

# The Edgewood Exclusive

Spring 2026

## Lakefront Landscaping

Learn how simple lake-friendly fertilizing practices can keep your yard healthy while protecting our water quality, wildlife, and shorelines year-round. Read more on page 5.

## Holiday Recap

Thank you to our amazing sponsors for helping make this year's Santa Fly-In a success! Catch the event highlights on page 7.

## 2025 Officer of The Year

Officer Miguel Aponte has been named the Edgewood Police Department's 2025 Officer of the Year. Read more about his accomplishments on page 3!



Mayor John Dowless

## *Honoring a Life of Service*

### *Remembering Chris Rader*

The City of Edgewood is reflecting on the lasting impact of Councilmember Chris Rader, who passed away on February 14, 2026. Chris left behind a legacy of deep commitment to public service and a genuine dedication to our community.

*A Record of Service:* Chris began his formal service to Edgewood in 2014 on the Planning and Zoning Board. He was elected to the City Council in 2019 and most recently served as the Council President Pro Tem. Throughout his tenure, he was known for his principled leadership, balancing technical knowledge with a clear understanding of the City's role in the future.

*A Vision for Edgewood's Future:* Chris was one of the primary visionaries for the **Edgewood Central District (ECD)** from its very beginning. As a professional engineer, he used his technical expertise to advocate for a modernized, appealing commercial corridor where residents could gather. His background in engineering shaped his practical, solutions-oriented mindset, but it was his character, collaborative and principled, that truly defined his leadership without seeking recognition. He valued thoughtful discussion, respectful dialogue, and forward-thinking solutions that would strengthen the city for years to come.

He was the District's most passionate advocate, always pushing for high standards to ensure the city's vision was never compromised. To honor this dedication, the City Council passed **Resolution 2026-02**, officially renaming the area the **Chris Rader Edgewood Central District (CRECD)**. This designation ensures his vision is established as the blueprint for the district's transformation.

Chris Rader's influence will continue to shape Edgewood for years to come. He is remembered with deep respect by his colleagues, his wife Jennifer, his son Levi, and the many residents he served so faithfully.



Sincerely,  
John Dowless



City Clerk  
Sandra Riffle

# 2026 Municipal Election Update

By: Clerk Sandra Riffle

While the calendar marked March 10, 2026, as election day, a formal vote was not required this year. During the qualifying period, two City Council seats were open, and incumbents Susan Lomas and Chris Rader both qualified for the two open seats.

As you read in Mayor Dowless' article, the Edgewood community was deeply saddened by the recent passing of Councilmember Chris Rader. To ensure the City Council remained at full strength to serve the public, the Council met to appoint a successor for his seat.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ryan Santurri to the City Council. Mr. Santurri is a familiar face in our local government, having just finished two terms on the Planning and Zoning Board. His deep understanding of the city's land use and history makes him a strong fit for this role. Councilmember Santurri will officially take his seat and be sworn in at the April 21, 2026 City Council meeting. We are grateful for his willingness to continue serving our city.

## Councilmember Susan Lomas: Commitment Renewed

At the March 17, 2026, City Council meeting, Councilmember Susan Lomas took her official "Oath of Office" to begin her new term. In addition to her reelection, the Council voted for Councilmember Lomas to serve as the Council President Pro Tem. In this role, she will lead the meetings if the Council President is away, ensuring that city business continues to run smoothly for our residents.

Over the years, Susan has been a calm and thoughtful voice for our community. She is known for approaching every decision with care and preparation while keeping the best interests of neighbors at the heart of her work. She consistently shows a strong sense of duty to every person who calls Edgewood home. We thank Councilmember Lomas for her ongoing dedication and look forward to the work she and the Council will do together.



## Sustaining Our Community: *The Role of Permit Fees*

By: Brett Sollazzo, Permitting Manager

If you have ever applied for a city permit to build a fence, pave a driveway, or renovate your home, you likely noticed an associated fee. It is standard part of the process, but it often leads to a fair question about why these fees exist and how they are used. At City Hall, we believe in being transparent about the "why" behind our operations and how these funds help our community run smoothly.

### The Work Behind the Permit

At its core, a permit fee is designed to cover the actual cost of the work required to review, approve, and inspect a project. When an application arrives at City Hall, a detailed process begins. The City Hall team must carefully review plans for safety, ensure they comply with local zoning and codes; then inspectors visit the site to confirm the work is done correctly. These steps are essential to maintaining the standards we all enjoy in our neighborhoods.

### Where Property Taxes Go – Small City Reality

A common misconception is that property taxes, also known as ad valorem taxes, should cover all city services. While these taxes are indeed our largest revenue source, they are almost entirely dedicated to the high cost of essential public safety. Currently, the City collects approximately \$2,512,538 in property taxes each year.

However, the cost of Fire, Rescue, and Police services alone totals \$3,656,845. This means that public safety costs alone significantly exceed our total property tax revenue, accounting for about 75 percent of the City's total expenses.

To keep the community running, other vital services such as road maintenance, stormwater management, and the daily operations of City Hall must be funded through alternative sources. Permit fees "fit the bill," so to speak.

### The "User-Funded" Model: A Fair System for All Residents

This "user-funded" model is also a matter of fairness for all residents and businesses. By charging a permit fee, the cost of reviewing a specific project is paid for by the person performing the work and is not drawn from the general tax funds everyone pays into.

This "user-funded" approach helps keep the overall property tax rate stable for everyone. Without these fees, the City would eventually have to rely on broader tax increases to cover the administrative costs of private construction projects.

### More Than Just Paperwork

Ultimately, permits and their associated fees are not intended to be red tape. They are a way to ensure that the project itself covers the cost of professional safety reviews. These funds are used to maintain the city's high standards for construction and planning, ensuring that every project contributes to the overall safety and value of our community. Our goal is to provide a consistent, fair process that protects your property value and the long-term safety of our city.



Chief DeSchryver

# 2025 Officer of The Year - Officer Miguel Aponte

By: Chief Dean Deschryver

Officer Miguel Aponte has distinguished himself through exceptional performance, dedication, and proactive policing during 2025. In a relatively short time, about three years, he has established himself as a highly motivated and effective officer who consistently works to exceed expectations.

Officer Aponte leads the department in DUI arrests, demonstrating a strong commitment to traffic safety and the prevention of impaired driving. His expertise in this area extends beyond enforcement;

he also volunteers as a DUI instructor, sharing his knowledge and experience with fellow officers to elevate the overall effectiveness of the department.

Over the past year, Officer Aponte has shown marked improvement in report writing, producing clear, thorough, and well-articulated reports that reflect professionalism and attention to detail. This growth highlights his willingness to learn, accept feedback, and continuously improve his skills.

Officer Aponte maintains a high level of traffic enforcement activity and is consistently proactive in identifying and addressing violations that pose a risk to public safety. He routinely volunteers to cover vacant shifts, demonstrating reliability, teamwork, and a strong sense of duty to the department and community.

Additionally, Officer Aponte has demonstrated expert-level marksmanship, reflecting his dedication to maintaining critical tactical skills and officer safety standards.

Officer Aponte was awarded the Night Stalker Award in recognition of his actions during an arrest of an in-progress crime. Through keen observation, decisive action, and effective response, he successfully apprehended two suspects fleeing a burglary at a local business. This arrest prevented further harm and exemplified proactive, vigilant policing. Officer Aponte's performance, work ethic, and commitment to excellence make him worthy of the Edgewood Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2025. He is a credit to the department and a positive example for his peers.



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# Art

*By Chris*

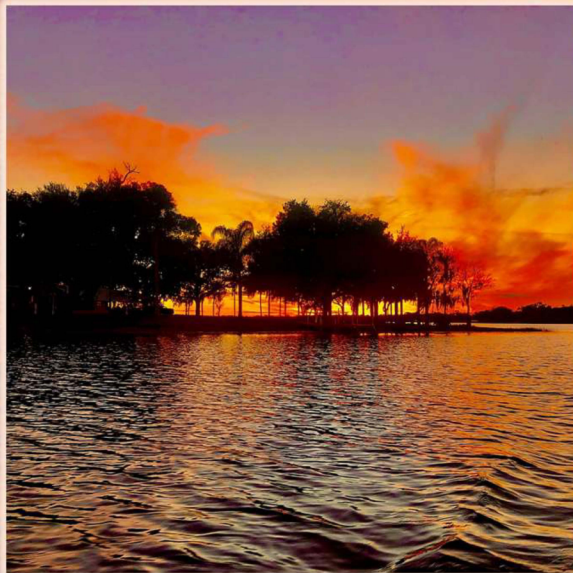
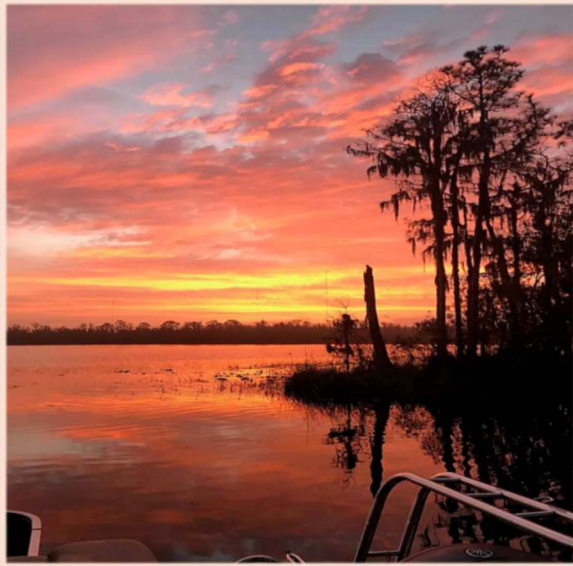
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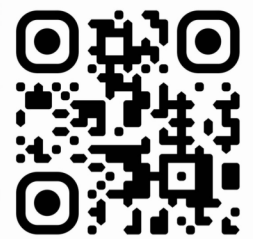
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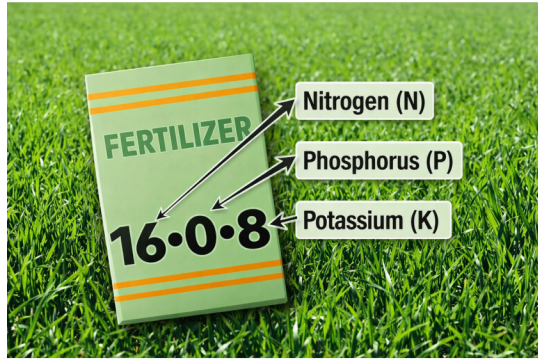
[www.artbychris.com](http://www.artbychris.com)

407-808-2347



# Protecting Water Quality, Wildlife & Our Shorelines

The way a lawn is maintained directly affects the health of Edgewood's lakes and waterways. To help protect our water quality and wildlife, Orange County's Fertilizer Management Ordinance (Chapter 15, Article XVII) provides simple guidelines. Less is more. Apply no more than 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application, with a maximum of 3 pounds per year. Always follow label directions.



**Choose phosphorus-free fertilizer** unless a soil test shows your lawn needs it. Most Florida soils already contain enough phosphorus. By reducing unnecessary phosphorus, the community helps prevent the algae growth that can cloud our lakes and harm fish.

**Protect Our Sensitive Waterways!** Creating a small "no-fertilizer zone" near the water prevents runoff from entering the lake directly.

These small steps in every yard add up to a big difference for the beauty and safety of Edgewood's natural water resources.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

# Watering Days



### Homes with Even Numbered Addresses

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



### Homes with Odd Numbered Addresses

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



### Non Residential Properties

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

## 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.

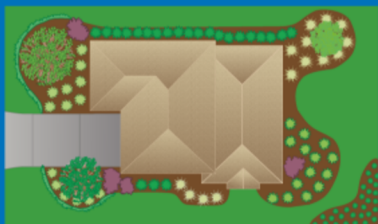


3. Turn off your sprinkler system if there's rain in the forecast.



4. Think "smart" irrigation technology.


5. Right plant, right place.





Learn more at  
[WaterLessFlorida.com](http://WaterLessFlorida.com)

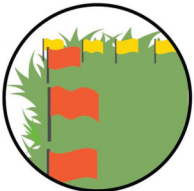
St. Johns River Water Management District

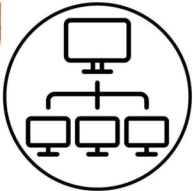
# Call Before You Dig Sunshine 811


- 


Excavation is planned. White lining your proposed dig site with white paint, flags or stakes is recommended, but required when a member utility cannot understand the locate description.
- 


Contact Sunshine 811 at 811 or [sunshine811.com](http://sunshine811.com) to request a ticket. A ticket is valid 30 calendar days.
- 

Wait for member utilities to clear or mark the dig site. They have up to two full business days for dig sites on dry land and 10 full business days when the dig site is underwater. The wait time does not include weekends and holidays.
- 

Member utilities send their locators to mark underground facilities within the required time. Sunshine 811 does NOT mark underground facilities.
- 

Each member utility responds to your ticket using a positive response code that indicates Clear or No Conflict, Marked, or Unmarked. Both Marked and Unmarked codes may have instructions requiring your response.
- 

Check the member's positive responses throughout the required timeframe to follow their progress. This also gives you time to respond to any instructions before the required wait time expires.
- 

All members have responded, and you have completed the tasks requested. At the dig site, pull up the member's positive responses once again before you put the shovel in the ground. Compare the positive response codes to what you see at the dig site. If they don't match, contact the member utility for clarification. Note: Using Exactix to access the positive responses gives you the most accurate information. Create your account today at [sunshine811.com](http://sunshine811.com).
- 

Once it's safe to dig, remember the marks are approximate and you must dig carefully near them. The underground facility's tolerance zone is 24 inches from the outer edges of a buried facility. Protect the locate marks throughout the project and request another ticket if the marks become faded or destroyed.

Member companies do not locate private facilities. Here are some examples of private facilities: water, sewer/septic, or irrigation systems; or landscape lighting; electricity to pools, detached garages, sheds/barns, data cables, invisible dog fences; or propane or natural gas run to grills or pool heaters, etc.).

# Thank You Sponsors!



Bailey's Medical Equipment & Supplies

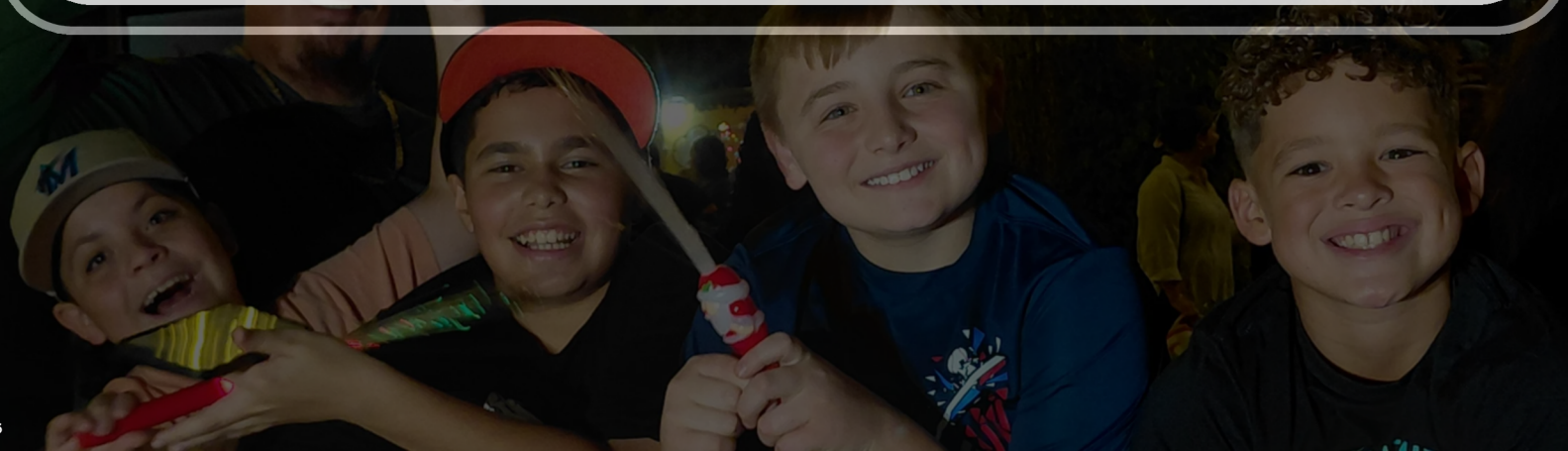
Covenant Cleaning

Oakridge Gun Range Inc.

Brinkman Accounting

Lucky Goat Coffee Co.

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# 10th Annual Santa Fly-In

## An Edgewood Holiday Tradition

The Tenth Annual Santa Fly-In was a wonderful celebration filled with holiday spirit, drawing more than a thousand Edgewood residents and visitors to City Hall for an unforgettable evening. Thanks to the generous support of our community sponsors and the hard work of Florida Legacy Lighting, City Hall was beautifully transformed into a festive winter wonderland for the entire community to enjoy.

The evening began with a lively holiday performance by the talented dancers from The Dancers Pointe, setting the stage for Santa's much-anticipated arrival. Cheers filled the air as Santa made his grand entrance, warmly welcomed by Mayor Dowless and Police Chief DeSchryver.

This magical tradition would not be possible without the continued generosity of the Drummond family and Pete Madison. We are deeply grateful for their support in safely delivering Santa to Edgewood once again.

The City of Edgewood would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our incredible sponsors and vendors who helped make this year's Santa Fly-In such a special event for our community. We are sincerely grateful to our sponsors – Ace Wrecker, Art Stone Surfaces, Baileys Medical Equipment and Supplies, Boise Cascade, Brinkman Accounting, Cassa Hospitality LLC, Covenant Cleaning, CPH Consulting LLC, Duke Energy, Edgewood Service & Tires, FCC Environmental Services, EOLA Power, Lucky Goat Coffee Co., Mecatos, Oak Ridge Gun Range Inc., Pine Castle Animal Clinic, Prologo, Shepard Smith, Suncoast Building Materials, Sunstate Ford, Thomas & Hutton, and Vanbarry's for their generous support.

We also extend our appreciation to our wonderful vendors and event partners, including Beth's Burger Bar, Charlie's Bakery, Chick-fil-A Orange Avenue, Deep South BBQ Co., Funky Elephant, Queeley's Shaved Ice, Rock Paper Scissors Eat, The Dancer's Pointe, Sarah's Fab Faces, Orange County Library Services, Bounce and Blast, and Comfort House. Your participation brought energy, fun, and festive spirit to the event, and we are truly thankful for your partnership and commitment to the Edgewood community.

Article Written By: Ashley Pagán, Administrative Coordinator



# EAT LOCAL

## DINE IN

Brazas Chicken  
4797 S. Orange Ave

Beth's Burger Bar  
5145 S. Orange Ave

Hoshi Hibachi  
4741 S. Orange Ave

The Porch  
4757 S. Orange Ave

Runabout Brewing  
4721 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

## CAFES AND BAKERIES

Formaggio & Friends  
4745 S. Orange Ave

Lucky Goat Orlando  
4753 S. Orange Ave

Mecatots Bakery and Café  
5645 Hansel Ave

Taino's Bakery  
4401 S. Orange Ave

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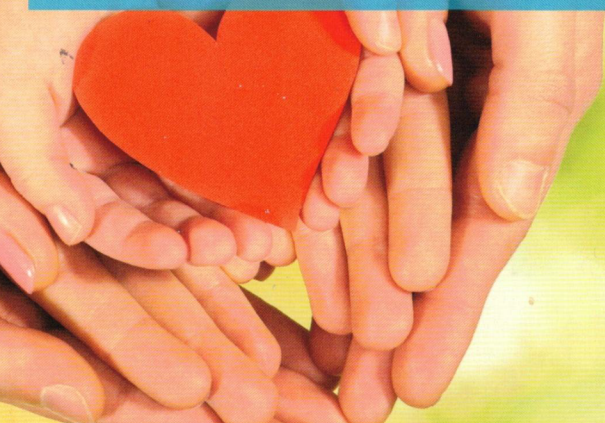
**LAKE CAY • 9938 UNIVERSAL BLVD. #120, ORLANDO | (407) 203-8100**

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

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## Report a Street Light Outage

The quickest way to keep your street safe and well-lit is to utilize [duke-energy.com/outages](https://www.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.

# Keeping Edgewood Beautiful:

Code Compliance's Friendly Guide to Residential Etiquette

By: Scott D. Zane

Living in the City of Edgewood comes with a certain charm—quiet streets, beautiful oak canopies, and a close-knit community feel. To help keep our neighborhoods safe and looking their best, the city maintains a few common-sense standards.

Whether you've lived here for decades or just unpacked your last box, here's a quick refresher on a few simple "Do's and Don'ts" of residential life in Edgewood.

### Paws and Paths: Pet Etiquette

We love our four-legged neighbors, but responsible pet ownership helps keep public spaces enjoyable for everyone.

*DO:* Keep dogs on a leash whenever you're off your private property. This helps keep pets safe and ensures other walkers feel comfortable.

*DO:* Carry waste bags during walks.

*DON'T:* Leave pet waste behind. Cleaning up is required and helps keep our neighborhoods and waterways clean.

### Curbside Manners: Parking and Vehicles

How we park our vehicles plays a big role in maintaining Edgewood's curb appeal.

*DO:* Park on paved surfaces such as driveways or designated parking areas.

*DON'T:* Park on the grass, which can damage landscaping and create ruts over time.

*DON'T:* Block the sidewalk. Sidewalks should remain clear for pedestrians, strollers, and wheelchairs.

### Yard and Home Maintenance

A little upkeep goes a long way in maintaining neighborhood pride and property values.

*DO:* Keep lawns mowed and edged.

*DO:* Store items like ladders, construction materials, and lawn equipment out of view from the street.

*DON'T:* Let yard debris sit for extended periods after landscaping projects.

### Why It Matters

Code compliance in Edgewood isn't about being nitpicky—it's about keeping our city a premier place to live, play, and invest. When we all do our part, Edgewood continues to shine as one of Central Florida's hidden gems.

Need help or have a question? Contact Code Compliance at [code.compliance@edgewood-fl.gov](mailto:code.compliance@edgewood-fl.gov).





# RESIDENTIAL WASTE INFORMATION



407-681-4675



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](mailto:info@edgewood-fl.gov)

**Website:** [www.edgewood-fl.gov](http://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  
**Melanie Judy**, 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  
**Susan Lomas**, Council President Pro Tem  
**Casey McElroy**, Councilmember  
**Ryan Santurri**, Councilmember  
**Beth Steele**, Councilmember

## Planning and Zoning

**David Nelson**, Chair  
**Caleb Castro**, Vice Chair  
**Evan Franco**, Board Member  
**Todd Nolan**, Board Member  
**Angie Sharp**, Board Member

## Stay Connected

Follow The Edgewood District on Facebook and sign up on [NextDoor.com](http://NextDoor.com) for important news.



**CONTACT**