

insight

October 2014

Water Withdrawal Permit Issued

The governing board of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has issued a 20-year consumptive use permit to GRU, authorizing groundwater withdrawals from the Murphree Wellfield of up to 30 million gallons per day. This is the same withdrawal level GRU has been permitted to use since 2009, despite a projected customer increase of 25 percent over the next two decades.



The permit allows GRU to continue providing safe, high-quality water to approximately 190,000 residential, commercial and institutional customers in the Gainesville area while protecting water resources.

GRU, the SJRWMD and the Suwannee River Water Management District performed detailed groundwater flow modeling, hydrologic data analyses and field wetland assessments in advance of the permit application. As a result of this extensive work, it was determined that GRU's withdrawals will not adversely impact springs, lakes or wetlands.

GRU has undertaken numerous aquifer recharge projects and is committed to implementing additional projects to offset withdrawals and recharge the Floridan aquifer. Since 2001, GRU residential customers have reduced their water use by 25 percent.

For money-saving tips,
visit gru.com



Time Change Affects Annual Irrigation Rules

The rolling back of clocks by one hour next month marks the end of daylight saving time and the regular change in local irrigation rules, reducing watering to one day a week.

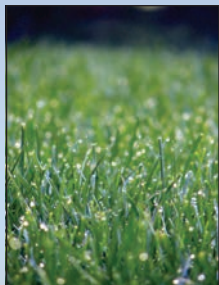


Photo by Michael Ploujnikov

Starting Nov. 2, homes with even-numbered addresses may irrigate on Sundays, homes with odd-numbered addresses or no address may irrigate on Saturdays, and non-residential properties may irrigate on Tuesdays.

GRU customers are among the most conservative water users in the state, and GRU conserves by reclaiming wastewater and returning 70 percent of withdrawn groundwater back to the Floridan aquifer. Visit gru.com for more information on local irrigation rules and conservation tips.



GRU Golf Tournament Raises Money for School

GRU's 15th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament for Williams

Elementary School was held Aug. 23 at Ironwood Golf Course. Sixty-four golfers and several sponsors, including WESCO Distribution, Philips, ABB, and MCG Energy Solutions helped raise \$12,000 for the school. The funds will be used for computer equipment, supplies and teacher training. Williams Elementary has been GRU's Adopt-a-School since 1997. Since its inception, the tournament has raised more than \$150,000.

GRU Joins National Bike Challenge

GRU continued its celebration of meeting the city's carbon-reduction goals by joining The National Bike Challenge, a campaign to get 50,000 bicyclists to pedal 30 million miles by Sept. 30.

GRU's entry demonstrates its commitment to environmental protection. GRU has reduced CO2 emissions by 13 percent below 1990 levels, exceeding its original 7-percent goal one year earlier than anticipated.

Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is a safe, reliable and efficient fuel that is naturally odorless and colorless. For safety, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect possible leaks. If you smell gas, leave the area immediately and call GRU at 352-334-2550, or dial 911.

Keep Clogs from Ruining Holiday Fun

While preparing for the holidays, make sure to dispose of grease properly. Forty percent of reported wastewater backups and spills are caused by grease blockages. Blockages are created when fats, oils and greases solidify after being poured down the drain.

GRU urges customers to put grease into a sealed container, let it cool and throw it in the trash. For more information, visit gru.com and search for "oil and grease disposal at home."

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public service announcements

Celebrate the Arts

On Nov. 8 and 9, downtown Gainesville will be transformed into a celebration of art and creativity, complete with 250 artists, live music on three stages, a children's art area and an array of food. Celebrate the 33rd Annual Downtown Festival & Arts Show. Call 352-334-ARTS or visit gvlculturalaffairs.org for more information.

City of Gainesville ISO Public Protection Classification Upgrade

The Public Protection Classification for the City of Gainesville's fire suppression services and water supply system was recently upgraded from Class 3/9 to Class 2/2x. This change may result in property insurance premium reductions. For more information, call 352-334-5078 or visit gfr.org/ISOletter.

Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

Join Friends of the Library's Fall Book Sale benefiting the Alachua County Library District, Oct. 25-29 at the FOL Book House, 430 N. Main Street. Thousands of books will be available along with CDs, DVDs and more. Call 352-375-1676 or visit folaclcd.org.

View More PSAs at gru.com.

Submit a PSA

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1485 or email dongesph@gru.com well in advance to schedule a reservation.