



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | JUNE 2009

## INSIDE

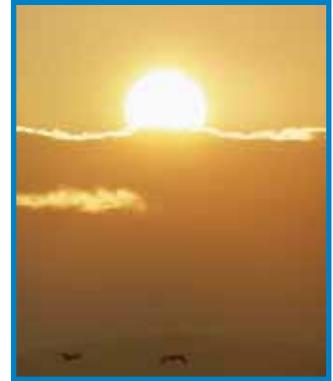
Energy Saving Tips  
Mascot Games  
Rely-A-Pay  
Ready for Storm Season  
Visit Orlando

## OUC's Top 10 Energy Savers for Summer

At OUC—The *Reliable One*, we recommend the following tips to keep your utility bills in check this summer:

1. Set your thermostat between 78-80 degrees and make sure the fan switch is set to "Auto." Each degree you raise the thermostat above 78 will save 6 to 8 percent on your cooling bill.
2. Don't 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 unnecessary expense.
3. Replace air conditioning filters monthly. If you suspect your unit is not working properly, have it checked promptly.
4. Replace your old air conditioner with a high efficiency unit, which can use up to 40 percent less electricity than older models.
5. Use awnings, curtains, shutters or blinds to keep out direct sunlight and keep your house cooler during the day.
6. 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 in the sun.
7. Caulk and weatherstrip leaky windows and doors.
8. If you haven't done so already, replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). They give you the same light

Not only will you save on your cooling bill, you also may qualify to receive a rebate on your new unit through OUC's residential rebate program. Go to [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates) to learn more.



output for one-third to one-half the cost.

9. Upgrade to high efficiency attic insulation, and OUC's Financed Insulation Program will give you a rebate and split up your costs over your monthly utility bills. Go to [www.ouc.com/rebates](http://www.ouc.com/rebates) to learn more.
10. Wash clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Wash and dry full loads and set your water heater to 125 degrees.

Visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) for more money saving tips.

## Affordable Family Fun at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Mascot Games

The pulse-pounding action is back as mascots from the NBA, NHL, MLB and NCAA battle in gladiator-themed games to determine the true warrior of the sports world. The Celebrity Mascot Games return to Amway Arena on July 18 at 2 p.m. The Mascot Games feature more than 30 mascots, including the Orlando Magic's very own Stuff, Knightro from UCF and Albert and Alberta from the University of Florida. Catch all the action up close and personal in a reserved seat for just \$15. General admission tickets are only \$9. It's the family event of the year at a great price! Buy your tickets today at the Amway Arena box office or through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). This annual event benefits New Hope for Kids, a Central Florida organization that grants wishes and offers specialized grief support for children and families. Join us at [www.mascotgames.org](http://www.mascotgames.org).



## Skip the Stamps, Checks & Lines with OUC's *Rely-A-Pay*



***Rely-A-Pay*** is an automatic bill payment system that allows OUC to deduct your monthly utilities statement amount from your checking or savings account. It is an easy, worry-free, cost-free way to pay your OUC bill.

All OUC customers with an active checking account or savings account drawn on a U.S. financial institution are eligible for *Rely-A-Pay*. There is no charge for this service from OUC. However, some financial institutions may charge a small fee for this service. Please contact the financial institution where you have your checking or savings account.

Visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) to sign up with OUC's *Rely-A-Pay* program. You will need a voided check from your checking account. Download, complete and fax the *Rely-A-Pay* Automatic Withdrawal Authorization Form to **407.236.9696**.

## Ready for Storm Season

Another hurricane season is upon us, and we want to make sure you and your family are prepared before bad weather hits Central Florida. Here are five steps to get you started:

1. Update your phone number with OUC to ensure that you can use our automated phone system to hear estimated service restoration schedules. To verify that OUC has your correct information, call **407.423.9018** or visit [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com).
2. Make a family plan, identifying meeting places, key phone numbers and responsibilities.
3. Prepare your home for hurricane season by trimming back dead or weak branches from the trees in your yard. If you notice tree branches interfering with power lines, call OUC at **407.423.9018**. **Never** attempt to trim a tree near electrical wires yourself.
4. Make [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) your one-stop location for the latest news and information this hurricane season, including safety guidelines, hurricane guides, preparation tips and power restoration information.
5. Sign up for OUC's e-newsletter alerts at [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com) to receive important safety, outage and restoration information.

## Visit Orlando

Tour theme parks, shop outlets, savor exquisite cuisine — and smile with the ones you love. Orlando brings people together and strengthens relationships. So get pampered, get thrilled and get happy. Just make sure you get together. Save on lodging, dining and attractions with limited-time Bundles of Free Smiles offers at [VisitOrlando.com/ouc](http://VisitOrlando.com/ouc).

