

Corporate Communications  
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# Community OUTREACH

News to the Neighborhoods from Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division

May/June 2018



Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland conducts the swearing-in ceremony of J.T. Young as MLGW's 11th president and chief executive officer as Young's wife, Deidre, holds the Bible.

## President & CEO Young sworn in

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland officially swore in J.T. Young as Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division's new president and chief executive officer during a ceremony in the Administration Building's Board Room on March 20. Young, a Pensacola, Fla. native, is the 11th president to lead the utility.

Young was accompanied by his wife, Deidre, their sons, Thomas and Joseph, and his mother, Mabel

Young, sister, Avis Bemby and other friends, TVA representatives and elected officials.

"Memphis is an awesome community and my wife, Deidre, and I and our family are looking forward to being a part of this community ... I'm just really looking forward to seeing this company grow and get even better," said Young, adding one of his objectives is to make sure MLGW delivers exceptional customer value.

## 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 11** – Play It Cool AC Screening, 785 Jackson Avenue, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- May 13** – 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 21** – Frayser-Raleigh Senior Center, 3985 Egypt Central Rd., 11:15 a.m.
- May 23** – M.I.N.E. at Lewis Center for Seniors, 1188 N. Parkway, 10 a.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](http://mlgw.com/speaker).**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## MLGW unveils historic marker at home of sanitation worker

On March 29, at 968 Meagher, the Shelby County Historical Commission and Memphis Light, Gas and Water 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 installed.

Warren marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1968 Sanitation Strike in Memphis. Along with eight other original sanitation workers, Warren was honored at the White House by President Barack Obama in April 2011.

They were also inducted into the Department of Labor's Labor Hall of Fame.

Warren, a WWII veteran, was fired along with 32 others by the City of Memphis Sanitation Department in 1965 for alleged employment violations.

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



## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Reflection Park is unveiled



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 Mountaintop," 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.



Community Outreach is produced by MLGW's Corporate Communications department. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about Community Outreach, please feel free to call (901) 528-4820 or (901) 528-4557.

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# MLGW personnel busy at community events

## The Terminator visits Bon Lin Elementary

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.



## Energy saving tips at Southern Women's Show

MLGW Residential Services presented an EnergySmart Workshop at the Southern Women's Show March 9-11, showing attendees ways to save energy and reduce their utility bills. On the left, an MLGW energy technician holds a plenum while another explains how it works.



## MLGW discusses technology at Delano

Two MLGW employees from Office Automation and Communications talked to four classes of students at Delano Optional School about careers in technology and how technology works at MLGW.



## 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 build-up 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 uncon-



ditioned 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 causes the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- 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 less electricity than the same one operating 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



A recent national survey conducted by Austin Water for bill and rate

bin, Commercial Class-Water and Commercial Class-Wastewater. MLGW ranked first in the total monthly combined water and sewer bill for a customer using 5,800 gallons of water and 4,000 gallons of sewer. The total bill for Memphis was \$28.26. Broken down the water cost is \$15.71 and the sewer cost is \$12.55, including sales tax. The utility ranked third in the average monthly bill comparison for the Water Commercial class.

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.

# MLGW's 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 or 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](http://mlgw.com/waterquality), as well as request a paper copy of the report by calling 320-3950 or e-mailing [corpcomm@mlgw.org](mailto:corpcomm@mlgw.org). The report is available in English and Spanish.



# 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.

Share the Pennies rounds MLGW customers' utility bills to the next full dollar amount.

The additional amount, no matter how small, is then added to a fund managed by MIFA. These funds are then awarded to qualifying homeowners to assist with energy efficiency repairs to their homes.

For more information, please visit [mifa.org/sharethepennies](http://mifa.org/sharethepennies).



MLGW President and CEO J.T. Young, pictured center right with representatives from TVA, MIFA and 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.

