Gas crew rescues woman from house fire

Last year, on a bitter cold December morning, just before Christmas, four MLGW workers rescued a woman from a burning house on Kansas Street.

Their efforts earned employees Montero Evans, Tracey Baldwin, Benjamin Rye and Tyree Reaves MLGW Hero Awards at the Feb. 1 board of commissioners meeting.



L to R: Tracey Baldwin, Benjamin Rye, Montero Evans and Tyree Reaves

The crew noticed smoke billowing out of the home. "We called for her. We didn't hear anything," said Rye.

"We got her out of the window. She was trying to go back into the house," Evans said. Except for Rye, who is a former Memphis firefighter, none of the men had been tested in such a dire situation before. "They knew exactly what to do," Rye said of his co-workers.



March 28: Vine to Wine: Kon-Nichi-Wine! A wine tasting at Memphis Botanical Garden; 6–8 p.m. plum wines, sake and all things Japanese! Members: \$30/non-members \$45. Info: memphisbotanicgarden.com/vinetowine or call 636-4131.

March 29: Munch and Learn: St. Jude: Vision for the Future at Dixon Art Gallery; noon to 1 p.m., 4339 Park Ave. Info: 761-5250.

April 8: Kollierville Kite Day, Hinton Park, 10524 East Holmes Road, Collierville. Info: 457-2770 or colliervilleparks.org.

April 15: Elite Physique Championships for amateur bodybuilding. Starts at 9 a.m. Tickets from \$5-30 at Minglewood Hall, 1555 Madison. Info: 268-5721 or elitephysiquechampionships.com.

April 21–23: Africa in April honors Togo, Robert R. Church Park at Beale and Fourth Street. Tickets: \$5.

Do you have a community event in the next eight weeks? Send an email to corpcomm@mlgw.org. Make sure to include Community Calendar in the subject heading.



Customer Reference Number: 3/17



Customer CONNECTI



Share the Pennies expanding to help more in the community

On Feb. 22, the MLGW Board of Commissioners approved changes to the Share the Pennies program from an opt-in to an

opt-out program. Customers enrolled in **Share the Pennies** SMALL CHANGE, BIG DIFFERENCE.

Share the Pennies donate less than a dollar a month to help low-income homeowners make weatherization improvements, which reduce wasted energy and normalize utility costs.

The change means customers will be enrolled automatically on Jan. 1, 2018. Starting in July, customers can opt out of the program — but not until then. Optout methods will be explained through Customer Connection and at mlgw.com/sharethepennies.

If your utility bill is \$74.63, MLGW would round it up to \$75, and the 37 cents goes toward home weatherization. Collectively, that small amount can add up to big changes in our community. If you

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PRODUCED MONTHLY BY MEMPHIS LIGHT, GAS AND WATER DIVISION

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The program change is similar to other programs throughout the country. Locally, the MLGW Neighborhood Advisory Council – led by MLGW customers – along with Just Energy Memphis (NAACP, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and the Sierra Club) and Memphis City Councilwoman Patrice Robinson, worked together to find ways to help those most in need in our community.

To increase the amount of good MLGW can do, they suggested making Share the Pennies an opt-out program instead of opt-in.

MLGW safety checks work

MLGW has repaired 2,000 meter sockets and replaced 225 at no cost to customers. Like an electrical socket inside your home, the homeowner is responsible for upkeep on a meter socket. Replacing one costs about \$650. Linda Hawkins is among those where repairs were made. "We wonder how lucky we are that there was not a fire in the old meter, and we're sure glad they are installing the new smart meters!" she wrote recently in The Commercial Appeal's "Letter to the Editor" section.

Grizzlies' Zach Randolph donates \$20,000 to Plus-1 program

Zach Randolph of the Grizzlies scored more than basketball points when he recently donated \$20,000 to the Plus-1 program. The program, which MIFA administers, pays for one-time assistance on a family's utility bill.

"These are my grand-



Zach Randolph visits with a family helped by Plus-1.

babies, and we are struggling right now and this was really a blessing from God. It gave me back my faith," said Plus-1 recipient Linda Gaines.

This is Randolph's seventh year donating to families in crisis: "It's a blessing for me to be able to give back to the community and to also help out others in need."

MLGW customers fund the program through onetime donations or by adding a dollar or more to their utility bill each month.

Join in this year's Lip Sync Plus

Do you have the stage presence of Tina Turner or Michael Jackson but can't carry a tune?

MLGW is looking for talented lip-syncers to upload a 90-second video online. Selected winners, with local celebrities, will perform live at the Hard Rock Café on April 20. Contestants will compete for prizes such as two tickets to any destination Allegiant Air flies from Mem-



Latasha Peeples won the 2016 Lip Sync Plus

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For those who want to sit back and enjoy the show, tickets, which include food and a signature drink, are \$30 or two for \$50. The show is from 7–10 p.m. Proceeds go to Plus-1 which helps families in crisis keep the lights on.

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