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News and Information from OUC—The Reliable One | OCTOBER 2010

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MAKE YOUR MARK: Protect Your Home and Wallet from the Sun

You've invested thousands of dollars in your home's carpets and furniture. But did you know that the sun's UV rays can drain the color from your home's interior furnishings? The sun also makes your house hotter, forcing your air conditioner to work harder to keep you comfortable. Many Central Floridians pay \$100 or more per month to cool their homes, but window film could cut those costs by 25 percent or more.

Window film keeps nearly all of the sun's UV rays out of your home, which preserves your view, cuts down on glare, extends the life and color of your furnishings and lowers your utility bill. Window film is widely available at home improvement stores across Central Florida and takes 30 minutes or less to install on each window.

Not a do-it-yourselfer? Check with a local handyman service or the home improvement store for references to qualified installers. Window film is eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit, up to \$1,500 (excluding the cost of installation), if purchased by December 31,



2010. And OUC is doing our part with a rebate of up to \$100 on the purchase of window film or a solar screen. Make an investment today to preserve your home's furnishings and keep your home more comfortable at a lower cost. Learn more at www.ouc.com.



Saving with the Small Business Efficiency Pilot Program

Small businesses face numerous challenges, but their utility bill doesn't have to be one of them. OUC's Small Business Efficiency Pilot Program shows small business owners how to reduce energy and water consumption and improve overall business operations. Information needed for a new business to succeed including how to write a business plan, how to write contracts and proper accounting methods is provided.

Participants must:

- Have a free Commercial Energy Survey conducted at their facility by an OUC auditor, who will identify efficiency improvements and provide information on OUC's rebates. Call **407.423.9018** in Orlando/Orange County or **407.957.7373** in St. Cloud/Osceola County.
- Attend a one-hour counseling session at the University of Central Florida's Small Business Development Center at the Disney Entrepreneur Center in downtown Orlando. Call **407.420.4850** and advise them you are participating in the OUC Small Business Pilot Program.

Once you've completed the program, you will receive a \$250 credit on your utility bill.



SAFETY TIPS



Look Up First

Remember to look up when working near overhead power lines. If you think power lines may interfere with your work, call OUC at **407.892.2210** at least two business days before starting the job. OUC can explain the safest way to perform the work.

Call Before You Dig

Before beginning any excavation work, call Sunshine State One-Call at **800.432.4770** to determine where underground pipes and electric lines are located. Law requires diggers to call this number at least two days before starting excavation, whether it's a project involving heavy equipment or a simple landscaping job.

Downed Lines Can Be Deadly

Stay away from downed power lines and call OUC immediately at **407.892.2210** to report them. Always assume the downed line is energized and never touch or try to move it. If anyone comes in contact with a downed line, don't attempt to rescue them. Instead call **9.1.1** immediately and wait for OUC and emergency personnel to respond.

Update Your Contact Information

Have you changed your phone number recently? If so, make sure OUC has your correct phone number on file by calling **407.957.7373** or visiting www.ouc.com. This will ensure that you are able to use our automated system to hear estimated service restoration schedules in the event of a major storm.

Utility Theft Costs Everyone



Utility theft costs more than just the price of the stolen electricity or water. When thieves attempt to steal utilities, it can result in fire, flooding, property damage, hazardous conditions, injuries and even death.

Illegally obtained utilities increase rates for everyone, and unauthorized use of utilities or tampering with utility equipment is a crime and punishable by fines and/or prison time.

Please help OUC prevent injuries and increased rates due to utility theft by reporting suspicious behavior either online at www.ouc.com or by calling **407.384.4019**.

AMERICAN
EXPRESS

Coming Soon!

This fall OUC will begin accepting the American Express® credit card for payments made online, by phone or in our lobbies.

Para ver esta edición de *OUConexión*, por favor vaya en línea a espanol.ouc.com.

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