



E~Mail Newsletter

7 June 2024

Volume 145, Number 1

Meeting Dates

JUNE

- 11th - BMIA
- 11th - City Council
- 13th - Planning Comm
- 17th - Tourism Board
- 18th - Bd of Adjustment

*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
122 N. Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

Advertisement for Bids

The City of Blanchard will receive separate sealed bids for Section Line Road Paving Improvements - Phase 2. Bids will be received at City Hall, located at 2008 N. Council Rd., Blanchard, OK 73010, until 11:00 AM, Thursday, June 26, 2024. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, at 11:00 AM at City Hall.

Project to include the following:

Remove existing paving, subgrade prep, stabilized base, asphalt, driveway culverts and re-establishing roadside ditches on approximately 3.5 miles of section line roads.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 11:00 am, at City Hall, located at 2008 N. Council Rd., Blanchard, OK.

All work shall be performed, and all construction and material used and furnished shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Glenn Sullivan & Associates, Inc., and on file in the office of the City Clerk, located at City Hall.

The Notice to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans and Specifications, Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Statutory Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the following:

1. City Hall
2008 N. Council Rd.
Blanchard, OK 73010
(405) 485-9392

A complete set of Plans and Specifications to prospective bidders may be obtained at the office of Glenn Sullivan & Associates, Inc. upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00. An electronic set of plans and specifications is available at no cost. Please contact the engineer at planroom.gsa@gmail.com.

Each bidder shall accompany his original bid, with a certified or Cashier's Check on a solvent bank located in Oklahoma or a Bidder's Bond, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount bid, as a guarantee of his ability to perform the contract bid upon, and that he will enter into a written contract with the Owner to perform said work and/or furnish said materials in accordance with said plans and specifications and furnish the required bonds within seven (7) days

Special Events

JUNE

8th ~ Farmers Market

14th ~ Flag Day

15th ~ Farmers
Market

15th ~ Youth Fishing
Derby

16th ~ Father's Day

20th ~ Summer
Begins

22nd ~ Farmers
Market

29th ~ Farmers
Market

For more info, visit the Parks
Facebook Page regarding
City sponsored events.

For Blanchard City events:
Please visit our website at
www.cityofblanchard.us

Library Events: Please visit
their website @
<https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

after the acceptance of his bid.

The deposit will be retained by the Owner as, and for, liquidated damages in case the successful bidder fails to enter into said contract and furnish the required bonds provided for in the specifications within the time required.

Deposit of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon the execution of the Contract and required bonds.

Each bidder shall accompany his bid with a sworn statement in writing that the Bidder has not directly or indirectly entered into an agreement, express or implied, with any other bidder or the price or amount of such bid or any bids, the limiting of the bids or bidders, the paying to anyone any money for promotion expenses, the parceling or farming out to any bidder or bidders or other persons of any part of the contract or any part of the subject matter of the bid or of the profits thereof.

A Performance, Maintenance and Statutory Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract price with a Corporate Surety licensed in Oklahoma and approved by the Owner and Engineer, will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, and the bidder shall state in the proposal the name and address of the Surety or Sureties who will sign this bond in case the contract is awarded to him. The Maintenance Bond required will guarantee the repair of all damage due to improper materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year after the acceptance of the work by the Owner.

All bids shall remain on file at least forty-eight (48) hours. Bids received more than ninety-six (96) hours prior to the Bid Opening will be returned.

Contract to be awarded to low responsive responsible bidder.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bidding and the right to reject any and all bids in accordance with the Oklahoma Competitive Bidding Act. Conditional bids shall not be accepted.

Agritourism

Strawberry season is upon us and you have the opportunity to pick your own berries. You can bring the whole family and spend the day picking fresh strawberries!

Below is a list of u-pick strawberry farms in central Oklahoma near you:

- Buffalo Creek Berry Farm | Mustang, OK
- Growing Paynes | Mustang, OK
- McRay Farms, Luther, OK

BETA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority, a

After Hours

- * water leaks
- * waterline breaks
- * sewer backups
- * sewer line breaks
- * lift station alarms
- * manholes over flowing
- * low-water pressure
- * no water
- * potholes
- * road repairs
- * signs missing
- * signs down
- * roadway flooding
- * debris in road
- * street lite out

Please call
405.485.9391.

The Blanchard
Emergency
Communications
Center is 24-7 and
will contact the on-
call personnel
regarding the
incident.

public trust, held their June meeting on Monday, June 3rd and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- Discussed Economic Development re:
 - Industrial Prospects; and
 - Commercial Prospects.
- Discussed the status of TIF No. 2.
- Discussed the status of TIF No. 3.
- Set the FYE2025 Budget Proposal.
- Approved the Consent Docket.
- Held an Executive Session ~ Commercial.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 5th.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard has the following positions open:

- 3 ~ Police Officers;
- 1 ~ Water & Sewer Utilities Technician;
- 1 ~ Sanitation Worker (Transfer Center);
- 1 ~ Heavy Equipment Operator;
- 3 ~ Seasonal Street Workers;
- 4 ~ Line Install Crew;
- 1 ~ Receptionist;
- 1 ~ City Planner; and
- 1 ~ Dispatcher.

Applications available for download from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Return to the HR Director at payroll@cityofblanchard.us or drop off at City Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue. The City is an EOE. Positions are open until filled.

Farmers' Market

The annual Blanchard Farmers' Market is opened every **Saturday** beginning at **8am** thru **September**.

The Market is located on US-62 across from Ten Arrows Coffee and Bistro and the new Veterans Memorial.



Father's Day

Like Mother's Day, Father's Day has a modern origin. The idea came to Mrs. John Dodd as she sat listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

Her father, William Smart, had raised his children alone on his Washington

Shop Local

Here's what happens when you "shop local."

1. For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 stays in Blanchard. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community*.

2. You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?

3. Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4. Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify the community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong - in Blanchard.

7. Locally owned

farm after his wife died giving birth to their sixth child. Mrs. Dodd proposed to the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA that they celebrate a "father's day" on June 5, her father's birthday. The idea received strong support, but the good ministers of Spokane asked that the day be changed to give them extra time to prepare sermons on the unexplored subject of fathers. The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, and soon other towns had their own celebrations. In spite of widespread support, Father's Day did not become a permanent national holiday until 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed a law declaring that it be celebrated annually on the third **Sunday** in **June** (16th).

Flag Day

People across America will celebrate Flag Day on **June 14** each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption. On the same day, the United States Army celebrates its birthday.

Flag Day falls within National Flag Week (**June 11th - 17th**),

a time when Americans reflect on the foundations of the nation's freedom. The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. During both events, Americans also remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirm their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity.

Many people in the United States honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes and public buildings. Other popular ways of observing this holiday include: flag raising ceremonies; Flag Day services; school quizzes and essay competitions about the American flag; musical salutes; street parades; and awards for special recognition.

Organizations such as The National Flag Day Foundation are actively involved in coordinating activities centered on the event and keeping the flag's traditions alive. Following Flag Day is Honor America Days, a 21-day period through to Independence Day (July 4) to honor America. During this period, people hold public gatherings and activities to celebrate and honor the nation.

Although Flag Day is a nationwide observance, it is not a public holiday in many parts of the United States. It is a legal holiday in a few areas in the USA, such as Montour County in Pennsylvania. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes - one for each state.

Although it is not certain, this flag may have been made by the Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, who was an official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy. The number of stars increased as the new states entered the Union, but the number of stripes stopped at 15 and was



businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for their own individual markets.

8. You are their friends and neighbors, and locally owned businesses have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of it?

9. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This **BENEFITS EVERYONE!**

* Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.

later returned to 13.

In June 1886 Bernard Cigrand made his first public proposal for the annual observance of the birth of the flag when he wrote an article titled "The Fourteenth of June" in the old Chicago Argus newspaper. Cigrand's effort to ensure national observance of Flag Day finally came when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of the event on June 14, 1916.

However, Flag Day did not become official until August 1949, when President Harry Truman signed the legislation and proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. In 1966, Congress also requested that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as National Flag Week.

The President issues a proclamation each year to call on government officials in the USA to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Flag Day; and to urge US residents to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption on June 14, 1777, by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

The BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

911 ACOG

The City of Blanchard officially migrated from the McClain County 911 to 911 ACOG. All equipment was installed and operational on Tuesday.

The City is now using the Next Generation (NG) 911.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, May 31st**.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority, a public trust, will hold their June meeting on Tuesday, June 11th at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Open, Conduct and Close Public Hearing regarding the proposed FYE25 Budget beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
- Resolution No. 2024-08 adopting budget.
- Water Improvements.
- OWRB Funding of Improvements.
- Sewer Improvements.
- Departmental request for lighting installed at sewer lagoons.
- Consent Agenda.

The Agenda will be posted on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the Council Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will hold their June meeting on Tuesday, June 11th following the BMIA meeting to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Open, Conduct and Close Public Hearing regarding the proposed FYE25 Budget beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
- Resolution No. 2024-45 adopting budget.
- Ordinance No. 818 amending the Blanchard Tourism regulations.
- Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 818.
- Resolution No. 2024-46 amending Tourism Board appointments.
- Resolution No. 2024-47 accepting the Veterans Memorial Park.
- Resolution No. 2024-48 opposing any federal legislation increasing truck size or weight.
- Resolution No. 2024-49 renewing the City's WC Plan with OMAG.
- Resolution No. 2024-50 renewing the City's Municipal Protection Plan with ACOG.
- Resolution No. 2024-51 renewing the Town of Dibble's emergency dispatch services for FYE2025.
- Resolution No. 2024-52 authorizing the creation of a 911 Fund.
- Purchase request by the Police Department to purchase tasers with a grant from the Chickasaw Nation.
- Status of CBD improvements.
- Status of Section Line Projects Phase II.

- Status of Local Street Improvements.
- Consent Agenda.
- Executive Session.

The Agenda will be posted on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Park Events

6/14/24 ~ Concert in the Park
 6/15/24 ~ Fishing Derby
 6/21/24 ~ Concert in the Park
 Movies Under the Stars
 6/28/24 ~ Concert in the Park
 7/02/24 ~ Independence Day Celebration
 8/16/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival
 8/17/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival
 9/28/24 ~ Mufflers On Main
 10/31/24 ~ PumpkinFest
 11/09/24 ~ Veterans Day Parade
 12/14/24 ~ Christmas Parade of Lights
 12/14/24 ~ Christmas on Main

Police Blotter

NO ARRESTS REPORTED.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of June is more than one percent (12.8) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$9,875,157 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	464,658.68	36.09
Aug '23	596,217.70	37.60
Sep '23	464,184.72	-5.86
Oct '23	543,597.76	19.73
Nov '23	499,693.71	9.32
Dec '23	435,504.94	-4.73
Jan '24	477,017.05	11.45
Feb '24	438,490.54	4.75
Mar '24	389,696.68	-7.04
Apr '24	415,758.40	4.94
May '24	431,842.01	-22.47
Jun '24	493,757.83	0.57
Totals	5,650,420.02	5.69

Senior Nutrition Center

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center serves a fully balanced lunch (entrees, sides, desserts, tea and coffee) for all senior citizens five (5) days a week beginning at **11:30am**, **Monday** thru **Friday** (except City Observed Holiday).

MENU

Monday ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bun, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Loaded Potato, Salad, Bread, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Bun, Dessert.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **June 10th** thru **June 14th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **June 6th**.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested to insure the continuance in meeting the nutritional needs of our elderly citizens.

Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal.

If you need a ride to the Center located at 101 S. Main Street, the City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus service. Rides are available by calling 1-866-THAT-BUS. For more information, please call (405) 485-9260.

So...Think Shop Live Blanchard

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and the local economy relies on where residents spend their money and do their shopping. Sales tax is a direct and vital lifeline to essential services like public safety (police, fire, 911 services), public facilities, projects, programs and services. Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting community schools and non-profits.

If there's one thing we can all do to make our dollars work for this community, it's to shop local! Grab dinner in Blanchard on your way home. You'd be surprised what a difference that can make. Shopping locally benefits the entire community. Make your tax dollars work for you and our community.

Splash Pad

The City's Splash Pad located at 415 SW 7th Street just west of Main Street is open for the Summer season.

The Splash Pad is open from **11am - 9pm** each day!

Please help keep our Parks clean and beautiful by using trash receptacles.



Summer Solstice



The summer solstice heralds the beginning of summer! The timing of the summer solstice depends on when the Sun reaches its farthest point north of the equator. This occurs annually sometime between June 20 and 22, depending on the time zone.

This year, the event occurs at **3:50pm** (CDT) on **Thursday, June 20th**.

The word *solstice* is from the Latin *solstitium*, from *sol* (sun) and *stitium* (to stop), reflecting the fact that the Sun appears to stop at this time (and again at the winter solstice). In temperate regions, we notice that the Sun is higher in the sky throughout the day, and its rays strike Earth at a more direct angle, causing the efficient warming we call summer. In the winter, just the opposite occurs: The Sun is at its southern most point and is low in the sky. Its rays hit the Northern Hemisphere at an oblique angle, creating the feeble winter sunlight.

Tornado Safety

In Oklahoma, tornadoes are frequent in the spring and summer months. An average of 800 tornadoes are reported each year, causing 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries per year. These storms are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or greater. The following guidelines will assist in keeping you safe:



Tornado Watch - means a tornado is "possible". When the National Weather Service issues a warning, it is time to turn on a TV or radio, look out the window from time to time, and be more alert to what is happening outside.

Tornado Warning - means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Warning Signs - A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

» If there is a tornado warning or watch posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger.

- » A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- » Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- » A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, then turning into a roar as it comes closer.
- » Tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast.

Safety Tips -

- Shelter indoors, away from flying debris.
- Go to your basement, storm cellar, safe room or lowest level of your home.
- Go to the most interior hallway or room without windows. Stay away from windows and doors.
- Avoid places/rooms with wide-span roofs (cafeterias, gymnasiums, shopping malls).
- Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. It's one of the most unsafe places to be during a tornado.
- Don't seek shelter in drainage systems, culverts or ditches because of flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of June more than four percent (4.54%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$2,649,031 retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	140,366.68	39.16
Aug '23	132,514.92	40.90
Sep '23	161,802.84	17.66
Oct '23	168,818.86	41.14
Nov '23	159,179.60	54.86
Dec '23	146,458.17	1.22
Jan '24	229,082.13	39.36
Feb '24	255,360.29	44.58
Mar '24	144,524.27	56.40
Apr '24	125,357.74	0.18
May '24	152,377.65	1.85
Jun '24	132,451.57	7.91
Totals	1,940,303.46	27.27

Veterans Memorial

More than 600 plus individual bricks are still available for purchase to be show cased at this incredible Memorial. Individual bricks are \$125 apiece or 3 bricks for \$300.

An Order Form is attached to this Newsletter.

Weatherization Assistance

PSO offers to its customers a 'Home Weatherization Assistance Program'.

Homeowners and renters with an annual household income of \$55,000 or less in a home less than 2,200 square feet and built prior to 2010 may be eligible for FREE home upgrades such as attic insulation, air and duct sealing, and more.

PSO's service provider, Titan ES, will perform an energy assessment at your home. If your home qualifies, Titan will schedule and complete the necessary home upgrades.

The services are completed at NO cost to you. PSO pays Titan ES for any approved upgrades completed on your home.

For more information, contact the PSO Customer Services Account Representative at 405.222.7615.

Youth Fishing Derby

The City's annual Fishing Derby is set for **Saturday, June 15th** beginning with registration at **8am**. The Fishing Derby runs from 9am to 12 Noon and located at Crystal Lake Park Ponds. Free hotdogs, giveaways and door prizes available.

Sponsors of this year's event is the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission, Focus Federal Credit Union, Ovintiv, Pioneer and the City's Parks and Recreation.
