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News and Information from OUC—The *Reliable One* | SEPTEMBER 2014

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OUC's Budget Billing Eliminates Sudden Surprises

Sign up for OUC's Budget Billing program and take the surprise out of your utility bill by stabilizing your monthly electric payments throughout the course of the year.

This FREE program:

- Eliminates the seasonal ups and downs that utility bills can bring
- Keeps your bill at a fixed monthly dollar amount
- Helps you plan and balance your monthly budget

To enroll, log in to your myOUC online profile at www.ouc.com and complete the Budget Billing form. You can opt out of the program at any time.

Energy Efficiency Tips for Your Home

Here are a few simple things you can do around the house to reduce your energy costs all year:

- Unplug appliances that you don't need 24/7. Many of them draw power even when they're not in use
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees. For each degree you set it below 78, expect to add 6 to 8 percent to the cooling portion of your energy bill
- Use ceiling fans. Ceiling fans should spin counter-clockwise in the summer and be turned off when no one is in the room
- Keep window shades closed in the summer and open in the winter
- Change your air filter regularly
- Use the cold or warm setting on your clothes washer, rather than the hot one
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees





FREE Online Home Energy Audit

June and July were hotter than normal this year, and of course, higher temperatures lead to higher bills. OUC offers a great way to take control of your home energy use and you don't even have to be an OUC customer to save money and make your home more efficient. Tell your friends to check out OUC's interactive online energy audit. There they can learn more about their home's energy consumption, and find out how to make improvements to lower their utility bills. And with just an account number, OUC customers can receive customized recommendations based on their actual consumption history.

The audit takes about 10 minutes to complete, so visit www.ouc.com/energyaudit to get started.

Osceola County Animal Services

Osceola County Animal Services receives more than 9,000 animals—mostly dogs and cats—each year. Please think about adopting a pet, volunteering or fostering an animal in need. You would be amazed at all the great things happening at the shelter, and you can be part of it.

We also offer low cost spay/neuter services. Preventing births is one of the best ways you can help save lives. If you need help with an existing pet, let us know. We may be able to help.

Visit us at 3910 Old Canoe Creek Rd., St. Cloud, FL, or call us at **407-742-8000** to get more information on how you can become involved. And check us out online at www.osceolacountypets.com or at facebook.com/osceolacountyanimalservices.



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