

## Forrest City Water Utility

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Happy  
**Labor Day**  
Weekend



### Special points of interest:

- Origin of Labor Day
- Birthday Corner
- Manager's Corner
- Clean Water Crisis

Our office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 7, 2015 to observe the Labor Day Holiday. Our office will re-open on Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAY AND PLEASE BE SAFE!!



Edward Billingsley 09/04

Keyton Flenoy 09/18

Welcome Our newest edition Zaydie Jaqueline Thigpen 08/09/15!! Congrats!!



# Alive With Pride

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## How Labor Day was Created

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From these, a move-

ment developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Con-

gress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federa-

## The Clean Water Crisis

The water you drink today has likely been around in one form or another since dinosaurs roamed the Earth, hundreds of millions of years ago.

While the amount of freshwater on the planet has remained fairly constant over time—continually re-



cycled through the atmosphere and back into our cups—the population has exploded. This means that every year competition for a clean, copious supply of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and sustaining life intensifies.

Water scarcity is an abstract concept to many and

a stark reality for others. It is the result of myriad environmental, political, economic, and social forces.

Freshwater makes up a very small fraction of all water on the planet. While nearly 70 percent of the world is covered by water, only 2.5 percent of it is fresh. The rest is saline and ocean-based. Even

## Origin of Labor Day cont.



Matthew Maguire



Peter McGuire

tion of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire,

founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to

plan a demonstration and picnic. The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

*If you have a water emergency after hours, weekends or on holidays, please call us at 870.633.1366*

## The Clean Water Crisis cont.

then, just 1 percent of our freshwater is easily accessible, with much of it trapped in glaciers and snowfields. In essence, only 0.007 percent of the planet's water is available to fuel and feed its 6.8 billion people.

world, clean water is either hard to come by or a commodity that requires laborious work or significant currency to obtain.

### Water Is Life

Wherever they are, people need water to survive. Not only is the human body 60 percent water, the resource is also essential for producing food, clothing, and computers, moving our waste stream, and keeping us and the environment healthy. Unfortunately, humans have proved to be inefficient water

users. (The average hamburger takes 2,400 liters, or 630 gallons, of water to produce, and many water-intensive crops, such as cotton, are grown in arid regions.)

The challenge we face now is how to effectively conserve, manage, and distribute the water we have. Visit National Geographic's Freshwater Web site, where it encourages you to explore the local stories and global trends defining the world's water crisis.



Due to geography, climate, engineering, regulation, and competition for resources, some regions seem relatively flush with freshwater, while others face drought and debilitating pollution. In much of the developing

## Manager's Corner

While reading an industry publication, I came across an article that was called "Advice From One Generation of Top Public Works Managers to Another." I was so impressed that I thought it would be good to share with our readers.

(18) eighteen months, it occurred to me that we have actually employed many of those principals here at the Utility. The first, "Keep an open mind;" Second, "Develop great processes to support great people;" Third, "Be a part of the team;" Fourth, and final,

"Cultivate a bold new vision."

We continue to be a work in progress, but not yet what we will become.

W.H. Calvin Murdock, Manager

Arkansas One Call



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



ARKANSAS Department of Environmental Quality