

The Edgewood Exclusive

Fall 2025

Don't Get Nailed by a Scam

Cutting corners on home repairs may save money now, but hiring an unlicensed contractor can bring major legal and financial headaches later. Read more on page 10!

10th Annual Santa Fly-In

Get ready to witness Santa's grand arrival in a way that will fill the whole family with holiday magic and wonder. Details on page 7!

Meet the Team!

Get to know your City Hall staff. Learn about the crew that's handling all administrative duties for the City of Edgewood. Read more on page 2!

A Message from the Mayor: Fiscal Responsibility in Action



Mayor John Dowless

Dear Edgewood Residents,

As your Mayor, I remain committed to transparency especially when it comes to how we manage your tax dollars. With the City Council finalizing the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I want to take a moment to share the principles guiding our decisions and how they directly benefit you as residential and commercial property owners.

For the sixth consecutive year, Edgewood City Council has kept the millage rate at 5.25 mills. This reflects our ongoing commitment to fiscally conservative budgeting and long-term planning. City Council and staff have worked diligently to control costs, increase efficiency, and avoid unnecessary spending allowing us to continue delivering high-quality services without increasing your property tax rate.

This accomplishment is especially meaningful given the financial pressures we've faced. Notably, the Orange County Commission approved a 26% increase in the Fire and Rescue ad valorem rate last year, now set at 2.8437 mills. **Despite that, your City Council voted once again to hold the line and not raise Edgewood's tax rate.**

Understanding the Numbers: Millage Rate Comparison

It's important to understand how Edgewood's tax rate compares to neighboring governments. At first glance, **Unincorporated Orange County's millage rate of 4.37** may seem lower, but that figure **excludes their separate Fire and Rescue tax**. By contrast, Edgewood's single 5.25 rate covers all city services, including fire and police.

Ad Valorem Millage Rates

	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FIRE	TOTAL
ORANGE COUNTY	4.437	2.8437	7.2807
EDGEWOOD	2.4063	2.8437	5.25

Continued on pg. 3

NEWSLETTER

Meet The Team

AT EDGEWOOD CITY HALL

Edgewood City Hall's three-person team manages everything from public works and code compliance to elections, community development, and resident services with remarkable efficiency. Their collaboration with contractors, Orange County, elected officials, and the police department ensures seamless city operations that deliver an outsized impact for the community.



Sandy Riffle

Sandy Riffle is Edgewood's Certified Municipal Clerk and has been the friendly "front door" of City Hall for the past decade. An Oak Ridge High School alum and UCF graduate, she serves as a vital link between residents and local government, handling elections, business tax duties, and over-seeing public works projects. Sandy's priority is providing transparent information and personal customer service and she truly enjoys getting to know residents and supporting local businesses. Outside of City Hall, she and her husband, Bret, love exploring Central Florida, cheering on sports, and watching quirky documentaries. Now that her three children are grown, their tuxedo cat James Bond and dog Miss Money Penny keep things lively around their home.

Brett Sollazzo



Brett has been part of the City of Edgewood team since August 2021 and serves as the Administrative Project Manager. An Orlando resident for the past 15 years, he is married with one child. Brett's work focuses on community development, permitting, planning &

zoning and assisting with code compliance—keeping the City running smoothly. Fun fact: email is his preferred way to communicate, and he's been told that his reply time is nothing short of extraordinary.



Ashley Pagán

Ashley has been with the City of Edgewood since April 2022 and is the Administrative Coordinator. She assists with public works, records and all other city related odd and ends. A fourth-generation Floridian, she lives in Orlando with her husband, two sons, and their dog. She enjoys family time, cheering on her boys at baseball and iced coffee. In her role, Ashley values building connections with residents and businesses and is passionate about local government's role in creating stronger and more vibrant communities.

PROLOGO[®]

B R A N D I N G

CUSTOM

- SCREENPRINT
- EMBROIDERY
- VINYL GRAPHICS
- PROMO PRODUCTS

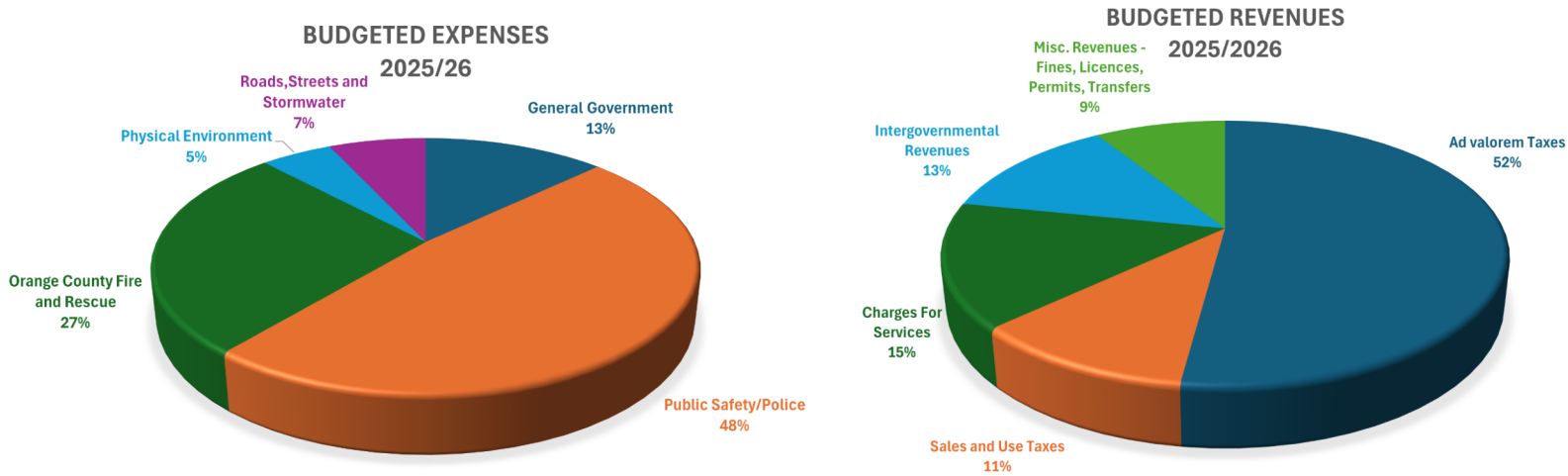


5508 COMMERCE DR.
ORLANDO, FL 32839

407-730-9831
WWW.PROLOGOBRANDING.COM

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

The City collects \$2,512,538 in ad-valorem revenue each year, yet the combined costs of Fire & Rescue (\$1,325,120) and Police Services (\$2,331,725) already exceed that total. All other essential services, such as roads & streets, stormwater management, grounds maintenance, and City Hall operations, are funded through other revenue sources, including utility franchise fees, state revenue sharing, and non-ad valorem assessments.



We're proud to report that Edgewood remains debt-free, a direct result of our commitment to financial discipline. Each year, we review the budget line-by-line, identifying ways to reduce waste, streamline services, and prioritize value in every contract and initiative.

Looking ahead, we will continue to be responsible stewards of your tax dollars, ensuring that Edgewood remains a safe, well-maintained, and vibrant community for all. Thank you for your trust, your support, and for helping make Edgewood a truly special place to call home.

Sincerely,
John Dowless
Mayor

New Super Speeder Law

By: Chief Dean DeSchryver

As of July 1, 2025, a new Super Speeder traffic law took effect to address the problem of excessive speeding. Florida State Statute 316.1922 now makes it an arrestable offense whenever a person operates a motor vehicle 50 mph over the posted speed limit, or at 100 mph or more in a manner that threatens the safety of other persons or property or interferes with the operation of any vehicle.



Chief DeSchryver

Upon conviction, a first-time offender can be imprisoned in the county jail for up to 30 days or fined \$500, or both. Second or subsequent convictions can result in imprisonment up to 90 days or fined \$1,000 or both. A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this law within 5 years shall have their driving privileges revoked for at least 180 days but no more than 1 year.

Preliminary data provided to News 6 by the Florida Highway Patrol shows that 55 drivers across Central Florida have been arrested under the excessive speeding law. Edgewood Police Officers routinely work speed enforcement on Orange Avenue and its side streets. Remember to give yourself some extra time to get to your destination so you do not feel the need to speed.





FLORIDA
ENGINEERING
GROUP

*is
now*



THOMAS
&
HUTTON

Building Relationships & Solutions for Success



ENGINEERING | SURVEYING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | GIS | CONSULTING

DON'T LET POLLUTION GO DOWN THE DRAIN

WHAT IS STORMWATER AND WHY IT MATTERS

Stormwater is rain that falls on yards, streets, parking lots, and buildings. Instead of soaking into the ground, much of it flows into storm drains or directly into lakes, streams, and rivers. Unlike wastewater, stormwater does not go to a treatment plant. What enters the drain usually flows straight into our natural waterways.

As it moves across lawns, driveways, and roads, stormwater collects fertilizers, oil, grass clippings, litter, pet waste, and other pollutants. These materials are then carried through a network of drains, pipes, and ditches to collection ponds or, in many cases, into nearby water bodies.

Pollution from stormwater has real impacts. Sediment from construction sites clouds the water and damages habitats. Excess nutrients from fertilizers and yard waste cause harmful algal blooms that deplete oxygen and threaten fish. Bacteria from pet waste and failing septic systems can close swimming areas and boat ramps. Trash like plastic bags, bottles, and cigarette butts harms wildlife, while hazardous chemicals such as pesticides, paint, and motor oil poison aquatic life and even affect human health.

Stormwater pollution is one of the most serious threats to our lakes and rivers, but it is also one we can help prevent. By properly disposing of waste, reducing fertilizer use, cleaning up after pets, and keeping litter off the streets, we all play a part in protecting our waterways and ensuring a healthier environment for generations to come.

5 easy ways to save water outdoors

1. Are you odd? Or even?
Know your watering days.



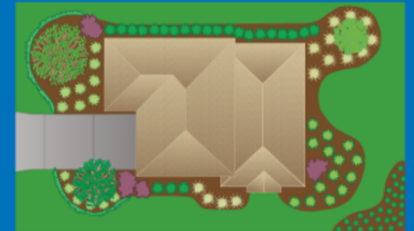
2. Check your sprinkler system to make sure it's working efficiently.

3. Turn off your sprinkler system if there's rain in the forecast.



4. Think "smart" irrigation technology.

5. Right plant, right place.



Learn more at
WaterLessFlorida.com

St. Johns River Water Management District

Edgewood



407-484-5880

Pet Sitter



EASTERN STANDARD TIME Watering Days



Homes with Even Numbered Addresses

Water only on Sunday for no more than one hour and not between 10am & 4pm



Homes with Odd Numbered Addresses

Water only on Saturday for no more than one hour and not between 10am & 4pm



Non Residential Properties

Water only on Tuesday for no more than one hour and not between 10am & 4pm





TRUNK or treat

Please join us at Edgewood
City Hall for a fun filled evening

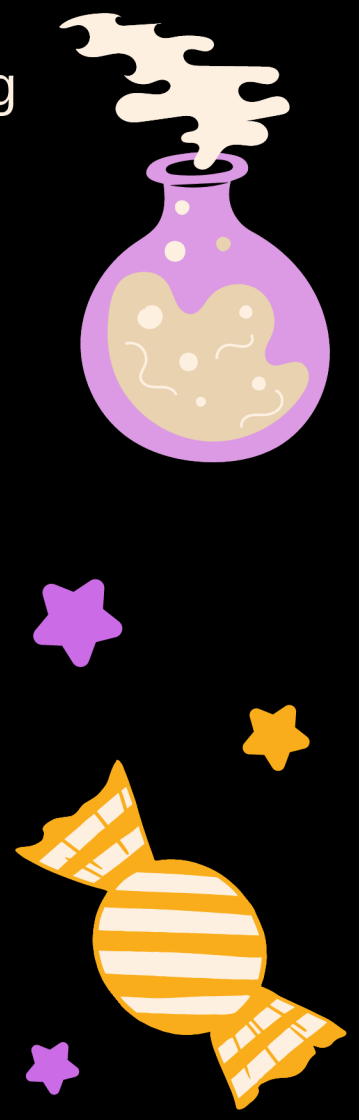
Friday

October 24th

Visit decorated trunks for
fun and treats. Enjoy food
trucks and a bounce
house. Hot Dogs provided
free for children while
supplies last!!

**Event will begin at
6pm and end at 8pm**

405 Bagshaw Way



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 10TH ANNUAL

SANTA

Fly-In

FRIDAY
DECEMBER

5TH

6:00-8:30 PM

EDGEWOOD CITY HALL
405 BAGSHAW WAY
EDGEWOOD, FL 32809

PHOTOS WITH SANTA
HOLIDAY MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS
FACE PAINTING
BEER AND WINE TENT
BOUNCE HOUSE



EAT LOCAL



Dine In



Quick Service



Cafes and Bakeries

Formaggio & Friends
4745 S. Orange Ave

Lucky Goat Orlando
4753 S. Orange Ave

Mecatos Bakery and Café
5645 Hansel Ave

Hong Fu
5601 S. Orange Ave

Dough Factory Pizza
4781 S. Orange

Pizza Hut
5626 Hansel Ave

That Wing Spot
4777 S. Orange Ave

Anthony's Pizza
4967 S. Orange Ave

Runabout Brewing
4721 S. Orange Ave

Brazas Chicken
4797 S. Orange Ave

Sharon's Homestyle Cookin'
5601 S. Orange Ave

Beth's Burger Bar
5145 S. Orange Ave

Stone Fired Pizza
627 Hoffner Ave

Fritterbox
4710 S. Orange Ave

Vanbarry's Public House
4120 S. Orange Ave

The Porch
4757 S. Orange Ave

Zen Tavern
5406 Hansel Ave



Enjoy Edgewood Restaurants

THE BOXER

Welcome to Real!!!

Indulge in our delicious and healthy Jamaican inspired dishes at Fritterbox. Our fritters, combos, juices, shakes, and sauces are all made with organic, natural and non-GMO ingredients for a unique dining experience.

The Boxer O
1 Fritterbox
1 ORICH Juice
1 serving of Fritterbox Oxtail

FRITTERBOX

The Boxer
1 Fritterbox
1 ORICH Juice
1 Fritterbox sauce

4710 S Orange Ave Edgewood FL 32806
Toll: (229)262-5413 or (407) 270-5291
www.fritterboxx.com
[#Eatrealfood!!](#)

BEST BURGER

in Orlando!

WE CATER!



Beth's

BURGER BAR

CELEBRATING 12 DELICIOUS YEARS!

EDGEWOOD • 5145 S. ORANGE AVE, ORLANDO | (407) 888-1190

LAKE CAY • 9938 UNIVERSAL BLVD. #120, ORLANDO | (407) 203-8100

LAKE MARY • 223 WHEELHOUSE LN. #1121, LAKE MARY | (407) 716-2272

WINTER GARDEN • 15502 STONEYBROOK W. PKWY #120, WINTER GARDEN | (407) 395-3005



SAND LAKE MEDICAL WALK IN CLINIC



a part of **Affordable Care
Clinics**

407-286-1829

Primary Care & Walk In Clinic
School & Sport Physicals
IV Hydration
Weight Loss programme
Pre-employment Physicals
Addiction treatment
Ultrasound service
Urgent Care services
Medical Cannabis treatment

1650 Sand Lake Road, Suite # 112
Orlando, FL, 32809

info@affordablecareclinics.com

Hours- Monday- Friday 8am- 6pm

We accept all major insurance

No insurance, No problem Affordable cash prices



Report a Street Light Outage

The quickest way to keep your street safe and well-lit is to utilize duke-energy.com/outages to report a street light outage. Reporting via their online street light map tool is fast and easy and ensures that repairs are completed in a timely manner.

DON'T GET NAILED BY A SCAM:

The Risks of Hiring an Unlicensed Contractor

Saving money on home repairs or renovations is tempting, but hiring an unlicensed contractor can cost you far more in the long run. Without proper licensing, insurance, or bonding, you risk poor workmanship, unfinished projects, and no legal recourse to recover your money.

Unlicensed work often bypasses permits and inspections, creating safety hazards and code violations that can jeopardize your family's safety and even complicate selling your home later. These workers may also lack the training and qualifications required of licensed professionals, and without insurance, any injury on your property could leave you personally liable.

To protect yourself, always verify a contractor's license with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, ask for proof of insurance, and get a written contract. Avoid paying in full upfront or agreeing to cash-only deals.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Taking the time to hire a licensed professional will help safeguard your home, your finances, and your peace of mind. For more information or to verify a license, visit myfloridalicense.com.





EDGEWOOD'S OWN SUPERMARKET

Conveniently located at 5637 S. Orange Ave in the Edgewood Isle Shopping Center, Ideal Food Basket is proud to be the only supermarket within the City of Edgewood. Offering a wide variety of fresh produce, quality meats, pantry essentials, and international favorites, it's a convenient one-stop shop for all your grocery needs. Whether you're stocking up for the week, picking up last-minute dinner ingredients, or exploring new flavors, Ideal Food Basket provides friendly service and a welcoming atmosphere right here in our own community.



RESIDENTIAL WASTE INFORMATION

 321-236-5999
 edgewood.city@fccenvironmental.com



COLLECTION DAYS

Monday	Household Garbage
Tuesday	Yard Waste
Wednesday	Recycling
Thursday	Household Garbage
	Bulk Items

Call customer service for large item pick up for items over 50lbs.



OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

- New Years Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

If your collection day falls on one of these days, collection service will be on your next scheduled pick-up day

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous Waste is a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having harmful effects on human health or the environment. Please see below examples of what is hazardous and how to dispose of it properly.



Yard and Garden

- Chemical Fertilizer
- Fungicide
- Herbicide
- Insect killer/fogger/repellant
- Mouse/Rat poison
- Pesticides
- Pool Chemicals



Automotive Products

- Antifreeze
- Brake Fluid
- Car Wax
- Diesel Fuel
- Oil
- Gasoline
- Kersene
- Oil/Gas Mixture
- Transmission Fluid



Cleaners and Solvents

- Cleaning Solvents
- Dry Cleaning Solution
- Floor/Furniture Polish
- Muriatic acid
- Naval jelly
- Oven cleaners
- Rust Removal
- Silver/Metal polish



Paint Products

- Deck Stains & Preservatives
- Driveway sealer
- Epoxy
- Glue/Adhesive
- Oil, latex, lead paint
- Paint stripper
- Paint thinner
- Turpentine
- Varnish

Orange County Drop-Off Locations

Orange County Landfill: 5901 Young Pine Rd. P: 407-836-6601
 Porter Transfer Station: 1326 Good Homes Rd. P: 407-254-9543
 Email: solid.waste@ocfl.net



**405 Bagshaw Way
Edgewood, FL 32809**

City Hall Staff

Sandra Riffle, City Clerk, CMC, CBTO
Brett Sollazzo, Project Manager
Ashley Pagán, Administrative Assistant

Ph: 407-851-2920

Email: info@edgewood-fl.gov

Website: www.edgewood-fl.gov

Hours: Monday Thru Thursday 8am to 4pm
Friday 8am to noon

Police Department

Dean DeSchryver, Police Chief
Miguel García, Deputy Police Chief
Scott Zane, Code Compliance
Haymee Watkins, Police Clerk

Ph: 407-851-2820 (non-emergency)

Hours: Monday Thru Friday 8am to 4pm

Excluding Holidays

911 Emergency

Administrative Holidays

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King	Thanksgiving Day
Presidents' Day	Black Friday
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve
Independence Day	Christmas Day

City Council

John Dowless, Mayor
Richard A. Horn, Council President
Chris Rader, Council President Pro Tem
Susan Lomas, Councilmember
Casey McElroy, Councilmember
Beth Steele, Councilmember

Planning and Zoning

Ryan Santurri, Chair
David Nelson, Vice Chair
David Gragg, Board Member
Todd Nolan, Board Member
Angie Sharp, Board Member

Stay Connected

Follow The Edgewood District on Facebook and sign up on NextDoor.com for important news.



CONTACT