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

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'A Green Romance' Video Wins Random Acts of Greenness Contest

Congratulations to Random Acts of Greenness Video Contest winners Erik Young, Ben Pusey, Ryan Lemon and Melissa Armstrong. The Orlando residents' "A Green Romance" video earned 420 votes, beating out 15 other submissions, for the chance to star in OUC's next conservation TV commercial. "A Green Romance" is a music video that humorously blends romance and Random Acts of Greenness. The winners and their video concept will soon be featured in a professionally shot and edited conservation commercial that will air locally later this year.

The interactive social media contest promoted the importance of conservation and energy and water efficiency by encouraging folks to grab their video cameras and show what they were doing to help the environment in a 30-second spot.



Check out the winning video and all of the creative submissions by visiting facebook.com/oucthereliableone.



Home Energy Calculator

When it comes to saving energy, little things can really add up. To find out where and how much you could be saving, check out OUC's new online energy savings calculator. Using some basic information about your home, this easy-to-use tools shows how different efficiency measures can impact your wallet and your energy usage.

For example, if you live in a 2,000-square-foot, single-family home built before 1979, you could lower your electric bill by as much as \$151 per year just by replacing your home's caulking and weatherstripping. Before you drive over to the home-improvement store, check out the other energy-saving measures at ouc.com/calculator.

Operate a Generator Safely

Keep your family, your neighbors and our utility crews safe if the power goes out. Remember these helpful tips to operating a generator safely:

- Locate the generator outside, away from open windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord.
- Do not use a generator in rainy or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface and use a canopy-like structure to keep out moisture.
- Always read the instructions carefully and consult a professional if you have any questions or concerns.
- Avoid plugging the generator directly into your home. It could re-energize the power lines, endangering your neighbors and utility crews working to restore power in your area.
- It is against the law and a violation of electrical codes to connect generators to your home's electrical circuits without the approved automatic-interrupt devices.

For help finding a licensed electrician, check out OUC's Preferred Contractor Network at www.ouc.com/pcn.



View Your Bill Online

At OUC, we know that convenience is important to you. **OUConvenient Billing** offers an easy way to manage your account, right from your personal computer. View your detailed account history and current bill whenever you want, via a secure site. Visit www.ouc.com to learn more about **OUConvenient Billing**.



Stay Safe This Summer

Call Before You Dig

Before beginning any excavation work, call **Sunshine State One-Call at 8.1.1** or **800.432.4770** to determine where underground pipes and electric lines are located. Law requires diggers to call this number at least two days before starting excavation, whether it's a project involving heavy equipment or a simple landscaping job.

Look Up

Remember to look up when working near overhead power lines. If you think power lines may interfere with your work, call OUC at **407.957.7373** in St. Cloud/Osceola County at least two business days before starting the job. OUC can explain the safest way to perform the work.

Downed Lines Can Be Deadly

Stay away from downed power lines and call OUC immediately at **407.892.2210** to report them. Always assume the downed line is energized and never touch or try to move it. If anyone comes in contact with a downed line, don't attempt to rescue them. Instead call 9.1.1 immediately and wait for OUC and emergency personnel to respond.

Attention Amscot & Fidelity Express Customers

Beginning September 1, Amscot and Fidelity Express will be increasing their fees to process a payment to OUC from \$1 to \$1.25. To find a payment location near you, visit www.ouc.com.

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