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.

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.

Community Calendar
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: 457-2700 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 corporcomm@mlgw.org. Make sure to include Community Calendar in the subject heading.

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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 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. Opt-out 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...
would like to enroll early to begin helping now or have questions, visit sharethepennies@mlgw.org.

The program change is similar to other programs throughout the country. Locally, the MLGW Neigh-
borhood Advisory Council – led by MLGW custom-
ers – 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,
we 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 re-
placed 225 at no cost to customers. Like an electrical
socket inside your home, the homeowner is respon-
sible 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
opportunities or by adding a dollar or more to
their utility bill each month.

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