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MWRD Names New Executive Director

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) has appointed David St. Pierre as the new Executive Director. He succeeds Richard Lanyon, who retired in December after 47 years at the agency.

Southern Illinois University and is a licensed Professional Engineer.



Mr. St. Pierre comes to Chicago with more than 25 years working in the water industry in various

cently the Deputy Commissioner of the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management, where he was responsible for the city's drinking water supply system and water reclamation treatment facilities.

For more information on the new Executive Director, visit the MWRD's website at www.mwrdd.org.

Mr. St. Pierre holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from

cities across the United States, and was most re-

Chicago Offers Green Gardening Rebates

The City of Chicago's Sustainable Backyard Program is offering rebates to Chicago residents to encourage planting trees and native plants, composting, and reusing rainwater.

This program has the following rebates, up to 50% of their original costs:

- **TREES** (up to \$100 back) - The benefits of trees, beyond aesthetic appeal, include improved air quality; stormwater management; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and improved energy conservation
- **NATIVE PLANTS** (up to \$60 back) - Native Midwestern plants have evolved to thrive in our natural conditions and once established require little maintenance.
- **COMPOST BINS** (up to \$50 back) - Composting is a natural way to turn your fruit, vegetable, and yard waste into a dark, soil-like natural fertilizer for your garden, lawn, or indoor plants.
- **RAIN BARRELS** (up to \$40 back) - Up to 40% of the water used at home is spent on watering lawns and gardens during hot summer months. Instead of using water from the tap, use a rain barrel to collect and store rainwater from roofs through a disconnected downspout.

Products must be purchased between September 1, 2010, and December 31, 2011. The rebates are available to City of Chicago residents only, and are not available to schools, churches, organizations or businesses. For more information on this program or to download rebate forms, visit the Sustainable Backyard Program's website: www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/doi/provdrs/nat_res/svcs/how_can_i_get_a_rainbarrelorcompostbinrebateform.html

Recipe Corner!



Summertime Tuna Pasta Salad

- 2, 12 oz. cans of tuna
- 1 package of shell or bow-tie pasta
- 1/2 cup Ital. dressing
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp mustard (Dijon or yellow)
- 2 tsp dill
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 cucumber, thinly sliced
- 3-4 celery stalks, thinly chopped

- 1) Combine the tuna, pasta, dill, cucumber & celery in a large bowl.
- 2) In a smaller bowl, whisk the Italian dressing, mayo and mustard together, until combined.
- 3) Add the dressing to the ingredients in the bowl and add the salt & pepper. Mix well.

Marissa Ambrosius
2nd Place, Salad Contest 2010

Did You Know?



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Discounted Rain Barrels



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is offering discounted rain barrels to Cook County residents.

For \$51, you can purchase a 55-gallon rain barrel in blue, black, terra cotta, or grey. Sales are credit card only and must be reserved in advance. Pickup locations include MWRD facilities in Worth, Cicero, Skokie, and Schaumburg.

Visit the MWRD rain barrel website: <http://www.mwrdd.org/irj/portal/anonymous/rainbarrel>

Industrial Reporting Due Dates Reminder

July

- July 1 - Form A or Form R - Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (TRI)
For facilities that store or release toxic chemicals above reporting thresholds

August

- August 1 - Semi-annual NESHAP report due

US EPA Orders Chicago to Clean Up River



U.S. EPA has ordered the Illinois EPA and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to adopt more stringent water quality standards to make certain portions of the Chicago River safe for recreation. After years of legal battles fighting stricter standards, the MWRD has finally agreed to clean up the river and start disinfection at several treatment plants.

Chicago has been exempt from stricter standards under the Clean Water Act since it was assumed no one used the river for recreation. In the last several years, however, the river has seen an increase in the number of boaters, kayakers, and others using the waterway for recreational purposes.

MWRD has stated that it will cost more than \$1 billion to be able to disinfect all of the water in its treatment plants. The EPA, however, said that adding the equipment for disinfection can be done for \$242 million, and should cost even less since not all plants will be required to add the disinfection step. Chicago is currently the only major U.S. city not to disinfect its water. Additionally, MWRD will need to complete its Deep Tunnel project to handle storm runoff. They have estimated that will cost an additional \$355 million.



Several public officials, including Mayor Emanuel and Senator Durbin, came out in favor of these tougher standards. Despite some initial hesitation, MWRD changed its stance in the face of this public pressure and federal order. They have agreed to plan and design disinfection facilities at their North Side and Calumet treatment plants, and they are seeking state and federal funding support for the project.

Sources: Chicago Tribune, MWRD press release 6/7/11