

El Reno Insights

It's good to be here.

GROWTH AT EL RENO REGIONAL AIRPORT

There's a lot happening at the El Reno Regional Airport as we head into 2025. Last month, we opened bids for our new terminal construction, and those bids will be reviewed by the Airpark Authority at the February 18th meeting. This project is backed by a \$1 million grant from the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics (ODAA), with a local match, to enhance airport facilities and support future growth.

At the same time, private investment is taking off. The Caldwell Collection has leased one of our historic World War II-era hangars and is putting nearly \$2 million into restoring it. Their plan is to create a museum showcasing rare, fully operational historic aircraft—planes that will make great use of our well-regarded grass runway.

With both public and private investment moving forward, the airport is poised for meaningful growth this year. These projects will strengthen its role in regional aviation and bring new opportunities to El Reno. More updates to come as things progress!



DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 17- President's Day/City Offices Closed

FEBRUARY 18- City Council Meeting



DOWNTOWN HIGHLIGHTS

Work on The Filling Station is moving quickly! This week, crews began pouring concrete, and this process will continue in the coming weeks. As part of the project, a temporary lane closure will be necessary on South Choctaw Avenue and Sunset Drive to rebuild parking areas and sidewalks, but disruptions will be minimal.

Over the next couple of months, it will be exciting to watch this historic Route 66 building transform into El Reno's new tourist and visitors center. We'll keep sharing updates as progress continues!

STREETS & DRAINAGE

The Street Department is staying busy with several important projects this month. Work is underway on the Country Club storm drain replacement across from Adams Park, a major infrastructure improvement. South Country Club Road is choked down to two lanes at this location. At the same time, design is in progress for the Boynton drainage project, and crews are continuing drainage improvements along the 81 Service Road. At the January City Council meeting, the City Council passed an emergency resolution to begin replacing a portion of retaining wall in the drainageway north of Sunset Drive at S Reno Ave.

Additional efforts include right-of-way cleanup, hauling rock and grading rural roads—including Northwest 122nd Street, Reformatory Road, Chiles Road, Airport Road, Evans Road, and Radio Road. We are performing bridge maintenance based on the latest Oklahoma Department of Transportation inspection. Crews are also working on removing boulders at the Highway 66/81 roundabout location as construction continues to progress. We are replacing culverts at Oil Patch Road and Alfadale Road, and refacing stop signs and speed limit signs throughout the city.

These projects help maintain and improve our roadways, ensuring safer and more reliable infrastructure for residents and visitors.



PUBLIC SAFETY

The El Reno Fire Department was honored as the January Fire Station of the month by 99.7 The Wolf and the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association! They were nominated by numerous listeners and received free pizza from Little Caesars and baked goods from Okie Dokie Bakery to celebrate.



UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

We currently have a very boring project underway—literally! Crews are in the process of boring Interstate 40 to install a 12-inch water main, completing a critical waterline loop that will improve resiliency, volume, and pressure in the area. This is the first of three planned water projects south of I-40 that will support growth in the coming years. These improvements are made possible through our partnership with Canadian County and the ARPA funding they provided.

In addition, a contract has been awarded for the construction of a new waterline along Foreman Road from Keith Avenue to Sunset Drive, further strengthening our infrastructure. Looking ahead, we will soon advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the operation of our water and wastewater plants.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library will be hosting another fantastic book sale on February 14 & 15! Stop by to browse a great selection of books while supporting library programs. Meanwhile, our teen visitors have requested a monthly study night, and we're giving it a trial run this month—stay tuned for details!

In other news, the annual Crowns Tea has been rescheduled to March 15, but we look forward to an elegant and inspiring event. And though summer may seem far away, we're already gearing up for our Summer Reading Program! This year's theme, Color Our World, promises a season full of creativity and fun for all ages. Stay tuned for more updates!

See the calendar below to check out all the fun programs going on this month!

<h1>February</h1> <p><i>El Reno Carnegie Library events</i></p>					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 AGES 0-6  AGES 7-12  YOUTH ALL AGES	 AGES 13-18  ADULTS 18+  ALL AGES  OLDER ADULTS				 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 AGES 0-6  AGES 7-12  YOUTH ALL AGES	 AGES 13-18  ADULTS 18+  ALL AGES  OLDER ADULTS				 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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FAST CONNECT

Two new areas went live in January for El Reno Fast Connect, the Wessex Addition and the Golf Course Drive area! Our crews are working diligently to move as quickly and efficiently as possible. To learn more, visit our website, [El Reno Fiber](#).



PARKS

Even in the offseason, our Parks Department is hard at work ensuring our parks and facilities are in top shape for the coming year. This month, crews are continuing tree trimming and removal in various parks to maintain safety and aesthetics. Preparations are also underway for spraying all parks and the cemetery to keep our green spaces healthy and well-maintained.

Playground areas are receiving attention as well, with ongoing maintenance, cleaning, and the refreshing of playground chips to ensure safe play environments for children. Additionally, park restrooms are getting a fresh coat of paint to enhance their appearance and maintain cleanliness.

These efforts help ensure our parks are ready to welcome everyone as we move into spring.

SENIOR CENTER

Looking for a great meal and good company? Stop by the El Reno Senior Center and enjoy a delicious lunch provided daily by The Shed Bar & Grill! Lunch is served at noon, Monday through Friday, with the center open from 10 AM to 2 PM for socializing, games, and activities.

A small donation is welcomed: \$4 for patrons age 55+ and just \$2.50 for those 60+.

Don't miss out on the fun! Check out the calendar below to see all the exciting events and activities happening this month. We look forward to seeing you there!

February 2025

MON-FRI 10AM-2PM
LUNCH SERVED
AT NOON

\$2.50 DONATION
FOR 60+
\$4 DONATION
FOR 55+

FOOD PROVIDED
BY
THE SHED
BAR & GRILL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 VALENTINE CRAFT PROJECT 10:30	4 CHAIR STRETCHES 11:00	5 BINGO AT 12:45	6 INDOOR BEACH VOLLEYBALL 10:30	7 PAINTING ON CANVAS 12:45	8
9	10 ARTS AND CRAFTS WITH SHANNON OF HEARTLAND FINANCIAL 10:30	11 BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	12 BINGO AT 12:45	13 CORNHOLE 10:30	14 VALENTINE CELEBRATION	15
16	17 PENCIL DRAWING 10:30	18 FOCUSED BREATHING CLASS 11:00	19 BINGO AT 12:45	20 OKC MUSEUM OF ART FIELD TRIP 12:45 PM	21 PENCIL DRAWING 12:45	22
23	24 PAPER COLLAGE 10:30	25 BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	26 BINGO AT 12:45	27 SCRABBLE 10:30	28 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION	1
2	3 ADVANTAGE Insurance Group	4 BancFirst	5 EL RENO FAMILY DENTISTRY GENERAL COSMETIC IMPLANT SEDATION™	6 InterBank	7 BLANC FARMS 2019 OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL FARM 7850 S. REFORMATORY ROAD EL RENO, OKLAHOMA 73036 (405) 262-7303	8 EL RENO



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The year is off to a strong start, with both redevelopment and new growth taking shape across El Reno. We've begun refreshing dilapidated sites, starting with the demolition of the Ponderosa Motel and the old car wash on Sunset Drive (Route 66). These removals are the first steps in revitalizing the Route 66 Corridor, laying the groundwork for future investment and redevelopment.

Meanwhile, new development is moving forward at a steady pace. Whataburger is now open, bringing a new dining option to residents and drawing travelers off the interstate. The new Braum's at U.S. 81 and Crossroads Pointe is nearing completion, while across the highway, a Casey's General Store is quickly taking shape.

With both redevelopment and new projects progressing, 2025 is shaping up to be a year of significant growth for El Reno. More updates to come as these projects move forward!

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

Matt Sandidge, City Manager