



# CONNECTIONS

News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | MAY 2024

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## MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

*Making Safety First is OUC's number one company value. During National Electrical Safety Month, we're sharing safety precautions you can follow around your home to keep your family safe all year round.*

### INDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- ⚡ Always install the proper bulb with the appropriate wattage for fixtures, lamps or other devices.
- ⚡ Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- ⚡ Repair or replace any appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit, or causes an electric shock.
- ⚡ Protect children and pets by covering unused wall outlets with plastic safety caps.
- ⚡ Never remove the third prong of a three-pronged plug. The third prong is designed to safely ground electricity.
- ⚡ Test smoke alarms monthly, change batteries yearly and replace units every 10 years.



### OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

- ⚡ Call 8-1-1 before you dig. Many utility lines are buried underground.
- ⚡ Always keep tools, objects and yourself at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- ⚡ Keep children and pets a safe distance away when you operate a mower, chainsaw or other power equipment.
- ⚡ Don't use electrical tools or appliances in the rain, on wet surfaces or while standing in water.
- ⚡ Use only weather-resistant, heavy-gauge extension cords marked "For Outdoor Use."
- ⚡ Don't overload outdoor electrical and/or extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.

Learn more safety tips by visiting [OUC.com/Safety](https://www.ouc.com/Safety).

## IT'S BALD EAGLE NESTING SEASON AT OUC'S STANTON ENERGY CENTER

OUC continuously places importance on protecting the environment. These efforts include awareness and protection around animal habitats. OUC's Stanton Energy Center (SEC) includes an 1,800-acre nature preserve that is home to many species including deer, bobcats, tortoises, cranes and more.

A mating pair of bald eagles has nested in the habitat for years. This past month, the pair was spotted with an eaglet. Bald eagles typically return to the same nest annually.

OUC's wildlife biologist monitors the eagles and also conducts a biannual census of red-cockaded woodpeckers at SEC. Endangered due to habitat loss since 1970, the woodpeckers nest in the preserve's longleaf pines. The census is mandated by law and helps track their population. Currently their numbers at SEC are estimated at 27, which has more than doubled since 2009.



## 5 TIPS TO PLANT THE RIGHT TREE AT THE RIGHT PLACE

It's spring and that means gardening. Before you begin, Erin Givens, OUC's Vegetation Program Manager, offers five essential tips for planting the right tree in the right place.

- 1 **Choose wisely:** Consider the tree's long-term growth and height to fit your landscape.
- 2 **Plant carefully:** Avoid power line interference by selecting trees under 15 feet tall.
- 3 **Dial before you dig:** Check for buried utilities before starting any excavation.
- 4 **Clear around equipment:** Keep electric areas free of vegetation for easy access.
- 5 **Stay clear of power lines:** Maintain a 10-foot distance for safety.



To trim trees, contact **(407) 423-9018** or visit **[OUC.com/TreeTrimming](http://OUC.com/TreeTrimming)**.



## UPGRADE INSULATION AND GET A REBATE!



Adding attic insulation is one of the most effective and least expensive things you can do to increase your home's energy efficiency. OUC offers residential customers a rebate of **10 cents per square foot** on upgraded attic insulation with an R-30 value or higher.

Visit **[OUC.com/Rebates](http://OUC.com/Rebates)** for more info.



## OUC AND ORLANDO MAGIC TEAM UP TO FIGHT HUNGER

On Feb. 29, OUC employees and families teamed up with the Orlando Magic to fight food insecurity for local students with an employee volunteer event benefitting non-profit Blessings in a Backpack. Nearly 100 volunteers packed 800 bags of nonperishable food for students in need who attend Orange County Public School's Academic Center for Excellence in Parramore. This effort is part of OUC's support for education, health and wellness in downtown Orlando's Empowerment Zone (32805 ZIP code). OUC also donated \$1,000 to Blessings in a Backpack's Orlando chapter to provide hunger-free weekends for Central Florida elementary school children.

## PARTNERING TOGETHER WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

OUC offers several programs and plans to help customers reduce energy and save money on monthly utility bills. Be sure to take advantage of rebates on energy-saving improvements or a cost-sharing program that benefits low-income households that make efficiency upgrades.

Learn more at **[OUC.com/Residential](http://OUC.com/Residential)**.



**Need help with your utility bill?** We partner with community organizations and government programs. Visit **[OUC.com/Assistance](http://OUC.com/Assistance)**.

Para ver toda nuestra información en español, por favor visite **[espanol.ouc.com](http://espanol.ouc.com)**.



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