

insight

July 2014

Skip the Line with Convenient Self-service Options

Late July through mid-August is GRU's busiest time of the year due to the influx of students for the start of fall classes. During this time, the utility processes 25,000 service orders – more than four times the amount processed in a typical month.

GRU urges customers to take advantage of our convenient self-service options to avoid long waits on the phone or in the lobby.

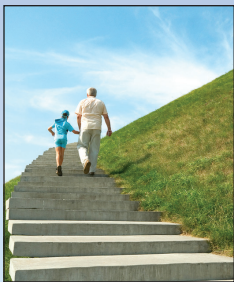


- Visit gru.com any time to start, stop or move utility services or make a secure payment.
- Call 352-334-3434 to check your account balance, make a payment or request a payment extension.
- Visit any of our 25+ Neighborhood Stop 'N Pay locations to make a payment.
- Sign up for eBill, GRU's free paperless billing option, to receive and pay your bill online.
- If you're moving this summer, complete your service application now to reserve your preferred date. Connection schedules fill up quickly.

For more information on payment and self-service options, visit gru.com.

For money-saving tips,
visit **gru.com**





Planning for the Future

GRU is looking to the future to identify the most cost-effective options for meeting Gainesville's evolving peak energy needs. Peak energy sources are needed when the demand for electricity is higher than the utility's regular baseload power supply can

support. This might occur on a hot summer afternoon, when customers are running their air conditioners, using electronic devices, and turning their lights on and off.

Some of the solutions GRU is considering include demand-side management programs and transmission system upgrades. As another option, GRU also is looking at generation sources and has secured a preliminary permit as a placeholder for a 50-megawatt natural gas power plant that can quickly generate more or less energy depending on customers' needs.

Evacuation and Sheltering for Special-needs Citizens

Alachua County's Special Needs Program provides emergency sheltering and evacuation assistance for citizens with certain medical conditions in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. Those with cognitive impairment or physical, mental or sensory disabilities must sign up with Alachua County Emergency Management in advance to receive assistance. Registration is free and confidential. To sign up or learn more, contact Alachua County Emergency Management at 352-264-6500 or visit specialneeds.alachuacounty.us.



GRU Awards Brighter Tomorrow Scholarships

GRU recently awarded scholarships to four aspiring engineers at the fourth annual Brighter Tomorrow Scholarship Banquet. Pratik Gajjar and Nicole Trometer, of Gainesville High School; Feng You, of Santa Fe High School; and Brianna Malcolm, a first-year mechanical engineering student at the University of Florida, each received a \$4,000 scholarship as well as an internship at GRU. The awards were made possible by presenting sponsor Infinite Energy and other contributors.

Irrigation Rebates Now Available

An improperly maintained in-ground irrigation system can leak water and waste money. GRU offers rebates to help customers keep their systems running smoothly and efficiently.

Rebate offer:

- \$50 toward the annual inspection and maintenance of an in-ground irrigation system.
- \$25 for installing a rain or soil moisture sensor to keep systems from running too frequently.

Visit gru.com or call 352-393-1460 for more information.

Less Heat, More Savings

Stay comfortable while battling the heat with these money-saving tips:

- Set thermostats to 78 degrees Fahrenheit when you are home and 82 degrees Fahrenheit when you will be away for an extended period.
- Wear lighter-weight clothing when indoors.
- Plant trees or shrubs that shade A/C units but do not block airflow.
- Close window coverings during the day to keep rooms cooler.

july 2014

public service announcements

Alachua County Waste Alternatives 'Tools for Schools' Collection

Alachua County Waste Alternatives' reusable resource center is collecting new and gently used educational supplies throughout July. Supplies will be distributed to Alachua County Public Schools teachers at no cost. Call 352-374-5213 for donation drop-off information.

Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting volunteers for the month of July. These volunteers, ages 55 and older, will tutor, mentor and nurture children with exceptional needs in Alachua County's public/charter schools and child care/Head Start centers. Call 352-264-6731 for more information.

View More PSAs at gru.com:

- Operation Catnip – Free Spay/Neuter for Stray and Feral Cats

Submit a PSA

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1306 or email littonjenkl@gru.com well in advance to schedule a reservation.