



# From the Desk of Mayor Jensen

Over the past few years, The City of El Reno has been working to build stronger relationships with our local partners. This spirit of teamwork has been key to moving our community forward and ensuring a bright future for everyone. Whether it's revitalizing our downtown, supporting local businesses, expanding education and job opportunities, or preserving our rich history, each partnership has played an essential role in making a real impact.

Each organization brings something special to the table. By joining forces, we've been able to tackle challenges and seize opportunities that none of us could have managed alone. For instance, our collaboration with El Reno Main Street has breathed new life into our downtown, pushing it to become a vibrant, bustling area. Together, we even applied for a grant through the Route 66 Commission to enhance the Mother Road Plaza downtown—a project that not only honors our heritage but boosts local businesses and attracts tourists.

The El Reno Chamber of Commerce has been a true advocate for our local businesses, helping them grow and thrive. Our work with the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics has opened new doors for airport growth, which in turn will create job opportunities and establish El Reno as a key player in Oklahoma's aerospace industry.

Meanwhile, Redlands Community College and Canadian Valley Technology Center have been instrumental in providing top-notch education and workforce training for our residents, ensuring they are equipped for today's evolving job market. The addition of the BPOC Academy at CVTech is a prime example of this, training police officers to keep our community safe for years to come. Additionally, El Reno Public Schools are giving our children a strong foundation, offering valuable opportunities that will benefit our youth and our future.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have been essential partners in shaping the cultural and communal fabric of our town. Their unwavering support has greatly contributed to our shared progress and unity. The Canadian County Museum also plays a pivotal role in preserving our rich history, educating the public, and operating the Heritage Express Trolley, an icon of our community. We are also fortunate to collaborate with many local nonprofit organizations that are doing remarkable work. I look forward to highlighting their contributions in future columns.

Recently, our city's collaborative efforts have paid off in a major way. El Reno was awarded \$1.2 million through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), funding that will go toward improving our downtown streetscape. This is the first phase of a multi-year project to enhance sidewalks, add new trees and landscaping, and make our downtown safer and more walkable. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the partnerships we've built, further demonstrating how working together creates lasting benefits for our community.

It's clear that our progress depends on these strong partnerships. Together, we're improving the quality of life for our residents, boosting the local economy, and building a community where everyone can thrive. By keeping these relationships strong, we're not just creating a better city today—we're paving the way for a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

Together, we're moving El Reno forward. Our collective efforts are making a real difference, and by sticking together, I'm confident that even greater achievements lie ahead.

*Steve Jensen*

