



*An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown*

## **MEDIA ALERT: East Chestnut Closing for Reconstruction**

*Work to rebuild street between North Main and North Gay to take two weeks*

MOUNT VERNON, Nov. 2, 2021 – East Chestnut Street between North Gay and North Main streets will be closed beginning Wednesday morning, Nov. 3, 2021, for work that will result in the entire street being rebuilt. Detours will go up at 6 a.m. Wednesday. The construction is currently scheduled to be finished by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021.



*Jamie Pay, utility operations crew chief for the City of Mount Vernon's Utility Department, holds a piece of 70-year-old piece of cast iron pipe that was struck by lightning under East Chestnut Street on Aug. 12.*

The reconstruction has been necessitated by a lightning strike on Aug. 12, 2021, that led to a water main break on East Chestnut. After that break was fixed, a leak persisted for another month because a service line had not been properly abandoned years earlier.

Workers removed the plates and filled in the holes in mid-September, but the damage to the street was such that a permanent reconstruction of East Chestnut between North Gay and North Main streets has been deemed necessary, according to City Engineer Brian Ball.

Ball said the pavement, as well as the bricks under the pavement and the concrete, will all be removed, and the entire street will be reconstructed. In addition, the gutters, curbs and sidewalk on the south side of East Chestnut will be rebuilt as well.

The City is using funds from the federal government's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to pay for this project.

Beginning early Wednesday morning, eastbound motorists on Chestnut Street will be detoured south on North Main Street to the Public Square, while all westbound motorists on Coshocton Avenue -- except for local traffic only -- will be detoured south on North Park Street to East High. West of the North Park intersection, all westbound traffic on East Chestnut, including emergency vehicles, will be detoured south on North Gay Street to East High Street.

Ball noted that it's too cold now to lay permanent asphalt, so temporary asphalt and street markings will be laid down on East Chestnut Street at the close of the reconstruction project until the weather warms back up next year.

Updates on the project will be posted as needed on the City's website, [mountvernonohio.org](http://mountvernonohio.org), as well as the City's Facebook page.

**### END ###**

**ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:**

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational, and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community's infrastructure and spaces. Specific attractions are the historic Woodward Opera House, the Knox County Memorial Building and Theater, and the 250-acre Ariel~Foundation Park adjacent to the state scenic Kokosing River. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College, and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

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