



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | APRIL 2017

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Up to  
**31.5**  
 Kilowatts of  
 Electricity

## OUC Adds Innovative Floating Solar to Renewable Energy Portfolio

In February, OUC found a new way to weave sustainability into its clean-energy portfolio by installing a floating solar array in a large pond next to the Gardenia Operations Center. The facility – owned and operated by OUC – sends up to 31.5 kilowatts of electricity directly into the power grid – enough to power about five homes. “We’re using an area that’s already devoid of trees and the reflectivity of the water will actually increase the capacity of the 100 solar panels,” said **Byron Knibbs**,

OUC Vice President of Emerging Technologies. OUC is always looking for new, innovative ways to boost sustainable practices. It was the first utility in Central Florida to build a large solar farm and was one of the first in the nation to offer community solar where customers can “buy a piece” of an array. A nearly 13-megawatt solar array is currently under construction at the Stanton Energy Center in east Orange County where OUC also uses methane gas from the Orange County landfill.

## April is Water Conservation Month – Quick Tips

Water Conservation Month is the perfect time to educate yourself and your family on the importance of preserving this precious resource. Considering the average household uses nearly 250 gallons of water each day, protecting the environment while reducing your water bill just makes sense. Here are a few simple water-saving tips:

- 1 Check for and repair indoor and outdoor faucet leaks.
- 2 Only use your dishwasher and clothes washer for full loads.



- 3 Install water-saving showerheads, toilets, faucet aerators and appliances.
- 4 Shorten your shower time by one minute.
- 5 Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- 6 Check your irrigation system for leaks, broken or misdirected sprinkler heads and incorrect timer settings. And remember to water only in accordance with local restrictions.

For more water conservation tips, visit [ouc.com/conservation](http://ouc.com/conservation).

Great-Tasting Tap Water  
**H<sub>2</sub>OUC**  
[www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)

# MAKE SAFETY STICK



## Tree Trimming – *Leave It To The Pros!*

Central Florida's mature tree canopy certainly makes this a beautiful place to live, but it's important to remember that overgrown branches can interfere with power lines, creating safety hazards and potential power outages. In fact, falling branches cause nearly 20 percent of all outages.

OUC makes it a priority to trim trees along distribution lines, easements and rights-of-way. If you notice branches or tree limbs that may interfere with a power line, do not attempt to trim them yourself. Leave this hazardous work to trained professionals. To report a tree/power line threat, call **407-957-7373**.

Learn more at [www.ouc.com/trees](http://www.ouc.com/trees).



**CALL 811** Don't go digging for disaster. Whether you're carving out a pool or just planting petunias, call it in at least two days before.

For more home improvement safety tips, visit [ouc.com/safety](http://ouc.com/safety).



## Art Exhibit: *Perception & Reality II*

United Arts of Central Florida is proud to partner with SNAP! Orlando to bring a unique arts experience to Downtown Orlando. *Perception & Reality II* opens to the public on **Friday, April 28**, in the

three galleries at SNAP! Downtown, 420 E. Church Street. The exhibit will run until July 1 at no cost to attendees and includes a range of tech art and experiences, including virtual reality, augmented reality,

3-D printing, 3-D mapping and other tech related experiences, stemming from an artistic perspective.

SNAP! Orlando is one of more than 60 arts and cultural organizations that United Arts supports. United Arts is a collaboration of individuals, businesses, governments and school districts, foundations, arts and cultural organizations, and artists. Investing more than \$141 million in Central Florida's arts and culture since 1989, United Arts raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services.

**United Arts** *snap!*  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RELIABLE PLAZA • 100 W. Anderson Street • Orlando, FL 32801  
Tel: 407-423-9018 • [www.ouc.com](http://www.ouc.com)

