MLGW Celebrates Diamond Anniversary

This year, Memphis Light, Gas and Water is proud to celebrate a significant milestone – 75 years as a leading utility provider to the residents of Memphis and Shelby County.

MLGW began operating as the city’s first utility company in 1939. Seventy-five years later, MLGW is the nation’s largest three-service municipal utility with some of the lowest combined bills of any utility in the country.

MLGW began as a dream of prominent Memphians, such as the legendary Shelby County political leader and former Memphis Mayor E.H. Crump, to have all the utilities in the city owned and operated by the city government and free of interference from far-off companies and non-local interests.

When the Tennessee Valley Authority was formed in 1933, many felt the opportunity had arrived for Memphis to obtain cheap electric power. The unified
Memphis Light and Water Division was formed in 1935 to oversee power and water systems, and a contract with TVA was also signed that year.

After three years of litigations and negotiations, a sale agreement for purchase of Memphis Power and Light was reached. On March 9, 1939, the governor of Tennessee signed an amendment to the Memphis charter creating Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division. Prior to the signing, organized utility service was available for 87 years before MLGW was formed. MLGW’s parent companies provided services not long after the Civil War.

Since 1939, the Division has strived to meet its mission to improve the quality of life of Memphis and Shelby County customers through efficient and safe delivery of electricity, natural gas and water.

The slogan found on the first MLGW logo still resonates with the Division today: “Public Service – Publicly Owned.” “I attribute this achievement of reaching our 75th anniversary to the tremendous wealth of talent and knowledge our 2,700 employees bring to work with them every day,” said Jerry Collins Jr., President and CEO of MLGW.

“The employees of MLGW are dedicated—to their jobs, to their co-workers and to their customers. This dedication brought us through many milestones. Not only will we celebrate the achievements of our 75-year history this year, we will keep this as a reminder of how much we can accomplish and allow it to motivate us to do even more in the future.”

Saving Water: Check, Twist, Replace

As springtime begins, MLGW urges you to check your plumbing and irrigation systems through three simple steps: check, twist, replace.

In other words, check your home for leaks, twist and tighten fixture connections, and replace the fixture if needed. By finding and fixing leaks over the course of a week, you could save more than 11,000 gallons of water per year—enough to fill a backyard swimming pool—and up to 10 percent on your utility bills. Water is one of our most precious natural resources.

Please do your part in protecting it for future generations.

Water Quality Report Coming Soon

Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division’s Annual Water Quality Report containing important information about the source and quality of your drinking water is available online beginning May 2014 at: www.mlgw.com/waterquality. Call 901-320-3950 or e-mail corpcomm@mlgw.org if you would like a paper copy of the report.

Remember to Have your RP Tested

If you have an irrigation system, this is a reminder to have your reduced pressure backflow preventer (RP) tested to make sure that it is protecting against the backflow of contaminants. This measure is required by the state of Tennessee, and failure to comply could result in your water service being disconnected.

MLGW has a new process for notifying residential customers that it is time to have their backflow devices tested.

Notifications are now in the form of postcards rather than a letter mailed in an envelope. The postcards are also color-coded to denote how much time the customer has before the backflow test is due. The first notification is a white card, the second notification is blue, and the third and final notification is a pink card.

For more information, contact MLGW’s Cross Connection area at 901-528-7757.