

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.

FILLING STATION

The long-awaited remodel of The Filling Station kicked off on October 1, 2024, with a groundbreaking ceremony featuring Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell, Mayor Steve Jensen, and all city council members.

While the major renovation will happen during the winter and spring of 2025, changes are already in motion, starting with artist Chris Small restoring the iconic Route 66 mural. This project, supported by a \$1.2 million Route 66 grant, will revitalize the historic site and boost El Reno's presence along the Mother Road.



DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER 8- City Council Meeting

OCTOBER 10- Chamber Banquet

OCTOBER 24- El Reno NOW

NOVEMBER 5- Coffee Connection @ Russell-Murray Hospice



DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Multiple projects are currently in progress in Downtown El Reno, reflecting a significant blend of public and private investment. The old County Jail is undergoing roof repairs thanks to the efforts of Preservation El Reno. This project was entirely funded through private donations. This restoration preserves an important part of our city's history.

Additionally, sidewalk reconstruction is underway, funded by the City of El Reno. This project addresses necessary maintenance to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians traveling to downtown destinations. You'll also observe various construction activities by property owners throughout downtown, indicating a strong commitment to reinvesting in the area.

These developments highlight a period of growth and revitalization for Downtown El Reno.

STREETS DEPARTMENT

The Streets and Drainage Department has been busy with several ongoing projects. Last month, we received bids for the storm drain replacement on South Country Club Road (across from Adams Park). Staff will be recommending a contractor to the City Council for this drainage project. Additional drainage improvements are underway, including work on the drainageway between South Dille Avenue and South Jensen Avenue near West Odell Street, which will help maintain proper water flow.

Foreman Road, between Manning Road and Banner Road, is currently under construction. This project is a partnership with Canadian County District 1, where we supply the materials, and they provide the labor, allowing us to maximize resources for community improvements. Additionally, West 10th Street was resurfaced in September.



AIRPORT

Help us welcome Scott Law as our new airport manager! Born and raised in Oklahoma, Scott has a lifelong passion for speed and performance, ranging from motocross, sailboat racing, and airplanes to scuba diving, skiing and more. He served 27 years with the Oklahoma City Fire Department, responding to major events like the Murrah Building bombing. Scott also ran an IT consulting company, managing infrastructure for a large mortgage firm. A licensed pilot and long-time member of the Engineers' Flying Club, he's been active in aviation and sailing communities. He and his wife, Donna, often attend fly-ins in their Rockwell Commander 114.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The El Reno Carnegie Library received a Health Literacy Grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for the second year in a row. Last year, it funded free exercise and nutrition classes. This year, the grant will support the installation of a StoryWalk along the new trail at Lake El Reno, set to be completed in spring 2025.

The StoryWalk will combine outdoor activity with reading, offering a fun and educational experience for the community.



El Reno Carnegie Library

October



Monday	Tuesday	Wednes.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SCAVENGER HUNT UPSTAIRS ALL MONTH! 🕒 📍	SMASH BROS TOURNAMENT @ 4:30 ⚡	2 STORYTIME @ 11 🕒	3 ART LAB @ 4 📍	4	5
7 MAKE-IT MONDAY: QUILLING @ 5:30 ⚡ 📍	8 HOMESCHOOL HANGOUT. @ 10 TEEN SYNC: WRITING CLUB @ 4:30 ⚡	9 SENSORY PLAYTIME @ 11 🕒	10	11	12 GARDEN CLUB @ 11:30-12:30 📍
14 MAKE-IT MONDAY: QUILLING @ 5:30 ⚡ 📍	15 TEEN SYNC: CRAFTER-NOON @ 4:30 ⚡	16 WEDNESDAY PLAY GROUP @ 11 🕒	17 LEGO CLUB @ 4 📍	18	19 A black cat.
21 MAKE-IT MONDAY: QUILLING @ 5:30 ⚡ 📍	22 TEEN SYNC: BOOK CLUB @ 4:30 ⚡	23 WEDNESDAY PLAY GROUP @ 11 🕒	24	25 A black cat.	26 SPOOKTACULAR TRICK OR TREAT @ 10AM STOP BY THE DESK & SHOW US YOUR COSTUME! 📍
28 MAKE-IT MONDAY: QUILLING @ 5:30 ⚡ 📍	29	30 WEDNESDAY PLAY GROUP @ 11 🕒	31 STOP BY FOR A SPOOKY TREAT! 🕒	AGES 0-6 🕒	AGES 12-18 ⚡
				AGES 7-12 📍	ADULTS 18+ 📍
				AGES 13+ ✚	ALL AGES 📍
				YOUTH ALL AGES ⚡	OLDER ADULTS ❤️



FAST CONNECT

Our fiber internet system continues to expand! In September, crews extended service to new areas within El Reno (see green areas on map). Fiber construction will keep progressing throughout the city over the coming year. We'll keep you updated as new areas become available.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

El Reno City Manager, Matt Sandidge, has won the prestigious Don Rider Transparency in Government Award, presented by the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML). Additionally, El Reno City Clerk, Lindsey Grigg-Moak, has been honored as the Woman of the Year by OML.

Sandidge and Grigg-Moak accepted their awards at the OML conference in Tulsa on September 12th.





AIRSHOW RECAP

On September 28th, the skies came alive at the 5th Annual El Reno Airshow and Community Day! Visitors were treated to thrilling aerial stunts and family fun. A huge thank you to our amazing sponsors for making it all possible! Stay tuned for next year's date!

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

The South Mitchell Avenue waterline project continues to move forward, and now includes waterline replacement on portions of East Elm Street and East Jenkins Street. This project will enhance water service throughout the entire neighborhood.

Over the past three years, we've made significant upgrades to our water system. We've modernized our water plant, increased wellfield production, and replaced key waterlines throughout the network, with more improvements planned. These infrastructure upgrades have occasionally required adjustments to the chemistry of our water.

Our water plant operations are managed by a contracted company, Inframark: Water Infrastructure Operations. Our contractor conducts a variety of routine tests to ensure water quality is maintained. During routine quarterly testing, Inframark encountered elevated levels of trihalomethanes (THMs) at one testing location for two consecutive tests, exceeding the required threshold. They have since identified and resolved the issue.

It's important to note that this situation does NOT require an immediate response, such as a "boil order." If this was an emergency, you would have been notified immediately. Public notification is required by regulations and as we work with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to address the issue, you will receive an official notice with further details on the THM exceedance.

We remain committed to ongoing improvements in our water system and will continue working to prevent this from happening in the future.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

El Reno is seeing a surge in private investment with several major projects underway, including Liberty Oilfield Services, ViaCore Nutrition, Dougherty Forestry Manufacturing, and Dill Electric, creating hundreds of jobs. Gemini Coatings has also received zoning approval to expand locally.

El Reno is welcoming two new restaurants: Braum's at Crossroads Pointe and Whataburger on South Country Club Road. Supporting our local establishments is vital, as their success not only ensures they remain open but also influences future business investments in our community. Let's show our appreciation for those who have chosen to invest in El Reno.

In September, 30 new home permits were issued, marking record residential growth. This makes 98 new home permits for the year so far! As El Reno expands, let's welcome new neighbors and continue building a strong community.

Code Enforcement

Code enforcement is vital for El Reno's community and economic development, ensuring health, safety, and property standards. By maintaining clean and safe properties, we protect residents, encourage investment, and foster reinvestment, while also supporting our firefighters and police officers.

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

Matt Sandidge, City Manager