



News to the Neighborhoods from MLGW

Community

OUTREACH

May/June 2026

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MLGW and WKNO's "Teacher Teacher" host special Power League story time

Recently, MLGW joined forces with Felicia Peat, WKNO's Education and Outreach Manager, affectionately known as "Teacher Teacher," for a special MLGW Power League Storytime at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library.

The free community event featured the debut of MLGW's newest Power League superhero, DJ Current, a high-energy character created to help children learn about electricity and the energy around them. DJ Current was also introduced as the star of a new children's book written by our very own Beverly Perkins, Corporate Social Responsibility and Stephen Turner, Corporate Communications.

Families, educators and community members attended the book launch and participated in live reading, hands-on interactive activities focused on energy education, fun giveaways and take-home materials.

"I'm so excited that the children are learning about electricity, energy, how to conserve and how to be smarter. We must start now, so by the time they become our age, they know what to do to save on their bill. They are going to take this information and share it with their parents, so their parents can be wiser about conservation," said Felicia.



Felicia Peat reading to children at Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library.

Dig safely all year

Every year, we celebrate April as the Safe Digging Month but safe digging matters year-round. Before planting a garden, installing fence posts, re-paving a driveway or starting a home addition, call 811. It's free. It's the law. It protects you, your property and your neighbors. Calling 811 ensures



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

that underground utilities are marked before you or your contractor dig, construct or cross-bore. Always wait at least 72 hours, or three business

days, for lines to be located and marked. Never assume you know what is below the surface. One mistake can cause injuries, costly repairs or even an explosion. Do not risk a dangerous boom. Call first and make sure contractors do the same. Learn more about gas pipeline safety at mlgw.com/residential/naturalgasleak or tn811.com.

EPIC rolls out with soft launch at Glenview Community Center

Recently, MLGW unveiled the Emergency Preparedness Information Center (EPIC), a mobile command center, at a town hall hosted by Councilwoman Swearingen-Washington. This initial launch begins a broader push to improve customer engagement. EPIC brings services directly to residents, offering help with billing, payments and support without requiring a visit to an office.

"Inside are four stations where our community office personnel can manage questions. We think that this will be a part of more than 160 community events where we meet and we perform each year. It will allow us to have deeper engagement with our community, and it would be a great place to anchor should we have that emergency response," said Doug McGowen, MLGW President and CEO.



EPIC making its debut in the community.

A'Blazing Race returns: MLGW engineers inspire future innovators at eDay 2026

Volunteers from MLGW's Engineering departments proudly oversaw the return of the A'Blazing Race during eDay (Engineering Day) at the University of Memphis. Hosted by the Herff College of Engineering, the 2026 event marked the first time since 2018 that our Division has hosted the A'Blazing Race. Nearly 700 students, representing 30 schools from across the Mid-South, participated in eDay

2026, which featured more than a dozen competitions including the Egg Drop and Checkers with a Robot.

The MLGW A'Blazing Race challenges students in grades 6-12 to design, build and race their own solar-powered cars using kits provided by MLGW. Teams of four to eight students competed on a 20-meter track, showcasing their engineering skills, creativity and teamwork.

Burch Baine, MLGW Corporate Safety, reflected on the impact of the program.

"I did it growing up when I was in high school. It was so much to do, and I learned all the engineering fundamentals of how to design, work through different iterations and make sure it's better. The best thing is getting to do it with classmates," Baine said.



An MLGW engineer instructs a student during A'Blazing Race competition

Congratulations to our 2026 A'Blazing Race winners:

Middle School Division

John P. Freeman Middle School

Teacher: Oran Jones

Students: Terek Scott Jr., Kaleb Blue and Matio Giron

High School Division

University High School

Teacher: Tarase McGee

Students: Nicholas Gary and Michael Taylor
Placement: 1st Place in the Competition and Notebook

Memphis School of Excellence

Teacher: Kristy Fleming

Students: Nigel Matthews and Kadien Cox Gonzalez
Placement: 1st Place in Solar Car Design

Thank you to our Engineering volunteers for investing their time and expertise to inspire the next generation of innovators.

Teaching students, supporting parents

Drones take flight. March was a hands-on month for MLGW STEM. Students learned drone technology with one of our very own rising leaders, Darren Moss, a certified drone pilot, MLGW summer intern and 12th-grade student at East High School. This experience not only introduced students to emerging technology but also allowed them to see what is possible when passion and skill come together.

Student voice: Belonging and growth. Students value unique Saturday activities and feel proud to be in the program. One shared that STEM inspires him to try experiments at home, showing how the program sparks curiosity beyond the classroom.

MLGW volunteers support future innovators. Also in March, MLGW employees judged Binghampton Christian Academy's Science Fair, encouraging students' creativity and research. Through this experience, volunteers engaged directly with students, evaluated projects and encouraged young learners to continue exploring their interests in STEM. This shows MLGW's ongoing support for education and local schools.

Family engagement: Power at Home series launch. MLGW launched Power at Home to help parents build practical household skills and confidence through four sessions a year, led by Keisha Blair, MLGW's Director of Central Support Services and Certified Skilled Trades Expert. The



MLGW's STEM program continues to shape the next generation of thinkers, leaders and problem solvers.

first session covered electrical safety and energy efficiency, aiming to empower families and extend STEM learning at home.

From hands-on innovation to meaningful reflection and family empowerment, the MLGW STEM program continues to shape the next generation of thinkers, leaders and problem solvers. Our students are not just participating in STEM; they are experiencing it, owning it and beginning to see themselves in it.

First Drone Rodeo inspires future workforce



MLGW employees helped inspire the next generation at the Drone Rodeo.

The first Drone Rodeo brought together students, educators and industry professionals to explore careers in drone technology and STEM. It was held recently at the Agricenter. Led by TechEd2Go in partnership with TVA, MLGW, AT&T, Southwest Tennessee Community College and the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce, the event aimed to introduce students to real-world applications of drone technology and inspire future career pathways. As part of Woz ED, founded by Steve Wozniak, the initiative focuses on helping students earn drone certifications and build skills for careers in technology and aerospace-related fields.

The MLGW Drone Team played a key role in the event, demonstrating how drones are used to support infrastructure reliability and improve operational efficiency. Their insights gave students a practical understanding of how this technology is applied in the utility industry and how it can shape future careers.

"The MLGW Drone Team was exceptional, and the students enjoyed them the most. Thank you once again for your support," said Kim Bond, MLGW Economic Business Development.

MLGW's Whitehaven Community Office reopened

The Whitehaven Community Office, 1111 East Shelby Drive, is back open following renovations designed to improve customer experience. The updated facility now serves customers in a space that enhances comfort,

efficiency and accessibility.

"This renovation reflects our commitment to putting people first," said Timothy Davis, MLGW Chief Customer Officer. "We are modernizing how we serve customers,

creating spaces and services that are faster, more convenient and respectful of their time."

To schedule an appointment with a credit counselor or reduce wait times, visit mlgw.com/QLESS.

MLGW Energy Doctors provide home energy saving prescriptions

Memphis Light, Gas and Water's Energy Doctor prescribe for home energy savings. MLGW offers free in-home energy audits conducted by Home Energy Rating System, or HERS, certified technicians. During the visit, technicians evaluate your home's weatherization needs and identify opportunities to improve efficiency and lower utility costs. The audit typically takes about an hour, depending on the size of the home, and provides practical recommendations homeowners can use right away. There is no cost to participate. To request an energy audit, visit mlgw.com/energydr or call 901-528-4188 to schedule an appointment and start saving energy and money at home.



A technician evaluates the weatherization needs of a home.

MLGW's 2025 Water Quality Report available online

Do you ever stop and think how fortunate you are to have such awesome drinking water? Water is one of our most precious assets sourced from the Memphis Sands aquifer. Many areas are not as lucky as Memphis and Shelby County. Specialists in MLGW's Water Laboratory perform numerous tests throughout the year to monitor the components



of Memphis' water. The 2025 test results reveal our water is well within the designated limits and meets or exceeds all water quality standards set by the EPA. All community water systems are required to prepare and distribute an annual water quality report. MLGW is proud to provide excellent drinking water for the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County. Customers can readily view MLGW's 2025 Water Quality Report in both English and Spanish online at mlgw.com/waterquality, as well as request a paper copy of the report by calling 901-320-3950 or emailing corpcomm@mlgw.org.

MLGW and the Community

May 1 – Beyond Educating Foundation, Apprenticeship Awareness Summit Event, 3034 Old Austin Peay Hwy., 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 2 – Shelby County Health Department, SCHD Community Care Fair, 814 Jefferson Ave., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 12 – North Parkway-Forrest Neighborhood Watch Association, 726 North Pkwy., 6-8:30 p.m.

May 14 – Professional Network on Aging Senior Expo, AgriCenter Intl, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

May 30 – Empower the Block, Person Ave between La Paloma and Glory Circle, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 19 – Early Grove Baptist Church/Senior Ministry Community Resource Expo, 557 Lester St., 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 15 – BOMA Memphis Luncheon, Lichterman Nature Center, 5992 Quince Rd., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 18 – Life C.O.G.I.C. Community Resource Expo, 918 N. 7th St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



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

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