

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

EPA proposes rules for lead pipe replacement

Biden plan seeks removal within 10 years; Chicago, other cities likely to get more time

By Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune

President Joe Biden's administration is moving to require utilities to replace every toxic lead pipe connecting homes to water mains during the next decade, though Chicago and several other cities likely will get more time to

finish the job.

Ingesting tiny concentrations of lead can permanently damage the developing brains of children and contribute to heart disease, kidney failure and other health problems later in life. One study estimated more than 400,000 deaths a year in the U.S. are linked to lead exposure.

For decades dust from lead-

based paint has been considered the chief source of exposure to the toxic metal. But in recent years the largely hidden threat of lead water pipes has become more widely understood, driven in part by federal research in Chicago and a crisis in Flint, Michigan, that showed how the simple act of drinking a glass of unfiltered tap water can pose significant health risks.

Biden promised during his 2020 campaign to speed up the

replacement of lead pipes known as service lines. One of the big infrastructure bills his administration brokered with Congress earmarked \$15 billion toward that effort. New regulatory changes announced Wednesday would help determine how and where the money is spent.

"Everyone in this country should be able to turn on their tap for a glass of water and know that it's safe to drink," Michael Regan, administrator of the U.S. Environ-

mental Protection Agency, said Wednesday during a call with journalists.

More than 9 million homes nationwide get their drinking water from a service line made of lead. Chicago has 400,000 of the toxic pipes, more than any other city. Illinois has more than any other state.

Clout-heavy unions ensured Chicago's plumbing code required

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E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Construction and protests continue in Brighton Park

Protesters rally Wednesday as work progresses on Chicago's first government-run tent encampment for migrants at a lot in the Brighton Park neighborhood. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Jurors see more recordings of Burke

Ex-alderman shown pitching private law firm to developers

By Jason Meisner
Megan Crepeau
and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

Powerful Chicago Ald. Ed Burke had just finished pitching his private law firm to the developers of the Old Post Office in October 2016 when he asked his assistant to bring in some pamphlets and business cards.

Unbeknownst to Burke, his colleague, then-Ald. Daniel Solis had a hidden video camera pointing right at him as Burke wrote something down on the back of the Klafter & Burke materials and slid it over Harry Skydell and his son, who had flown in from New York to meet Burke face to face.

"Between Danny and I there aren't many people around town we don't know," Burke said on the recording, which was played for jurors Wednesday at Burke's corruption trial. Skydell thanked Burke and remarked about his connections, saying, "I'd be surprised

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Malerie Wirth puts a label on a bottle of red wine at DC Estate Winery on Nov. 21 in South Beloit. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Illinois grape growers prepare to take on spotted lanternflies

Invasive pest, which eats vines, first ID'd here in September

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

At least once a week Ethan Wirth grabs his pest management book and traverses the 5-acre vineyard at DC Estate Winery in South Beloit.

As he looks at the grapes, he'll

sometimes reference the book, which lists common insect and fungal issues.

"Scouting" as the 33-year-old operations manager called it, is an important step in creating high-quality wine. It also might be the primary way grape growers ward off spotted lanternflies. The moth-size invasive pests eat vines, which can damage or kill the grapes.

"I'm definitely concerned about it," Wirth said. "It's just

one more thing that we've got to scout for and know the best plan of attack for treating that issue."

The black spotted insects were identified for the first time in Illinois in September. Since then, there's been at least seven more positive sightings, according to Scott Schirmer, the nursery and northern field office section manager at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

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Henry Kissinger dies at 100

Under Presidents Nixon, Ford served as secretary of state

By Nancy Benac
Associated Press

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, his consulting firm said. He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding presence and behind-the-scenes manipulation of power, Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, earning both vilification and the Nobel Peace Prize. Decades later, his name still provoked impassioned debate over foreign policy landmarks long past.

Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of Watergate, when the politically attuned diplomat assumed a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon.

"No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe."

A Jew who fled Nazi Germany with his family in his teens, Kissinger in his later years cultivated the reputation of respected statesman, giving speeches, offering advice to Republicans and Democrats alike and managing a global consulting business. He turned up in President Donald Trump's

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Groupon moving its Chicago HQ

Struggling online marketplace Groupon is moving to the Loop and downsizing to a 25,000-square-foot space in the Leo Burnett building. **Business**

Mediators attempt to extend cease-fire

International mediators raced to seal another extension of the Gaza truce to allow further hostage and prisoner exchanges and prolong the halt of Israel's air and ground offensive.

■ Democrats in Congress are clashing over a push from the left that would attach conditions to security aid for Israel.

Nation & World

