



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | MARCH 2022

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## 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. In January, our environmental team began conducting prescribed burns of 1,200 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 (pictured right). 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 2,400-acre nature preserve at SEC, visit [OUC.com/Stanton](https://www.ou.com/Stanton).

## SAFETY TIPS FOR WORKING OUTDOORS

**LOOK ABOVE YOU** - Make sure the area above you is clear of power lines, and keep cranes, ladders, pruners and other equipment at least 10 feet away. 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 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. For more safety tips, visit [OUC.com/safety](https://www.ou.com/safety).



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13... SPRING AHEAD!

The twice-a-year time changes are perfect opportunities to review your household safety checklist:

- Check/replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Check/replace items in your hurricane/emergency kit
- Check/replace burned out or dimmed exterior light bulbs
- Check fire extinguisher pressure/expiration date
- Change flashlight/weather alert radio batteries



## GO GREEN FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

1. **Switch to LEDs** – LEDs cost more than traditional lightbulbs, but last much longer and pay for themselves in savings.
2. **Set A/C to 78°** — A thermostat set at 76° will use up to 15% more energy to power an A/C than it would at 78°.
3. **Turn Off Lights, Appliances and Electronics** — Keep refrigerators and freezers on, but other appliances and electronics sitting idle do not need to consume electricity.
4. **Use Natural A/C** — Open windows when temperatures are mild and turn on ceiling fans in occupied rooms.



## OUC EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Each year, through the **OUCares Workplace Giving Campaign**, OUC employees donate to various agencies supported by **United Arts** and **Heart of Florida United Way**. This year's campaign raised **\$206,680** to help ensure health, education, and financial support for every person in Central Florida and one of the many local organizations OUC

supported, **Pathlight HOME**, provides affordable housing and economic opportunity for homeless and low-income individuals.

We invite you to help these organizations that make an impact in Central Florida. To donate, please visit **HFUW.org**, **PathlightHOME.org** and **UnitedArts.cc**.

## GIVE PATIENTS LIKE MATEO HOPE

At 12, Mateo began a battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia – High Risk T-Cell, causing him to miss seventh grade. Because of people like you, Nemours Children's Health was able to treat him through chemotherapy, blood transfusions and platelet transfusions.

Post-treatment, Mateo participated in music therapy through Nemour's Child Life program and worked on his guitar skills – now he enjoys playing classic rock songs.

**When you make a gift to Nemours Children's, you give a child hope in their fight for a second chance.**

Make a gift to Nemours Children's Health today at [Nemours.org/Giving](https://Nemours.org/Giving)



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