# The Edgewood Exclusive



## FCC Bulk Item Pick-Up

Bulk waste not removed? Don't miss another collection day! See page four to understand the updated bulk waste collection procedures.

# Santa Fly-In Event Recap

Santa's helicopter arrival and community participation made the ninth annual Santa Fly-In a festive and fun event.

# New Business Welcome Banner Program

The city has initiated a new program to highlight new businesses within the city. To learn more about the welcome banner program see page six.



Mayor John Dowles

# Orange County "Pauses Further Action" on Orange-Holden-Gatlin Intersection

Sadly, any long-term fixes to the misaligned intersection of Holden-Orange-Gatlin (HOG) have been "paused" by Orange County again. They believe the "expenditures outweigh the benefits" for any of the proposed four realignments that have been studied, considering available financial resources and park impact.

As you may recall, Edgewood restarted discussion six years ago and petitioned the support of Orange County, after earning tentative support from Metroplan and FDOT, for a realignment of Holden with Gatlin through the corner of Cypress Grove Park. The proposed realignment would have required less than 2 acres of Cypress Grove Park, but Edgewood would have compensated by de-annexing nearly 10 acres of adjacent industrial land to the County for park expansion, resulting in a net gain of parkland. Commissioner Mayra Uribe, however, made the motion to kill the proposal and recommended another study, this time an alignment through the Fort Gatlin Shopping Center. As expected, this newest study found that alignment to be much more expensive and would require the taking of many more businesses and homes.

Despite our significant disappointment with the County's decision, the City had an opportunity to meet with County staff on March 13th. Everyone agreed that the operational and safety issues stemming from the intersection's current configuration will continue.

Although the long-term solution is paused, two short term fix proposals came out of the March 13th meeting, that include: 1) restriping the Orange Avenue northbound lanes south of Holden to enhance queuing for the northbound/westbound left turn movement; and 2) evaluating and adjusting signal phase timing at both the intersections. Additionally, the County staff proposed exploring solutions that could be implemented with minimal right-of-way acquisition, such as modifying the Holden/Orange intersection to accommodate a second northbound/westbound left turn lane.

We are hopeful that the County will "un-pause" the resolution of the traffic jams and safety issues at these intersections sooner than later, be it through additional funding mechanisms or another circumstance, and that we will not face another decade-long delay with a pattern that has existed since the 1970s.

Sincerely, John Dowless Mayor

# In This Edition

- Recap of Holiday Events
- 2024 EPD Officer of The Year
- Updates from City Staff
- Bulk Item Trash Pick-Up Info

# **Mayor's Beautification Award**

Edgewood's vibrancy is driven by the dedication of its residents and businesses. I would like to recognize two exemplary properties on Orange Avenue for the Edgewood Beautification Award. The Edgewood Beautification Award encourages residents and businesses to invest in their properties and contribute to our city's aesthetic. By recognizing outstanding efforts, we inspire continued improvement.



Before: 5205 S. Orange Ave



After: 5205 S. Orange Ave

The recipient of this award is Fulvio Romano, who owns two properties on S. Orange Avenue – the former Baby SuperStore at 5151 S Orange Avenue and the office building at 5205 S. Orange Avenue. Mr. Romano has committed to enhancing the aesthetic and functional aspects of his properties, undertaking significant modernization and cleanup efforts along Orange Avenue.



Before: 5151 S. Orange Ave. Photo By: Pedro Santin



After: 5151 S. Orange Ave

The impact of well-maintained properties extends beyond mere aesthetics. Studies consistently show that attractive neighborhoods and business districts have a positive influence on property values. This ripple effect benefits all residents, contributing to a stronger, more vibrant community.

The City of Edgewood congratulates Fulvio Romano and thanks him for his dedication. We encourage everyone to follow his example and contribute to Edgewood's ongoing beautification, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for our city.

# **2025 Municipal Election**

Congratulations to Mayor John Dowless and Councilmember Richard A. Horn, who will serve the City of Edgewood for another term. There was no municipal election on March 11, 2025, as the incumbents for Mayor and Councilmember were the only ones to qualify for those open seats.

Mayor Dowless and Councilmember Horn took their Oaths of Office at the March 19, 2025, City Council Meeting.



Mayor John Dowless



Councilmember Richard A. Horn

# Prepare!

# HURRICANE READINESS CHECKLIST

### Create an Emergency Kit

- 3-day supply: food & water
- · First-aid & medications
- · Battery-powered light & weather radio

### Stay Informed

- Follow reliable weather forecasts
- Register for local emergency alerts
- Keep a NOAA weather radio

### **Know Your Evacuation Zone**

- Learn local evacuation routes
- Follow local officials' plan during an evacuation order
- · Have a plan for your pets

### Make a Plan

Sincerely, John Dowless Mayor

- Find safe shelter locations.
- Map evacuation & meeting points.
- Communicate the plan to all.

### **Protect Your Home**

- Protect windows & doors.
- Secure outdoor furniture.
- Maintain trees/shrubs to reduce debris.

### **Stay Connected**

- Charge all electronic devices and have backup power
- Keep a list of emergency contacts
- Use social media to stay informed

HURRICANE SEASON: JUNE 1ST TO NOVEMBER 30TH



# Edgewood's Sidewalk Improvements

By: Sandra Riffle, City Clerk

The City of Edgewood will begin sidewalk improvements this year. Following a city-wide assessment conducted by staff, areas requiring immediate attention have been identified, paving the way for targeted repairs.



City Clerk Sandra Riffle

The initial phase of this project will commence in the Waterwitch area along with a few other high priority areas. We will address sidewalks that exhibit cracking, uneven surfaces, and other forms of damage. These improvements are designed to create safer and more navigable pathways for all residents.

If you do not live in the Waterwitch area, do not be concerned that we overlooked you. The City is adopting a strategic approach, prioritizing repairs based on our assessment, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to address the most pressing issues.

Your patience and cooperation are appreciated as we work to improve our sidewalks. Stay tuned for further updates as we progress towards project completion.



Code Compliance Officer Stacey Salemi

# A Clearer View: Edgewood's Updated Signage Rules

By Stacey Salemi, Code Compliance

As your Code Compliance Officer, I am reaching out with some important news regarding **window signage** in our city. The City Council recently approved some updates to our existing regulations, with the goal of improving the visual consistency and appeal of our business districts. We know your window displays are valuable part of your business, and we're here to help you navigate these changes smoothly.

These new changes were mandatory by December 31, 2024. To avoid a Code Compliance Violation, review the updated regulations and make any necessary changes to your window signage to ensure compliance.

**Transparency**: All windows and glass doors must remain transparent, except for permitted signage. Any window coverings should be consistent in color and material.

**Size Limits**: Window signs are now limited to a maximum of <u>6 square feet per sign</u>, or a combined total of 6 square feet for two signs. This measurement is determined by drawing a rectangle around the entire text area, including images and decorative elements.

**Neon & LED Signs**: Neon and LED tubing signs are allowed under specific conditions, including size restrictions and lighting requirements. These signs are only permitted in one window facing a road or parking lot, with a maximum area of <u>3 square feet</u>.

**Decals**: A dedicated area of <u>9 inches by 9 inches</u> on one door or a window adjacent to a door can be used for decals. Multiple decals should be stacked or positioned side-by-side in a straight line.

My goal as the City of Edgewood Code Compliance Officer is to gain voluntary compliance regarding code issues and educating the public on city codes. Following codes and maintaining your property helps make the City of Edgewood a beautiful and safe city! If you have any questions, please email me at: <a href="mailto:code.compliance@edgewood-fl.gov">code.compliance@edgewood-fl.gov</a>





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# WHY WASN'T MY TRASH PICKED UP?

# FCC Guidelines: The Do's and Don'ts of Edgewood's Bulk Waste Pickup

Bulk Waste/Large Item Pickup is collected every Thursday without requiring prior scheduling. Any items placed curbside on Thursday are considered bulk waste. FCC Environmental Services will collect up to 3 cubic yards of material per household. Please see some examples below of what is acceptable for regular bulk pick up and what is not.

### **Acceptable Bulk Waste**

- Appliances (stoves, toilets)
- Furniture (indoor and outdoor)
- Light Fixtures
- Mattress/box spring sets
- Televisions
- Large children's toys
- Bicycles, disassembled basketball hoops, swing sets
- Ride-on toys
- Recreational equipment
- One-piece formed plastic pools (disassembled)
- Strollers
- Vacuum cleaners
- Luggage
- BBQ grills (propane tank removed)
- Lawn mowers (gas removed)

### **Unacceptable Bulk Waste**

- Miscellaneous trash that fits in a garbage cart or overflow bag
- Construction and remodeling debris (boards, cabinets, carpet, flooring, tile, sinks, fencing, outbuildings, decks, pallets, dog houses, brick, concrete, doors, windows, siding, shingles)
- · Gas engines
- Car parts
- Pianos and organs
- Ping pong and pool tables
- Hot tubs and hot tub covers
- Pool pumps/filters
- Pool covers and diving boards

Note: Larger items such as basketball hoops, gym equipment, and swing sets must be fully disassembled, and all concrete must be removed from any poles or posts. Appliances must have the doors removed or securely taped shut. Pick up must be scheduled by resident or through a City of Edgewood representative. Refrigerators, window AC units, and appliances containing Freon must be taken to a landfill by the resident.





### **Lawn Maintenance**

When fertilizing, using the correct amount of fertilizer can save water and money, reduce the number of pollutants reaching waterways, and result in a healthier landscape. Overfertilizing will aggravate pest problems, stimulate excessive plant growth, and demand frequent irrigation.

Fertilizers should be used only when specific nutrient deficiency symptoms are evident. These deficiencies can be determined by conducting a soil test or analysis. Florida-friendly lawns require only moderate amounts of supplemental fertilizer once they are established.

Avoid overuse of fertilizers, especially near the water's edge. Rain and lawn watering can wash excess fertilizer into water bodies, where excess nutrients cause algal blooms and weed growth. The amount of fertilizer to apply depends on a number of factors, such as grass species, soil type and permeability, and your location in the state.

Apply fertilizers sparingly and follow the manufacturer's directions on the bag, in terms of the amount per application. Know exactly the square footage of your lawn that the bag of fertilizer is intended to cover.

Florida soil is naturally high in phosphorus, and a "no phosphate" fertilizer is fine for most mature lawns. Apply a phosphate fertilizer only if a soil test demonstrates the need. For information specific to your area, contact the local County Cooperative Extension Service.

The best fertilizers for healthy landscapes and the environment are those that contain a high percentage of slow-release nitrogen. Slow-release products stay in the soil to supply nutrients to plants over a longer period of time. The product label will identify organic, slow-release or controlled release nitrogen, sulfur-coated, IBDU (15N-isobutylidene divrea), or resin-coated.

Fertilize only during the growing season, which can vary depending on where you live in Florida. Allow a month between autumn application and the first freezing temperatures, which will make new growth less vulnerable to frost.

Use pesticides, herbicides and fungicides only when needed, and apply them responsibly, following the label's directions.

Cut your grass at the highest recommended height for your turf species or the highest setting on your lawn mower. Cut no more than one-third of the grass length at one time to encourage grass roots to grow deeper.

Keep mower blades sharp for a clean cut; dull blades tear grass, opening it to disease and increasing its need for water and fertilizer. Leave short grass clippings where they fall. The clippings reduce the lawn's need for water and fertilizer. Remove thick patches of clippings so that the clippings will not kill the grass underneath.

### **Stressed Lawns**

While it's important to know and follow watering restrictions, it is also critical to not water just because it's your day. Irrigate your lawn when it shows signs of stress from lack of water.

### Possible signs include:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your vard.
- Grass blades appear blue-gray.
- Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

For more water-saving tips, please visit <u>www.WaterLessFlorida.com</u>. Join the conversation on social media using #sjrwmd #waterconservation.





# Enjoy Edgewood Restaurants







Cafes and Bakeries

**Mecatos Bakery and Café** 5645 Hansel Ave

Formaggio & Friends 4745 S. Orange Ave

**Mochinut** 4741 S. Orange Ave



Anthony's Pizza 4967 S. Orange Ave

**Brazas Chicken** 4797 S. Orange Ave

Beth's Burger Bar 5145 S. Orange Ave

**Runabout Brewing** 4721 S. Orange Ave

The Porch 4757 S. Orange Ave

Sharon's Homestyle Cookin' 5601 S. Orange Ave

> Stone Fired Pizza 627 Hoffner Ave

**Vanbarry's Public House** 4120 S. Orange Ave



Quick Service

<u>Hong Fu</u> 5601 S. Orange Ave

<u>Buttercrust Pizza</u> 4781 S. Orange Ave

Smith's Homemade Ice Cream 4789 S. Orange Ave

Pizza Hut 5626 Hansel Ave



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# Ninth Annual Santa Fly-In

A Thank you to Our Community from City Hall

The Ninth Annual Santa Fly-In was a resounding success, bringing holiday cheer to over a thousand Edgewood residents and visitors! City Hall transformed into a winter wonderland thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Edgewood Police Department and community volunteers.

The festivities kicked off with a dazzling holiday performance by the talented dancers from The Dancers Pointe. Excitement peaked as Santa Claus made a grand entrance, greeted by Mayor Dowless and Police Chief DeSchryver.

In a heartwarming gesture, Santa presented Mayor Dowless and the City of Edgewood with a special key to the North Pole. The Edgewood Police Department ensured the safety of all attendees throughout the event, ensuring a joyful and safe experience for everyone.



Our Santa, Jim Rockford, is welcomed upon his arrival to Edgewood

The magic of this event was made possible by the Drummond family and Pete Madison. We're immensely grateful for their generous support and for Pete's expert piloting, bringing Santa's helicopter safely to our celebration.



Santa and Edgewood PD celebrate another successful event.

A heartfelt thank you is also extended to the incredible vendors and participants who made this event a great success! We are deeply grateful for the enthusiastic contributions of: Ace Wrecker, Beth's Burger Bar, Bounceworld USA, Charlie's Bakery, Chick-Fil-A: Orange Ave, Comfort House, Crimeline, Edgewood Isle, Funky Elephant, Jim Rockford as Santa, King's Cleaning Service, Kool Glow, Orange County Fire Department, Orange County Library Services, Popcorn Fix, Queely's Shaved Ice, Rock Paper Scissors Eat, Sarah's Fab Faces, Select Specialty Hospital, The Dancers Pointe, Tinto's International, and Uncle Tony's BBQ. Your dedication and support created a truly memorable experience for our community!

The City of Edgewood can't wait to celebrate kicking off the holidays with everyone again this December!





# **Banner Days Ahead**

Edgewood's New Business Initiative

By: Ashley Pagán, Administrative Assistant

The City of Edgewood is excited to announce a new initiative designed to highlight and support the city's growing business community: the "New Business Welcome Banner" rental program. This innovative program aims to draw attention to new businesses opening or relocating within Edgewood, ultimately boosting their visibility and attracting customers.

Recognizing the significant number of people who drive through Edgewood daily, the city believes these vibrant banners will serve as a welcoming beacon, encouraging residents and visitors alike to explore the diverse offerings of local businesses. The program allows businesses to rent a "New Business Welcome Banner" for a limited period, placing it strategically near their location to maximize exposure.

The City of Edgewood encourages all new businesses to take advantage of this opportunity to make a strong first impression and become an integral part of the Edgewood community. Details about the rental process, placement guidelines, and other relevant information can be found on the City of Edgewood's website or at City Hall.



Police Chief Dean DeSchryver

# Congratulations Officer First Class Chris Meade: Officer of the Year for 2024

By: Police Chief Dean DeShryver

As the Chief of the Edgewood Police Department, I am proud to announce Police Officer First Class Chris Meade as the department's 2024 Officer of the Year.

Officer Meade has been with the Edgewood Police Department for over 20 years. During this time, he has honed his skills as an instructor in many disciplines and currently serves as the department's lead in-service training instructor and field training officer program coordinator.

During 2024, Officer Meade oversaw the training of three new police officers as they progressed through the field training program. He personally served as a Field Training Officer to two of the three officers. He meticulously maintains the training records of all 14 sworn officers to ensure they are trained to the highest standards and maintain their state certification. He routinely seeks out new and innovative training techniques and opportunities.

Officer Meade handled several mental health calls while working at a church located in the city. Officer Meade worked to partner the church with Central Florida Behavioral Hospital to establish a program that can help those in need of professional mental health services without having to involve the police. One interaction with a person experiencing a mental health crisis led to Officer Meade earning an Award of Commendation.

As the lead firearms instructor, Officer Meade altered the department's firearms training to adapt to new firearm qualification standards set forth by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. While other agencies saw an uptick in officers failing to qualify under the new standards, our agency officers improved and all officers qualified under the new tougher standards.

Officer Meade serves on the Awards Committee and Policy Review Committee. Officer Meade currently holds instructor certifications in firearms, general subjects, CPR, TASER, chemical agents, reality-based training, SIMS marking cartridges, and DART (firearm simulation training system). He is also a certified armorer of Glock firearms and department patrol rifles. Officer Meade serves as the Department's union



2024 Officer of the Year Chris Meade

representative and holds a Board of Director's position with the West Central Florida Police Benevolent Association.

Officer Meade accomplished these feats while serving as a full-time patrol officer. Officer Meade serves the City with Excellence, Professionalism, and Dignity. I am proud to award him with the department's 2024 Officer of the Year Award.

Chris will be presented with the Officer of the Year Award at the April City Council Meeting.



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







# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



### Homes with Even Numbered Addresses

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



### Homes with Odd Numbered Addresses

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### Non Residential Properties

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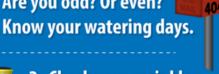
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# RESIDENTIAL WASTE INFORMATION



407-232-9990 or 877-642-3702



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
- 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 ielly
- 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

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# 405 Bagshaw Way Edgewood, FL 32809

Phone: 407-851-2920 Fax: 407-851-7361

Email: info@edgewood-fl.gov Website: www.edgewood-fl.gov

# **City Information**

# **Edgewood 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 Board

Ryan Santurri Chair
David Nelson Vice Chair
David Gragg Board Member
Todd Nolan Board Member
K. Charles Phillips Board Member

# City Hall Staff

City Clerk, CMC, CBTO
Project Manager
Administrative Assistant

Sandra Riffle Brett Sollazzo Ashley Pagán

407-851-2920 Monday Thru Thursday 8am to 4pm Friday 8am to noon

# **Police Department**

Police Chief Deputy Police Chief Code Compliance Police Clerk Dean DeSchryver Miguel Garcia Stacey Salemi Haymee Watkins

407-851-2820 (non-emergency) Monday Thru Friday 8am to 4pm Excluding Holidays 911 Emergency

