



October 2011
Newsletter

Gabriel Gazette

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Chicago Shuts Down Department of Environment



The City of Chicago has announced that it will shut down the Department of Environment by the end of 2011. By moving most of the duties and employees to other departments, the City will save \$3.6 million. Of the 61 current employees, 48 will move to other departments and 13 will

SBA Releases Updated Environmental Rules

On October 1st, 2011, SBA issued revised environmental regulations for its 7(a) and 504 loan programs. None of these revisions were major changes, but they do clarify some questions that lenders using either program had encountered.



Highlights of the changes include:

- Clarification of NAICS code 8111 (Automobile Repair and Maintenance) - removes "car wash only" facilities from environmentally sensitive industry list
- Clarification of definition of "multi-unit building"
- Expanded definition of gas station to include "commercial fueling facility"
- Added requirement that the Environmental Professional must include a determination whether or not the gas station is in compliance with all state requirements pertaining to tank and equipment testing; removed provision requiring testing of the UST and associated lines
- Updated information regarding the role of the Environmental Professional
- Removed lead risk assessment provision for elder care

be laid off.

Responsibilities currently handled by the Department of Environment will be moved to General Services, Public Health and Transportation. The City claims that no services or programs will be cut.

"We are moving things around, but this is a strategic move to elevate and embed sustainability into everything we do in the city of Chicago," said Karen Weigert, the city's chief sustainability officer.

Source: [Crains Chicago Business](#)

residential facilities and expanded lead risk assessment provision to include "residential care facilities occupied by children"

SBA expects its loan volume to continue to grow throughout 2012. If you have questions about how SBA's environmental regulations affect your loan or property transaction, contact Steve Sawyer at ssawyer@gabrielenvironmental.com or 773-486-2123.

Is Your Drinking Water Safe?

The Chicago Tribune recently investigated if the State of Illinois and City of Chicago have safe drinking water supplies. Illinois records since 2008 show 52 water systems across the state have been found to have had high lead levels. Chicago's water supply has not exceeded the federal lead limit in nearly 20 years. Scientists and public health officials worry, however, that the reason most communities continue to pass yearly lead testing is the result of outdated testing methods, government agencies gaming the system or both.

Recipe Corner!



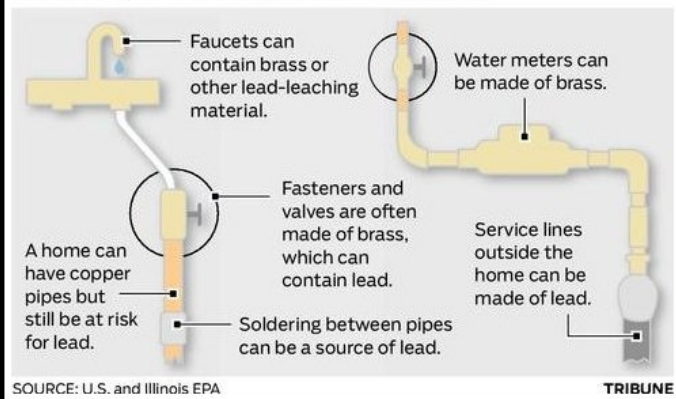
Autumn Vegetable Soup

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds peeled turnip bulbs, not the leafy tops, cut into 1 in. chunks
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pinch sugar
- 3 large garlic cloves, thickly sliced
- 2 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp dried thyme leaves
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups half-and-half (or whole milk)
- Salt & pepper, to taste

- 1) Heat oil over medium-high heat in a large, deep sauté pan.
- 2) Add turnips, then onion; sauté & stir until vegetables start to turn golden brown, 7-8

How lead gets in a home

Drinking water can pick up lead through several kinds of plumbing materials. Water flowing through materials can pick up lead that leaches out, as well as lead particles that break off.



EPA recently tested Chicago-area homes for lead, using three different measurement protocols to determine the best testing methods. Their analysis showed several homes above the federal lead limit of 15 parts per billion (ppb), but none of the high results came from the first samples tested when the water was first turned on. These homes would have therefore tested safe per federal regulations, despite the subsequent high lead levels.

The Chicago Tribune also had 46 homes in Chicago tested for lead in an independent study. Gabriel performed the lead testing for this study which found that no homes were found to have

minutes.

- 3) Reduce heat to low and add butter, sugar and garlic; continue cooking until all vegetables are a rich caramel color, about 10 minutes longer.
- 4) Add paprika, thyme and cayenne pepper and continue to sauté until fragrant, 30 seconds to 1 minute longer.
- 5) Add broth and bring to a simmer over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer, partially covered, until turnips are tender, about 10 minutes.
- 6) Using an immersion blender or traditional blender, puree until very smooth, 30 seconds to 1 minute.
- 7) Add puree to a soup pot and add enough half-and-half so the mixture is souplike, add salt & pepper, to taste and let simmer for a couple of minutes.

*Sarah Polich
1st Place - Fall Soup Contest*

Where In the World Are JP's Birdhouses?



As some of you are aware from recent discussions with John or attending our Open House, Gabriel's President John Polich has been painting birdhouses the last several years. After exhausting his supply of friends and family to gift these birdhouses to, he's decided to

lead levels above 15 ppb, though two homes came close with 14.9 and 13.1 parts per billion.

The 15 ppb limit was set by EPA in the 1990s and was based on a level that could be feasibly met. This action level is not a health-based standard. Many experts say this limit is too high and that there is no safe exposure to lead.

"What you really want is zero," [Dr. Jeffrey] Griffiths said. "Four (parts per billion) is better than 15, but four is still four." Griffith is chairman of a drinking water advisory board for the EPA and a professor of public health and medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine.

The Tribune's [article includes tips for reducing exposure to lead](#). If you're concerned about lead in your drinking water and want your water tested, contact Dana Panek, Gabriel's laboratory manager at dpanek@gabrielenvironmental.com or 773-486-2123.

Sources:

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U.S. Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Toxic Right to Know Law

In 1986, the U.S. passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), which included a provision to establish the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). In celebrating the 25th anniversary of this Act, the EPA highlighted the benefits of the TRI program, including the steady and significant decline in releases since it was established.

TRI requires facilities to annually report the amount of toxic chemicals that have been released into the air, water and land, as well as how they dispose of chemicals not part of a release. TRI is used by government, businesses, and citizens to analyze potential toxic chemical hazards, as well as assess environmental and public health issues.



Earlier this year, the Aspen Institute called TRI one of the ten biggest ways EPA has improved America.

For more information about the TRI program or to learn what toxic chemicals are in your neighborhood, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/tri/.

share the birdhouses with the world. He's asked Gabriel's employees, as well as our clients and friends, to help spread these birdhouses around the globe.

Visit our Picasa page to see where JP's birdhouses have been so far, and if you're planning a trip somewhere in the U.S. or abroad, get in contact with John to see if he has an extra birdhouse you can take along.

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