

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.



LET FREEDOM RING!

Celebrate the 35th year of world-class fireworks at Lake El Reno! This is a great time to enjoy El Reno's recreational resources like golf, swimming, and more. Please note, popping fireworks is illegal in town, but you can enjoy a professional display at the lake!

DOWNTOWN TROLLEY

The historic Heritage Express Trolley, operated by the Canadian County Museum, is running every Saturday this summer from 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Trolley Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for youth 12 and under!

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 2nd - Coffee Connection @ El Reno Chamber Office

JULY 4th - City Offices Closed & Fireworks at Lake El Reno

JULY 9th - City Council Meeting

JULY 26-28th - Smoke on the Water (Boat Races on Lake El Reno)

AUGUST 1st - El Reno NOW



Mobility Hub

DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

The City of El Reno is systematically reactivating long-vacant downtown areas. Utilizing funding sources like the Oklahoma Route 66 Commission Grant, we are transforming the intersection of Route 66 and U.S. 81 at Sunset Drive and South Choctaw Avenue into a vibrant hub for residents and tourists. This area, including Petree Plaza and Mother Road Plaza, will soon feature the Filling Station (\$1.2 million received in grant funding). We are pursuing additional grant funding to create the Mobility Hub, providing a welcoming space for tour buses, caravans, and travelers. By attracting more visitors, this initiative will boost downtown exposure, support downtown commerce, and generate additional sales tax revenue as tourists shop at local businesses.

At the corner of South Rock Island Avenue and East Wade Street, the City has received brownfields grant funding from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to remove the fuel tanks and canopy from the long-abandoned gas station at 300 South Rock Island Avenue. Previously owned by an absentee landlord, the City acquired the site to reactivate it and eventually lease it out to a business. The project will eliminate potential environmental hazards, stimulate economic growth by attracting new businesses, and increase property values. These efforts will create a more attractive and vibrant downtown for residents and visitors alike.



FAST CONNECT

El Reno Fast Connect is now live in Holbrook Estates, bringing high-speed internet to the area. Our dedicated fiber crew is working diligently every day to connect new customers and ensure top-notch service. They will continue expanding the pure fiber network to reach more neighborhoods soon. Don't miss out on our referral program—ask about it today and see how you can benefit by helping friends and neighbors get connected with [El Reno Fast Connect!](#)



Reformatory Road



South Country Club Road

STREETS DEPARTMENT

The resurfacing of Reformatory Road is now complete, thanks to a successful partnership with Canadian County. This collaboration allowed us to extend the chip and seal project further down West Elm Street and along the south side of Lake El Reno near the RC Airpark. Additionally, the storm drain repair on South Country Club Road is still going strong, as contractors work quickly to open all lanes of traffic again.

UPCOMING RESURFACING PROJECTS

- South Alfadale Road - East Foreman Road to Route 66
- OKC 10th Street – South Country Club Road to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of HWY 81

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

The City of El Reno water utility is an enterprise fund, meaning the cost of our water operations is funded solely by rates, with no tax dollars used for water services. Like other businesses, our costs have been rising. We strive to operate our water utility as efficiently as possible. The majority of our employees live here, too, so we understand the impact a rate increase has on families and individuals. However, when our operational costs continue to increase, we must raise the rates to provide critical services for the community and to stay current with necessary improvements to our aging infrastructure.

UPCOMING WATERLINE PROJECTS:

- South Mitchell Avenue
- East Elm Street (Donald Avenue to Shepherd Avenue)
- Foreman Road (Keith Avenue to Sunset Drive)
- East Jenkins Street (Mitchell Avenue to Donald Avenue)

These upcoming projects ensure year-round water availability through ongoing maintenance and upgrades to our infrastructure. By investing in these improvements, we enhance service reliability, water quality, and sustainability, meeting growing demands and regulatory standards for the benefit of all residents and businesses in El Reno. To maintain transparency, we welcome any questions about upcoming projects or changes. Please feel free to reach out to me at msandidge@elrenook.gov.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The El Reno Fire Department and Dispatch currently have openings! Join our team and be a part of a dedicated group committed to serving and protecting our community. You can visit our website, [El Reno Employment Opportunities](#) for more information. If you're passionate about making a difference, apply today!

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Congratulations to the El Reno Carnegie Library for receiving a Citation of Merit from Preservation El Reno! Completed in 1905, the Carnegie Library is one of El Reno's oldest public structures. From a major remodel in 2019 to the recent addition of lighting fixtures and ongoing repair and maintenance, the Library and the City of El Reno are dedicated to its restoration and preservation.

JULY 2024

El Reno Carnegie Library

CAMP SUMMER READING

"Adventure Begins at Your Library!"

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday									
1 MUSIC MONDAY @ 10 TAI CHI @ 11 ADULT MURDER MYSTERY @ 5:30	2 BABY STORYTIME @ 10 ART LAB^ @ 1	3 STORYTIME @ 11	4 CLOSED	5 STORY & SONG (ONLINE)^ @ 11 LEGO CLUB @ 4 CARDIO DRUMMING @ 6	6 PAJAMA STORYTIME @ 10									
8 MUSIC MONDAY @ 10 TAI CHI @ 11 ADULT MURDER MYSTERY @ 5:30	9 BABY STORYTIME @ 10	10 STORYTIME @ 11 WOULD YOU SURVIVE? W/ SCIENCE MUSEUM @ 4:30	11 STORY & SONG (ONLINE)^ @ 11 LEGO CLUB @ 4 CARDIO DRUMMING @ 6	12 PLANT SWAP @ 12-4	13 HEALTHY COOKING CLASS @ 11									
15 TAI CHI @ 11 NO MUSIC MONDAY	16 BABY STORYTIME @ 10 ACOG BIKE SAFETY @ 1 ACOG BIKE SAFETY @ 3	17 STORYTIME @ 11 SENIOR CENTER CRAFT @ 11 HEALTHY COOKING CLASS @ 5:30	18 CARDIO DRUMMING @ 6	19 SPRAY BOTTLE PAINTING @ 3 ART LAB^ @ 1	20 EXTREME ANIMALS @ 1:15									
22 MUSIC MONDAY @ 10 TAI CHI @ 11 TEEN ESCAPE ROOM (ALL DAY)	23 BABY STORYTIME @ 10 SPRAY PAINTING W/ MURALS BY SUE @ 5:30	24 STORYTIME @ 11 TEEN BOOK CLUB @ 4 LIBRARY ON THE LAWN @ 6	25 STORY & SONG (ONLINE)^ @ 11 CODING FOR KIDS^ @ 2 CARDIO DRUMMING @ 6	26 ADULT BOOK CLUB* @ 1-2 AT IRON TREE	27 ADULT BOOK CLUB* @ 1-2 AT IRON TREE									
29 MUSIC MONDAY @ 10 TAI CHI @ 11	30 BABY STORYTIME @ 10 ART LAB^ @ 1	31 FIELD DAY @ 2												
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Babies (0-24 months)</td> <td>Teens (12-18)</td> <td>All Ages</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toddlers & Kids (2-6)</td> <td>Adults (18+)</td> <td>Kids (All Ages)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tween (7-12)</td> <td>Older Adults</td> <td>^ Registration Required</td> </tr> </table>						Babies (0-24 months)	Teens (12-18)	All Ages	Toddlers & Kids (2-6)	Adults (18+)	Kids (All Ages)	Tween (7-12)	Older Adults	^ Registration Required
Babies (0-24 months)	Teens (12-18)	All Ages												
Toddlers & Kids (2-6)	Adults (18+)	Kids (All Ages)												
Tween (7-12)	Older Adults	^ Registration Required												







CRIMSON CREEK GOLF COURSE

The Men's Golf Association at Crimson Creek had a great children's camp and experienced fantastic attendance in June. This free camp, held in partnership with MGA, introduced the fundamentals of golf to our youngest community members. Participants received excellent instruction from coaches, giving them a solid foundation in the sport. The camp was a hit, with kids eagerly learning and enjoying their time on the greens.



AIRPORT

Join us on September 28, 2024, for the annual Airshow & Community Day at the El Reno Regional Airport. Experience thrilling performances by world-class aviators, shop with local vendors, and enjoy fun activities for the entire family!

Individuals interested in setting up a vendor space at the Air Show & Community Day can sign up through our website, [El Reno Regional Airport](#).

For more information, please contact Katie Gore at kgore@elrenook.gov.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We are experiencing a busy construction season, with 21 new home permits issued in June—the highest number this year! Additionally, we issued 5 new commercial permits this year. This growth is a source of pride for our city. See the table below for details.

The Shed Bar & Grill, which opened in June, has brought additional energy to the 81 corridor, creating more activity and excitement in the area. Whataburger has been permitted, but has not started construction yet. It will be on South Country Club Road next to Burger King.

An iconic mural in downtown El Reno is set to receive a facelift. The “Crossroads of America” mural, painted by artist Chris Small, is a favorite subject for photographs by both locals and tourists. Chris Small will begin refreshing the mural's colors soon, restoring its vibrancy.

PERMIT TOTALS



Thank you for keeping up with the activities in El Reno!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Matt Sandidge, City Manager