



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | NOVEMBER 2011

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## New Water Enforcement Team’s on Lookout for Irrigation Violations



OUC’s new Water Enforcement Team is hitting the streets of Orlando to help make customers aware of the St. Johns River Water Management District landscape irrigation guidelines. With the end of Daylight Saving Time on November 6, watering is allowed only one day a week until the second Sunday in March.

The patrollers are on the lookout for residences and businesses that are watering on the wrong day or at the wrong time. When they spot a violation, they’ll leave a notice at the property with informational material and an offer to set up a courtesy appointment to reset the irrigation timer.

With irrigation accounting for more than half of Central Florida’s total water consumption, helping customers reprogram their timers is an effective way to greatly reduce their water consumption and monthly water costs. To learn more about the Water Enforcement Team or water-saving tips, visit [www.ouc.com/water](http://www.ouc.com/water).

Time of Year	Odd Numbered or No Addresses	Even Numbered Addresses	Nonresidential Properties
Daylight Saving Time (DST)	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday and Friday
Eastern Standard Time (EST)	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

- **Daylight Saving Time:** Second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November
- **Eastern Standard Time:** First Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March
- Water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Water for no more than one hour per zone.
- Restrictions apply to private wells and pumps, ground or surface water and water from public and private utilities.
- If you have planted a section of new grass or plants, that area may be watered every day for the first 30 days and every other day for the next 30 days as needed, after which you should return to the regular watering schedule. Remember, only the new plants and grass may be watered every day.
- If you need to run a test of your irrigation system, you may run the system at anytime for 20 minutes per zone.

## Cook Up Some Energy Savings This Holiday Season



Keep your cool this holiday season by following these simple cooking tips to reduce your energy consumption in the kitchen:

- Since turkeys and hams typically are slow roasted for hours, there’s no need to preheat your oven.
- Cook several items at the same time. Just make sure to leave enough room for the heat to circulate around each dish.
- Don’t open the oven door to take a peek at what’s cooking inside. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature inside—by as much as 25 degrees.
- When cooking on top of your range, match the size of the pan to the heating element.
- Use a toaster oven if you’re baking or broiling small food items; they use a third of the energy of a bigger oven.
- Use the microwave for smaller side dishes and desserts to limit the time you need to run the oven.

# OUC Half Marathon & 5K

Work off that Thanksgiving dinner by lacing up your running shoes for the OUC Half Marathon and 5K on Saturday, December 3. More than 3,500 runners are expected to participate in the annual Downtown Orlando event that has become one of the Southeast's top road races. The course winds around beautiful Lake Eola and features live music and a Finish Line Fiesta after the race.

The half marathon will start at 7 a.m., and the 5K will go off at 7:15 a.m. To register, go to [www.ouc.com/half](http://www.ouc.com/half).

Race benefits include bag check, post-race refreshments at the Finish Line Fiesta and D-Tag timing by ChronoTrack Systems. All runners will receive a race T-shirt, and all finishers will receive a commemorative race medal. Proceeds will benefit the Florida Citrus Sports MVPs, which help Central Florida's at-risk youth through educational initiatives.



## OUC Launches Campaign to Stop Utility Theft



OUC has teamed up with Florida State Attorney Lawson Lamar and Crimeline to launch a public service campaign to increase awareness about the dangers of utility theft.

Utility theft costs more than just the price of the stolen electricity or water. When thieves attempt to steal utilities, it can result in fire, flooding, property damage, hazardous conditions, injuries and even death.

Illegally obtained utilities increase rates for everyone, and unauthorized use of utilities or tampering with utility equipment is a crime and punishable by fines and/or prison time.

Help prevent injuries and increased rates due to utility theft by reporting suspicious behavior to **407.384.4019**. For more information on utility theft, visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com).



## Help Someone in Need through Project Care

This time of year can be especially difficult for families struggling to make ends meet. But with your support, OUC's **Project Care** can help by providing emergency assistance to those in our community who have experienced a recent personal or family crisis that has placed them in danger of losing their utility service. For every \$1 you donate to **Project Care**, OUC will contribute \$2 to the program.

Since its inception in December 1994, **Project Care** has raised more than \$2 million and helped thousands of families and individuals. With your help, this program will continue to assist our neighbors in need.

Go to [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) to donate or call **407.423.9018**. If you are an OUC customer who needs assistance, please call United Way 2-1-1 at **211**.



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