MLGW in the Community

Community outreach and volunteer programs are always part of MLGW’s schedule. Some of the upcoming events that MLGW will be participating in include the following:

May 1 – Professional Network on Aging Senior Expo, Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
May 8 – RISE Foundation, 1245 Madison Ave., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
May 10 – Play It Cool AC Screening, 785 Jackson Avenue, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
May 15 – Radio Ambiente Cinco de Mayo, Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove, Noon – 8 p.m.
May 19 – Homeland Church of God in Christ, 3529 James Rd., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
May 23 – BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Employee Wellness Fair, 85 N. Danny Thomas Blvd., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
June 4 – Veteran’s Administration Hospital Safety Fair, VA Memphis Medical Center, 1030 Jefferson Ave, Time TBA

June 13 – Play It Cool Screening (If needed), 785 Jackson Avenue 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
July 18 – Collierville Literacy Council, 215 E. Poplar, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
August 10 – MLGW Neighborhood Leaders Conference, MLGW University, 4949 Raleigh-LaGrange 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

If you would like MLGW to be an exhibitor or speaker at your event, please call 528-4820 or request online at mlgw.com/speaker.

MLGW unveils historic marker at home of sanitation worker

On March 29, at 968 Meagher, the Shelby County Historical Commission and MLGW unveiled a historic marker to recognize the historical significance of sanitation worker Joe C. Warren’s home.

MLGW had purchased the home of AFSCME Memphis Local 1733 member Warren in June 2017. In his honor, MLGW has been maintaining the home, and as part of preserving the property, asbestos was removed and new siding was installed.

Warren, a WWII veteran, was fired from his job at Memphis Sanitationers by the City of Memphis as a probationary employee in 1965 for alleged employment violations. They were also inducted into the Department of Labor’s Labor Hall of Fame.

Warren passed away at the age of 91 in July 2012.

On sunny and even muddy days, construction workers were busy getting the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection Park ready on the southeast corner of MLGW’s Administration Building. The former parking lot has been turned into a park-like setting with reflecting pools and historic images. The sculpture “I Have Been to the Mountain top,” by artist Richard Hunt, was moved from its previous location on Main Street in front of the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts and placed at this site.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection Park, a public space for meditation and reflection, is located at the corner of Second and Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., and include historical photos from the Ernest Withers Collection.
**MLGW personnel busy at community events**

MLGW’s superhero, the Terminator, aka Earnest Holliday (Electric Distribution), visited Bon Lin Elementary School on Wednesday, March 7, entertaining school children and teaching them about electric safety. The fun and colorful bucket truck promotes safe energy use at home.

**Employees participate in Career Day**

Several MLGW employees from Information Technology and of Residential Services attended Maxine Smith STEAM Academy’s Career Day on Friday, March 9. Enthusiastic reactions from students quickly demonstrated to MLGW employees that some were quite serious about pursuing careers in information technology.

**Prepare your system and yourself for the summer**

Feeling comfortable during a hot and humid Memphis summer can be challenging, but it does not have to be costly. Here are some of the easiest ways to stay cool and save:

- Have a professional, reputable contractor clean and inspect your air conditioner. This should be done every year, whether you have window or central units.
  - Check your air conditioner’s filter every time you receive your utility bill. Look for a dust buildup that can restrict the airflow and place stress on the system. This added stress causes wear and tear on the unit, and increases operation costs.
- Always replace the filter cover. By creating a tight seal around the filter opening, you can block any unconditioned air that is being pulled into the unit.
  - Use fans to move the air inside your home. This gives the sensation that it is five degrees cooler than the actual temperature.
- Shade windows on the sunny side of your home. Keep drapes closed or add room-darkening shades to block out the heat from the sun.
  - Do not set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expenses.
  - Set the thermostat at 78° degrees or higher for the most energy efficient operation. Each degree below this setting can add up to six percent to your cooling costs.
  - Use a programmable thermostat to allow the inside temperature to rise while you are away from home for four hours or longer. Pre-set the thermostat to adjust back to your normal comfort range one half hour before returning home.
  - Use your programmable thermostat setting to automatically allow the temperature to increase at bedtime. Sleep under lightweight bedding and use fans during sleep.
  - Do not place lamps near your thermostat. The thermostat senses the heat produced from the lamp and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expenses.
  - Plant trees or shrubs to shade air-conditioning units but do not block the airflow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10 percent more energy than a similar unit running under the sun.
  - The outside portion of a central air conditioner is the condensing unit. Keep it clear from dried mud, debris and grass clippings, because it needs to breathe.

**2018 water survey ranks MLGW among the best in rates and charges**

For the wastewater commercial class, MLGW ranked fifth in a comparison with 29 other cities. Memphis has an abundant supply of naturally pure, high quality water, and MLGW operates one of the largest artesian water systems in the world. The City of Memphis Public Works Department provides the area with wastewater treatment facilities.

**2017 Water Quality Report available online**

We are so fortunate to have such amazing drinking water in Memphis and Shelby County! Many areas are not as lucky. The water specialists at MLGW’s Water Laboratory perform thousands of tests every year to monitor the components of the water we consume, which guarantees its high quality. The 2017 test results reveal our water to be well within the designated limits, and meeting and exceeding all water quality standards set by the EPA. All community water systems are required to prepare and distribute an annual water quality report. Customers can readily view MLGW’s 2017 Water Quality Report online at mlgw.com/waterquality, as well as request a paper copy of the report by calling 320-3950 or e-mailing corpcomm@mlgw.org. The report is available in English and Spanish.

**MLGW’s 2017 Water Quality Report available online**

A recent national survey conducted by Austin Water ranked MLGW among the lowest in three categories: Residential-Combined, Commercial Class-Water and Commercial Class-Wastewater.

**TVA invests $1 million in MLGW’s Share the Pennies home weatherization program**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced plans to invest in the new Share the Pennies home weatherization program for low income residents in Memphis and Shelby County. The program is sponsored by Memphis Light, Gas and Water and Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA). TVA’s support over the next two years will help MLGW’s Share the Pennies program weatherize about 400 homes in 18 months at no cost to the homeowners. The TVA contribution increases the average amount per home up to $8,000 for weatherization and energy-efficiency repairs.

“TVA’s support means an additional $1 million for the program, additional jobs in the community and more improvements made to each home. As partners, our goal is to make this a sustainable program for the community,” said J.T. Young, President and CEO of MLGW.

**MLGW honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Memphis Light, Gas and Water paused to observe 50 seconds of silence to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. At 11:30 a.m., employees of MLGW marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the civil rights leader at the lobby of the Administration Building, 220 S. Main, for a prayer led by Charles Perry, Risk Management, Employee Benefits and Pension, followed by 50 seconds of quiet contemplation and meditation.

**Preparing your system and yourself for the summer**

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To prepare your system and yourself for the summer:

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