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First Street's infrastructure

work will begin Oct. 9

Infrastructure work on the city of St. Charles First Street redevelopment project has been pushed back one week.

Bartlett-based Benchmark Construction Co. Inc. will begin working on the water mains Monday, Oct. 9. The later start will avoid conflicts with the city's Scarecrow Festival from Friday, Oct. 6, to Sunday, Oct. 8, in the downtown. It will also not conflict with St. Charles East High School's homecoming parade Friday, Sept. 29, which travels down Main Street.

The city is under contract with Benchmark for work on the project's underground utilities -- sanitary sewer, water and electrical lines. The city hired Benchmark in August for about \$2.9 million. The work is expected to be completed by mid-June 2007.

The schedule of street and lane closures will be published on the city's First Street Web site at www.1stStreetSTC.org.

The city's estimated \$100 million, multiyear initiative will revamp First from Main Street south to Prairie Street. The project will primarily be located on 8 acres generally bounded by the Fox River, Main, Second and Prairie streets. It is intended to draw in more residential and retail shops to the downtown area.