



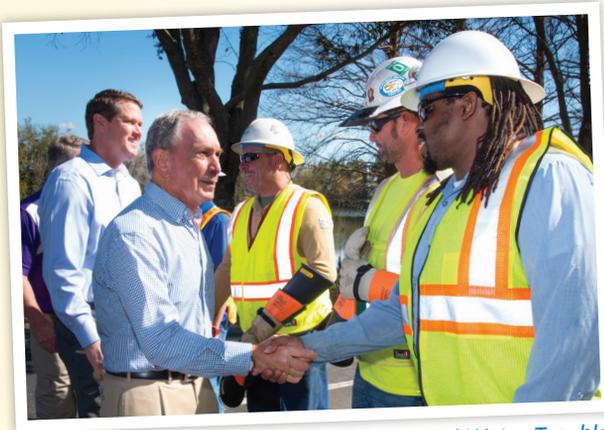
# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | MARCH 2019

## INSIDE

Michael Bloomberg  
Visits OUC  
Preserving Habitats  
Safety Tips for Outdoors  
Call Before You Dig  
Second Chance Sanctuary

## MICHAEL BLOOMBERG TOUTS OUC'S SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS DURING FACILITY VISIT



*Michael Bloomberg met with OUC Line and Water Trouble Technicians during visit.*

In February, **Michael Bloomberg**, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and former Mayor of New York City, joined **Buddy Dyer**, City of Orlando Mayor, and **Clint Bullock**, OUC General Manager & CEO, for a tour and news conference at OUC's Gardenia Operations Facility to highlight Orlando's role in addressing climate change and promoting a sustainable future.

Mayor Bloomberg received a special tour of OUC's Emerging Technologies Research and

Development Laboratory, as well as our 400-kW solar canopy and 31.5-kW floating solar array – two projects among the first of their kind in the nation. He also received a briefing on new, innovative weather stations designed to predict cloud cover.

Orlando is one of 25 cities selected to participate in the American Cities Climate Challenge through Bloomberg Philanthropies. The program will provide a \$2.5 million grant to provide technical assistance and resources. Orlando's plans include adding 150 electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2020, further converting the city's fleet of cars and buses to electric, promoting energy efficiency in public- and privately-owned buildings, and expanding solar energy.

Since 2010, OUC has installed a robust network of 165 charging stations around the area and nearly 19 MW of solar. OUC also has joined 11 municipal utilities across Florida to build three massive solar farms by 2020. Three solar sites, located on 1,200 acres in rural Orange and Osceola counties, will provide 223.5 MW. OUC will be the largest tenant, purchasing 108.5 MW of solar energy, or enough for more than 20,000 residential customers.

## PRESERVING HABITATS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

At OUC, we take great pride in serving one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the nation. That's why we work hard each and every day to protect and enhance Central Florida's environment. Last month, our environmental team began conducting prescribed burns of 1,600 acres of vegetation at the Stanton Energy Center (SEC) in east Orange County.

These burns help reduce the danger of wildfires and preserve the habitats of the more than 40 species that call the area home, including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We're committed to protecting wildlife and

their habitats around our infrastructure and collecting relevant data that contributes to scientific knowledge of Florida's natural heritage.

To learn more about how we manage the 3,200-acre nature preserve at SEC, visit [OUC.com/Stanton](http://OUC.com/Stanton).



# SAFETY TIPS FOR WORKING OUTDOORS

It's a great time of year to enjoy the beautiful weather and spruce up the outside of your home. But, remember to keep cranes, ladders, tree-pruners and other equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines. Electricity can transfer to equipment that's too close to a power line, even if it's not touching.



**LOOK ABOVE YOU.** Check to make sure the area above you is clear of power lines. If you think lines may interfere with your project, call OUC at **407-423-9018** at least two business days prior to starting your project. We can help determine the safest way to complete your project.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.** Before digging on your property, Florida law requires you to contact Sunshine State One-Call at **800-432-4770** or **8-1-1** to find out where underground pipes and electric lines are located. Please call at least two business days before starting, whether it involves heavy equipment or even simple landscaping.

## WILDLIFE REFUGE IN NEED OF SUPPORT

**Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary (SCWS)** – established in 1985 and located on acres of pristine wetlands on the Big Econ River in east Orlando – houses and cares for exotic and abandoned wildlife that cannot be released to live on their own.

The facility is a safe haven for animals; all are fed daily and many receive special veterinary care and medications.

In early February, a screaming peacock awoke **Jim Bronzo**, the Sanctuary's founder and caretaker, to flames that devoured his home and took the lives of dozens of animals he cared for, including his own beloved pets.

At OUC, we take pride in helping our neighbors and protecting the beautiful species that call Central Florida home.

To learn more about Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary or to learn how you can support the recovery effort, visit **secondchancewildlifesanctuary.org**.



*The aftermath of a devastating fire that ripped through SCWS on February 4.*



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