

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.

HUNGRY FOR HISTORY & ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL SIGNS

Last month, we proudly unveiled the *Hungry for History: Onion Burgers* historic marker, officially naming El Reno as the birthplace of the fried onion burger! This one-of-a-kind marker—the first in Oklahoma—was generously donated by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. A big thank you to Rhys Martin, president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, for making this project a reality!

El Reno also has the honor of being home to one of eight Route 66 Centennial Monuments. This sign, donated by BancFirst, is lit and serves as a marker of celebration for the upcoming centennial celebration of the Mother Road. El Reno's sign is located at Petree Plaza to be viewed by residents and visitors alike down Route 66 and Highway 81.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 10- City Council Meeting

DECEMBER 14- Holly Jolly Trolley & Christmas Experience

DECEMBER 21- Heritage Express Trolley with Santa

DECEMBER 24-25- Christmas / City Offices Closed

JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day / City Offices Closed



DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

There are so many holiday activities happening during the Christmas season! Main Street kicked off the festivities with the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7th. Visitors and residents alike enjoyed the bright lights, Santa's jolly smile, and parade floats decorated like "Christmas in the Movies."

December 14th marks more fun activities in downtown with the El Reno Christmas Experience & Holly Jolly Trolley! Attendees will be able to board the Heritage Express at the Holly Jolly Trolley Stop for a free ride/tour with Santa before venturing out into Downtown El Reno for a variety of Christmas themed experiences. You can build a toy in Santa's workshop at the Main Street office, decorate a cookie and grab a beverage at Iron Tree, make an ornament at Make It Sew, and more in downtown businesses.

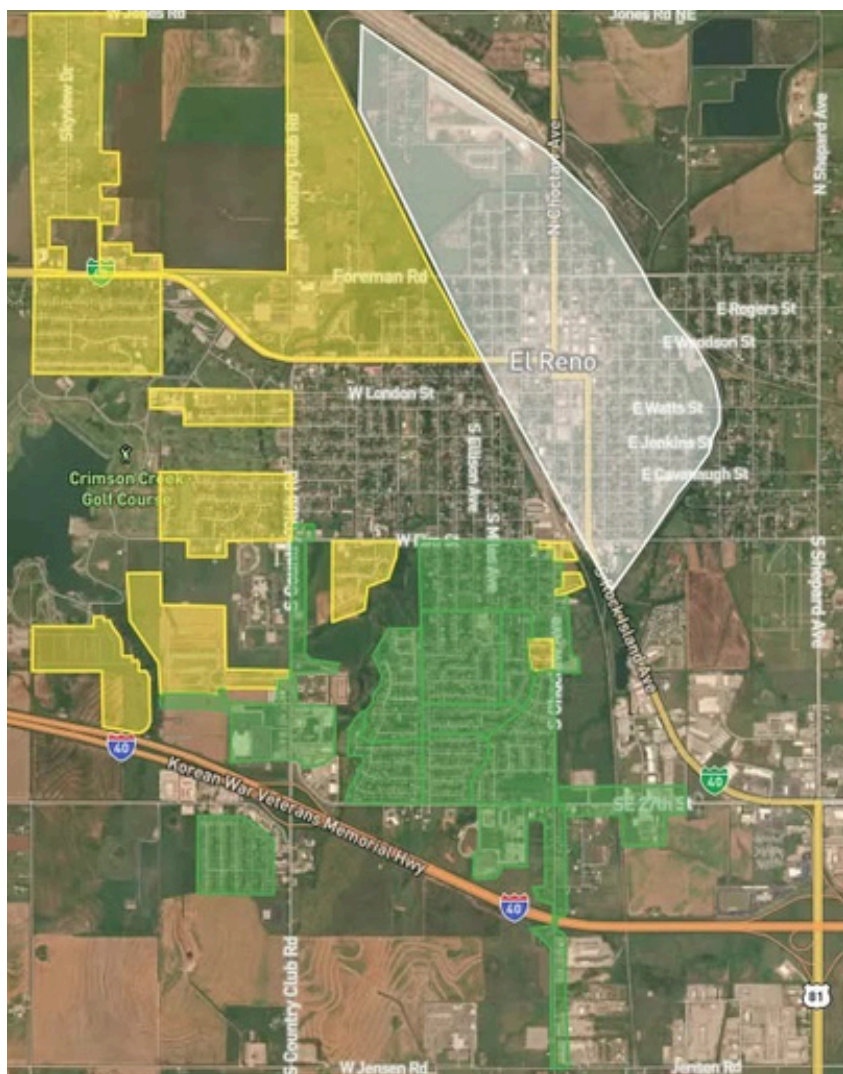
A final Christmas activity happening downtown is the Heritage Express Trolley with Santa on December 21st, put on by the Canadian County Historical Museum. Riders will board the trolley at the museum and enjoy riding through downtown El Reno with Santa Clause before returning to the museum to enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, a craft and story time in the Red Barn. Tickets can be purchased from the museum for \$10.

STREETS & DRAINAGE

Our contractor is beginning work on the storm drain replacement project along the east side of South Country Club Road, across from Adams Park. Following the heavy rains in late October and early November, the scope of this project has expanded. Our engineer is now developing plans to replace additional failed storm drains on South Country Club Road, closer to West Elm Street, as well as on South Boynton Avenue.

Additional contracted work is starting at the drainage channel between South Dille Avenue and South Jensen Avenue. This project builds on improvements the City completed a few years ago, further enhancing the efficiency of stormwater flow through town.

Meanwhile, our street crews remain busy with their regular tasks—filling potholes, cleaning storm drains and culverts, and repairing or replacing street signs. These essential activities often go unnoticed but are critical to maintaining our roadways. For our rural roads, a motor grader operator works on smoothing them for about two weeks each month to ensure they're in good shape.



FAST CONNECT

Here is a current city-wide map for Fast Connect! Green marks areas that are up and running, while yellow means those areas are under construction and will soon be online. White is the next phase of expansion! All residents within the city limits will be able to receive service from El Reno Fast Connect once the system is fully built. Our crews are working diligently to move as quickly and efficiently as possible. To learn more visit our website, [El Reno Fiber](http://ElRenoFiber.com).



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

The South Mitchell Avenue and East Elm Street waterline project is wrapping up! This upgrade is a significant improvement for the neighborhood and strengthens key water connections along East Elm Street. Residents in the area should experience better water pressure and fewer disruptions now that the aging cast iron pipes have been replaced.

In December, construction will begin at South Radio Road and Interstate 40. This project involves boring under I-40 to connect two dead-end 12-inch waterlines. Funded through ARPA dollars from Canadian County, this upgrade will create a looped system, increasing water volume and pressure in key locations. It will also make it easier to perform repairs while minimizing service disruptions for nearby customers.

Looking ahead, the next project will be on Jensen Road, west of Liberty Energy. This extension will connect a dead-end waterline to South Reformatory Road, forming another looped system. This improvement will enhance water volume and pressure for the Holbrook neighborhood and support future development near the El Reno Regional Airport.

These waterline projects are critical for El Reno's continued growth and development. Progress is happening, but there's still more to do!



AIRPORT

Our new Airport Manager, Scott Law, has hit the ground running, making significant strides in improving the El Reno Airport. Key projects include completing upgrades to LED runway lighting, the PAPI approach system, and REIL (Runway End Identifier Lighting) markers, as well as replacing outdated LED bulbs in Hangars #1 and #2. Security has been enhanced with fuel farm upgrades and rekeying of locks across critical areas, ensuring safety and loss prevention.

He also tackled much-needed maintenance, including leveling the grass runway, addressing water drainage, repainting safety pylons, and implementing a maintenance program for lawn equipment. Additional improvements include AWOS cabinet upgrades and fuel truck enhancements. These efforts reflect his commitment to enhancing safety, efficiency, and operational standards at our airport.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

In November, the library partnered with Redlands to host a successful FAFSA 101 workshop, offering valuable guidance for students and families. Due to its popularity, another workshop is planned for January—stay tuned for details!


The library's weekly storytime has been reimagined as Story Makers, an exciting new program that pairs captivating tales with hands-on activities for kids to enjoy.

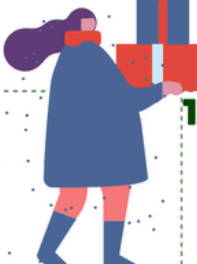



Mark your calendars for December 13 and 14! The Friends of the Library will hold another fantastic book sale at their new location in the nursery of the Presbyterian Church, located at 221 South Barker Avenue.

Don't forget to join the library's Winter Reading Challenge, running through January 31. It's the perfect time to cozy up with a great book as the chilly winds roll in!

El Reno Carnegie Library events

December



Monday	Tuesday	Wednes.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 TEEN SYNC: WRITING CLUB @ 4:30 ⚡	4 STORY MAKERS @ 11 🌙	5 CARDBOARD GINGERBREAD HOUSES @ 4:30 - 6:30 ⚡	6 	7
9 MAKE-IT MONDAY: PAINTING @ 4:30 ⚡	10 TEEN SYNC: CRAFTERNOON @ 4:30 ⚡	11 STORY MAKERS @ 11 🌙	12 COLOR YOURSELF COZY @ 4:30 ⚡	13	14 HOLIDAY STORYTIME @ 11 🌙
16 MAKE-IT MONDAY: PAINTING @ 4:30 ⚡	17 TEEN SYNC: BOOK CLUB @ 4:30 ⚡	18 STORY MAKERS @ 11 🌙	19 LEGO CLUB @ 4 🌙 GARDENING CLASS: NATIVE PLANTS @ 5:30 ⚡	20 SENSORY PLAYTIME @ 11 🌙	21 
23 NO MAKE-IT MONDAY	24 closed	25 closed	26 	27 28 REGISTER FOR WINTER READING!!	
30 MAKE-IT MONDAY: PAINTING @ 4:30 ⚡	31 	1 closed	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>🌙 AGES 0-6</p> <p>🌙 AGES 7-12</p> <p>🌙 YOUTH ALL AGES</p> </div> <div> <p>⚡ AGES 12-18</p> <p>🌟 ADULTS 18+</p> <p>⚡ ALL AGES</p> <p>❤️ OLDER ADULTS</p> </div> </div>		



PARKS

The Parks Department, with help from the Streets Department, has done an outstanding job decorating our town for Christmas. Be sure to check out the festive lights downtown or take a stroll through Legion Park to soak in the holiday spirit. This is such a special time of year, and our city crews have put in a lot of effort to make El Reno shine for the season.

The Adams Park/Lake El Reno Master Plan is coming along well. In November, we hosted a workshop with great participation from the community. Residents shared their ideas by marking up maps of the park and lake, suggesting potential improvements for the recreational areas. Our consultant, Halff, recently presented their findings to the City Council, highlighting insights from public outreach and the community survey. The team has done a fantastic job finding common ground with residents, and I'm looking forward to the next steps, which will include project recommendations and setting priorities.

The Crimson Creek Golf Course has adjusted rates for the winter:

Weekday Rates (Includes Tax):

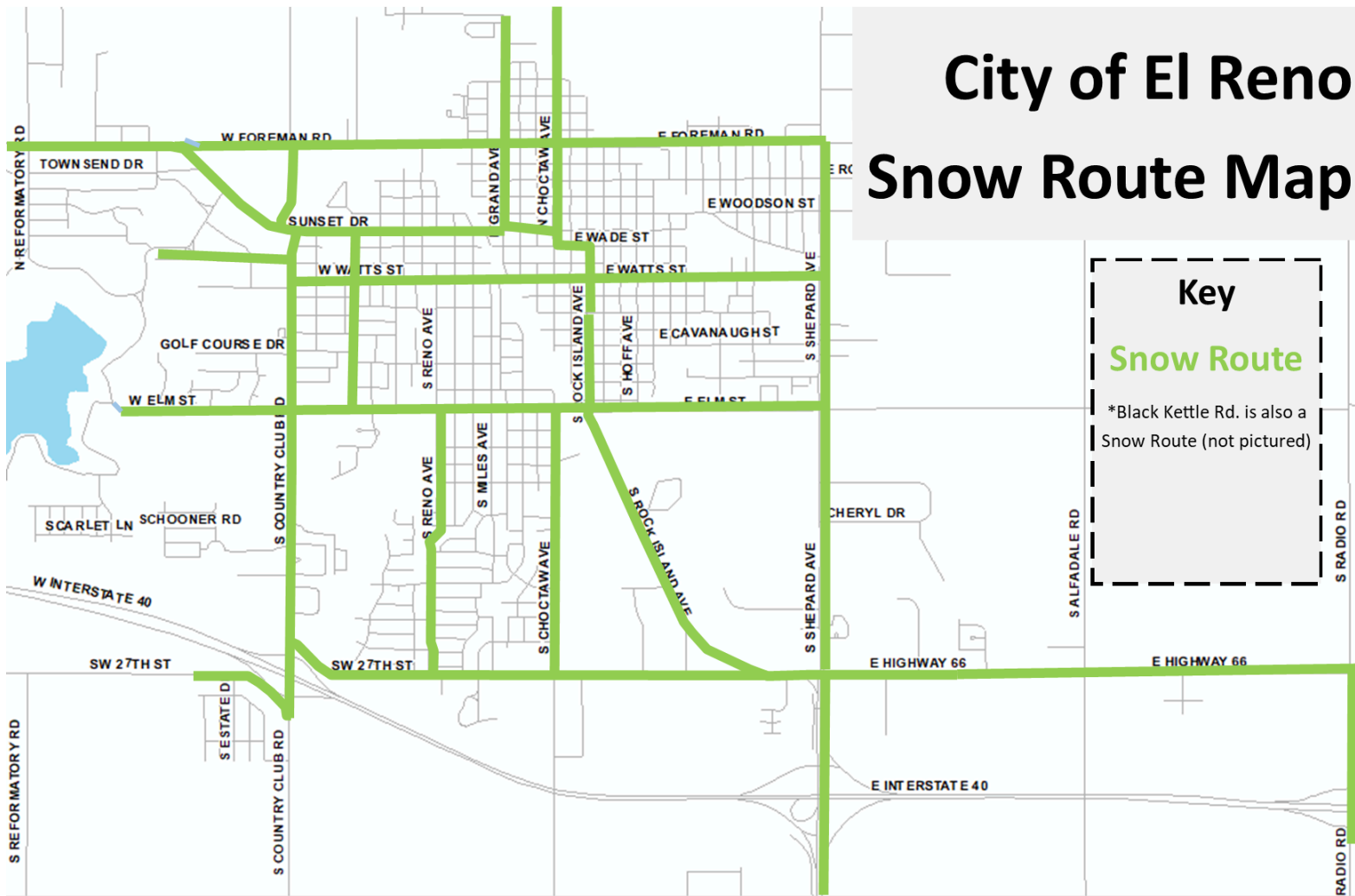
- 9 Holes Walking: \$12.00
- 9 Holes with ½ Cart: \$20.00
- 18 Holes Walking: \$18.00
- 18 Holes with ½ Cart: \$33.00

Senior 60+ & Junior/Student Rate: Weekday Only Riding \$29.00

Weekend Rates (Saturday & Sunday) Includes Tax:

- 9 Holes Walking: \$18.00
- 9 Holes with ½ Cart: \$25.00
- 18 Holes Walking: \$28.00
- 18 Holes with ½ Cart: \$43.00

City of El Reno Snow Route Map



PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of El Reno has exciting openings in our Communications Department, Police Department, and we're hiring for an Emergency Management Director! If you want to be part of a dedicated team, consider applying today! You can find the application on our website, [Employment Opportunities](#).

As winter weather approaches, we encourage all residents to take proactive steps to stay safe and prepared. To ensure efficient snow and ice removal, the City has designated specific snow routes, highlighted in the illustration above. These routes are prioritized for clearing to maintain safe passage for emergency services and essential travel.

What You Can Do to Help:

- Avoid parking on snow routes when winter weather is expected to allow for quicker and more effective snow removal.
- Clear sidewalks in front of your home to prevent hazardous conditions for pedestrians.
- Prepare your home and vehicle with winter essentials like blankets, non-perishable food, water, flashlights, and ice scrapers.
- Stay updated on weather conditions through local news or reliable weather apps.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ViaCore Nutrition (above photo) is putting the finishing touches on its 60,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, a fantastic addition to our community that will create new job opportunities for local residents. The facility is located on Jensen Road, across from Liberty Energy, that is also working on a significant manufacturing expansion of its own.

On the residential side, growth continues to exceed expectations, with 15 new home permits issued in November alone. The pace of new home construction in 2024 has been remarkable, reflecting strong demand in our community. Meanwhile, we're eagerly awaiting the opening of Whataburger on Country Club Road. Construction is nearing completion, and soon residents and visitors will have another great dining option in town.

In other updates, the City has canceled the demolition contract with Knowledge Works Environmental for the Ponderosa Hotel due to non-performance. City Council will consider awarding the contract to the next best bidder to keep the project moving forward. While the process has taken longer than we'd like, the ultimate goal remains clear: removing this safety and health hazard from Route 66 and beginning the redevelopment process for this key site.

PERMIT TOTALS



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

Matt Sandidge, City Manager