

City Manager's Update

AUGUST

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.



Photo credit: Melinda Sue Gordon/Universal Pictures, Warner Bros. Pictures and Amblin Entertainment

TWISTERS!

The release of *Twisters* has brought new energy to Downtown El Reno. The successful filming, thanks to local businesses, volunteers, and supporters, showcases our town beautifully. Don't miss this chance to see El Reno on the big screen! While we respect the seriousness of storms, this film is a proud moment for us. It has already drawn positive attention to our community.

Also, if you haven't yet, enjoy a ride on the Heritage Express Trolley, catch a show at the Centre Theatre, or take a picture with our water tower!

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 6- Coffee Connection @ ICAN

AUGUST 13- City Council Meeting

AUGUST 15- ERPS First Day

(405) 262-4070 • P.O. Drawer 700 • El Reno, Oklahoma 73036



DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Downtown El Reno is buzzing with multiple buildings under rehabilitation, spurred by new private investments. The City's Downtown Revitalization Program offers a 60/40 matching grant up to \$5,000 for façade improvements, signage, and awnings.

In July, the City partnered with the El Reno Main Street program to seek a grant from the Oklahoma Route 66 Commission for updates to Mother Road Plaza and Petree Plaza (see above photo). Additionally, an application was submitted for Phase 2 of the Filling Station at the Mobility Hub aims to preserve the historic corner's look while adding parking for motorcoaches, cars, motorcycles, and electric vehicle charging stations.

The City is also requesting bids for sidewalk and curbing improvements to enhance the pedestrian environment and support downtown commerce.



STREETS DEPARTMENT

Our contractor finished up the South County Club Road drainage project adjacent to Adams Park. Our engineer is currently putting phase 2 of that project out to bid – this phase extends south along South Country Club (where the orange fencing is). This will upgrade our storm drain and serve us well for many, many years.

The roundabout at U.S. 81 and Route 66 is taking shape. This Oklahoma Department of Transportation project is slated to be complete Fall 2025. This project transforms an entrance into our City and will improve the flow and safety of traffic. Alfadale Road chip and seal resurface is complete. This project extended from Foreman Road to Route 66 and was made possible by a partnership with Canadian County.

UPCOMING/UNDERWAY RESURFACING PROJECTS

- OKC 10th Street – South Country Club Road to ½ mile east of HWY 81



FAST CONNECT

The El Reno Fast Connect fiber internet system is growing. We are starting fiber installs north of Amity Lane (in the South Reno Avenue/South Miles Avenue area). We are adding new customers daily and receiving positive feedback about the system and the speed.

One of the common comments we receive is the quality of our customer service during the home installs and technical support. All of our technicians are here in town and we are very responsive if a disruption occurs. For more information, see the QR code on the right.



PARKS

The Adams Park and Lake El Reno Master Plan survey is open and we need your help! This master plan will provide the vision for future recreation in El Reno. This plan is set to be completed Spring 2025. We look forward to hearing from you.

ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN SURVEY OPEN FOR COMMENT



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UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

We are excited to announce the completion of the new sewer line on South Bickford Avenue! This project enhances our sewer infrastructure and removes the need for a lift station on the 300 block of South Rock Island Avenue/South Bickford Avenue, ensuring efficient downhill flow.

The construction crew is now moving on to the next project at South Mitchell Avenue, which includes East Jenkins Street (Mitchell Avenue to Donald Avenue) and East Elm Street (Donald Avenue to Shepard Avenue). They will be upgrading the waterlines in this area, so expect to see ongoing construction. This project is partially funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

In our continued efforts to upgrade our waterline infrastructure and meet the needs of our growing community, we have several waterline projects in the pipeline. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress.

UPCOMING WATERLINE PROJECTS:

- Foreman Road (Keith Avenue to Sunset Drive)
- Jensen Road (U.S. 81 to South Reformatory Road)
- U.S. 81 (West Jensen Road to I-40)
- Radio Road (bore under I-40)

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Library is coming off a busy and successful Summer Reading program. Throughout June and July, the El Reno Carnegie Library put on 86 programs for a variety of age groups. In August, the Library will not be putting on programs; however, they will be busy planning out fall activities. Swing by, check out a book, and chat with our librarians!



AIRPORT

Join us on September 28, 2024, for the annual Airshow & Community Day at the El Reno Regional Airport. Enjoy a variety of food trucks, shop with local vendors, and watch a fantastic show right over El Reno Airport.

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



PUBLIC SAFETY

We have openings within our Communications Division of our Police Department and within Animal Control. You can pick up an application at the police station or on our website, [El Reno Employment Opportunities](#).

We are excited to announce our animal shelter is partnering with the Friends of the Animal Shelter to have a promotional microchipping event! The cost per microchip will be \$5 per pet. This is being conducted as a way to microchip as many pets as possible and also to educate pet owners on responsible pet ownership. Stay tuned for more information on dates and times.

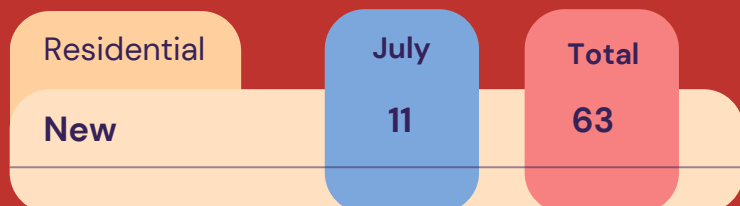


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Construction remains strong in El Reno. Dill Electric's new campus at 601 Southeast 27th Street is nearing completion. This represents a significant reinvestment in our community by a longtime local electrical contractor. We are thrilled to witness such a strong commitment to El Reno! Braum's has also broken ground on their new restaurant, located just off U.S. 81 next to Wendy's. This new "Fresh Market" model will also enhance our grocery shopping choices. Additionally, 11 new home permits were issued in July!

In addition to new construction, we have some significant demolition underway (see above). The Ponderosa Motel at 2408 Sunset Drive is currently being demolished. This structure has become a safety hazard and needs to be removed. However, its removal opens up new redevelopment opportunities along Route 66, and we are excited about the potential future projects in this area!

PERMIT TOTALS



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

Matt Sandidge, City Manager

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