I love about our state is the distinct change in seasons, but I can’t argue with the honesty of that sentiment.

In Columbus, it seems we’ve been spared the harshness of the past couple of winters, but road construction is coming full force. As I shared in this column last fall, the City will be updating street and utility infrastructure in 2016. The 2016 Street Project list includes: Mill St (from Lewis St to Ludington Ave); two areas of Charles St (Dix St to Richmond St; then ½ block of Selden to a ½ block of Fountain to connect work already done there in recent years); W. Prairie St (from Ludington St to Dickason Blvd); W. Church St (N. Dickason Blvd to Ludington St) and N. Birdsey (James St to Mill St).

With such a long list of streets to be address, the key where and when you’ll see activity will be what order or approach the construction contractor will take with the project. This week I sat in on the ‘pre-construction’ meeting with representatives from the contractor on the project, A-1 Excavating out of Bloomer, WI, as well as personnel from various utilities and City/Columbus Water & Light staff. A main focus of the meeting was to talk about the schedule. You should be seeing work beginning this coming Monday, April 4th. As of now, the workers will begin on Charles St, but will also make their presence on Church St and Prairie St in April. In May, they will start on Mill St, and finally will get to Birdsey in July. Each street will take varying lengths of time to complete (the Mill St piece is considerably longer than the rest), but all is expected to be finished up in late September or early October. The weather will play a vital role in how the actual schedule plays out.

The City intends to be vigilant on updating the community on that schedule and informing residents (particularly those who are seeing work in front of their properties) of key events and timelines with the project. A large road construction project inevitably brings frustration and inconvenience to those near it, but with clear and concise communication, we can do our best to manage it.

When the plans for the project were first shared at a public information meeting back in January, I asked those in attendance to share their email addresses so that I could personally email the group on information and developments with the project. If you are interested in seeing these email updates, please email me at pvandersanden@columbuswi.us so you can be put on the list too.

Another source of information relative to the project is the City of Columbus website: www.cityofcolumbuswi.com. On the front page, there is a link that says, “Street Projects”. Click that and be sent to another page with information on the 2016 Street Project, and next year’s 2017 James Street project.

Again, the presence of dump trucks, jackhammers and orange barrels may create some annoyances, but the end result begins to address critical needs for our City. The team at City Hall and I stand by to do our best to get us through "Orange Barrel Season."

If you have any questions on this or any other issue before city government, please contact me down at City Hall at 623-5900 or via email at pvandersanden@columbuswi.us.

###