Easy energy saving tips for renters

If you are renting an apartment or home, you too can make a big difference on your utility bill. Even if there are improvements you can’t make on your own, share these tips and ask your landlord to help you make a change for the better.

1. Set your thermostat at 78 degrees.
2. Lower the setting on your water heater.
3. Wash your laundry with cold water. Hot water heating accounts for about 90 percent of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes.
4. The Memphis Rental Ordinance targets energy losses like water leaks, broken windows, structural holes and non-working HVAC units in rental properties. Renters can leave a message at 901-322-5757 for a rental audit.

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June 21: Talk and Walk Diabetes Support Group; 10-11 a.m. at Cordova Library, 8457 Trinity Rd. Meet in front for a walk in Bert Ferguson Park.

June 23 & 30, July 7: Sunset on the Square; 7-9 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for free music at Collierville’s Town Square, 125 N. Rowlett.

June 26: “It was 50 Years Ago Today…”; 3-4 p.m.; Hear a Beatles lecture by Dr. Dulaish Rhys at Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar.

June 28: DIY Soap; 4-5 p.m.; Learn how to make your own soap at Randolph Library, 3752 Given Ave. Info: 901-452-1068.

July 13: Creative Aging’s Senior Arts Series; 1-3 p.m.; Enjoy stories and songs with Elaine Blanchard, Laurence Albert and Jill Brookoff at Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Extended. Tickets: $5 at the door; Info: 901-272-3434.

MLGW releases possible locations of lead water pipes

Memphis Light, Gas and Water recently discovered an old water service line database showing which homes or businesses may have lead service lines. The database is now online. Residents can see a map of the addresses along with the list at mlgw.com.

The 16-year-old database indicates where 38,275 water lines made of lead may be located out of the 288,000 listed. The water lines were installed between 1874 and 1940. As a reference, MLGW was established in 1939. Most addresses are within the Parkways in Memphis. Even with the discovery, there is no evidence that Memphis drinking water is contaminated with lead.
Inspectors will verify how many MLGW customers still have lead pipes

Lead contamination in Flint, Michigan has raised concerns about water quality elsewhere. In sharp contrast to Flint, MLGW has an excellent corrosion control process that helps prevent lead from leaching from household fixtures and service lines to homes. As a result, MLGW’s outstanding artesian well water has consistently met EPA drinking water standards. Given the age of the archival records, MLGW will correct errors or omissions as field inspectors begin verifying the recorded material later this year. The inspections will be finished by 2020.

In the meantime, customers can see if a record exists for their home. MLGW is providing free water sample testing kits. Customers can send an email with their name and telephone number to waterlab@mglw.org or call 901-544-6549 to see if their home is listed or to request a kit. Customers can learn the test results within a week.

The archival records from MLGW’s predecessor were digitized into a database in the early 2000s, but never verified. If you are concerned that your home has lead pipes, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure. If the tap water has not been used in six hours or more, let the cold water tap run for 2-3 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking purposes. This pushes out any sediment that might be in your home’s water pipes.

For more information about our water or about lead, go to the 2015 Water Quality Report at mglw.com/waterquality or epa.gov/lead.

MLGW’s head attorney selected finalist in “Best of the Bar”

The Memphis Business Journal recognized attorney Cheryl Patterson as one of three finalists in the Best of the Bar honors. Patterson is Vice-President and General Counsel at MLGW.

According to the MBJ, the awards “honor the top legal minds in the Memphis area.” The weekly journal described Patterson as “an attorney who is battling for the future of Memphis’ water rights.”

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Gas workers perform CPR on ailing woman until ambulance arrives

The MLGW Board of Commissioners recently recognized four utility workers for helping a customer in need: Reginald Rouser, Derrick Smith, Felix Freeman and Antonon Morgan. The crew was called to a home after the homeowner hit the gas meter with her car.

When the crew arrived, the customer’s husband told them his wife had collapsed inside. They turned off the gas during the woman’s nonelectrical resuscitation for 16 minutes until an ambulance arrived. “When our employees go out, they never know what can happen,” said Gas Matrix Manager Craig Powers.

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L to R: Reginald Rouser, Derrick Smith, Felix Freeman and Antonon Morgan

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