

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

10 DECEMBER 2021

VOLUMN 114, ISSUE 2

After Hours

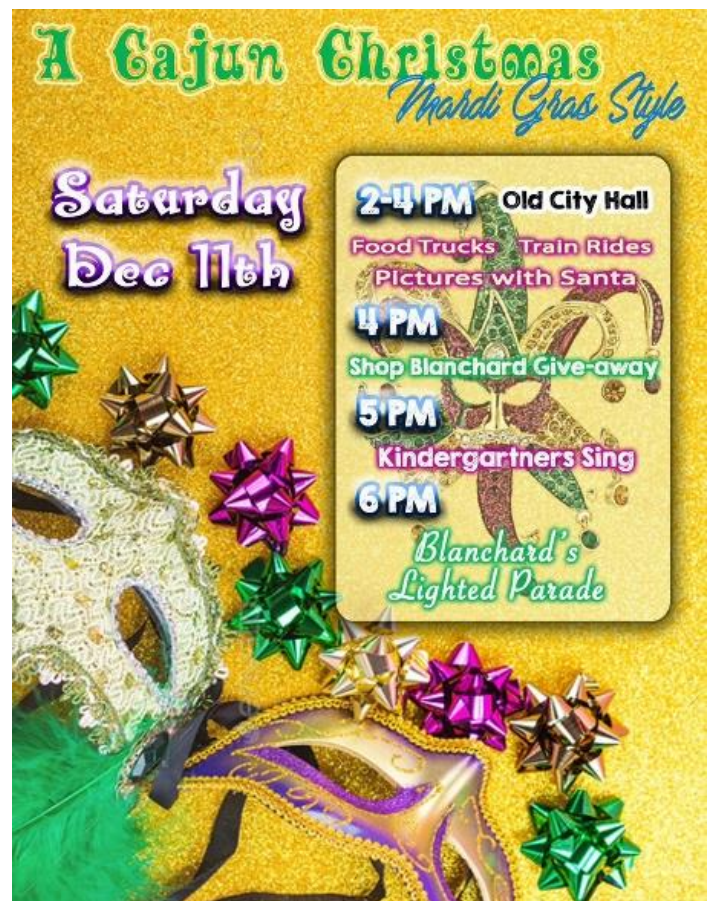
For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, waterline breaks, sewer backups, sewer line breaks, lift station alarms, manhole overflowing, low-water pressure, no water, potholes, road repairs, signs missing or down, roadway flooding, debris in road, street lite out, etc.) please call 405.485.9391. The City's Central Dispatch is manned 24-7 and will contact the on-call personnel regarding the incident.

Christmas on Main

Christmas on Main is Quickly Approaching!

The Blanchard Parks and Recreation is planning our annual Christmas on Main events for **December 11th**.

Each December, the City comes alive with lights and fun for the whole family. Old City Hall will be a great place to see and visit with your friends and get a FREE picture with the jolly ole elf, himself,



with Santa from **2 - 4pm**. Then step outside for more festivities:

Shop Blanchard Give-away at **4pm**;
Blanchard Kindergarten sings at **5pm**.
Christmas Parade at **6pm**.

The Blanchard Annual Lighted Christmas Parade will step off at North Main beginning at **6pm** on **Saturday**,

December 11th. The theme of the Parade is a "Cajun Christmas." Come celebrate Christmas from the deep South with Jed Castles, News9 Meteorologist and the JEDI of Oklahoma. For more information, please visit the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us/events.

The Parade Entry Form is on the City's website for downloading.

Community Food Bank

Fresh and frozen food items will be available to anyone in need on **Tuesday, December 14th**. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis for the 73010 zip code area, at the First Baptist Church in Blanchard from 4-6pm.

All participants are requested to stay in their cars at all times and restrooms in the church will not be available.

December Meetings

14th ~ City Council (6pm)

14th ~ BMIA (6pm)

16th ~ Code/Juvenile Court (4pm)

21st ~ Traffic Court (2pm)

21st ~ Board of Adjustment

December Special Events

11th ~ "CAJUN" Christmas Parade

11th ~ Christmas on Main

11th ~ Pictures with Santa

14th ~ Community Food Bank

21st ~ Winter Solstice (9:59am CST)

24th ~ Christmas Eve

24th ~ Christmas Observance (City Hall **CLOSED**)

25th ~ Christmas

31st ~ New Year's Eve (City Hall **CLOSED**)

Holiday Closing



**OFFICES CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAY**

- Friday, December 24th (for Xmas Eve)
- Monday, December 27th (for Xmas)
- Friday, December 31st (New Year's)

If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911. If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash service collection as usual.

City Offices will reopen on the **Tuesday** following the Christmas Holidays, and Monday, January 3rd after New Year's.

Live Nativity

Come enjoy a "Live Nativity" at the Trinity Holiness Church located at 103 North Van Buren on **Saturday, December 11th** immediately following the Christmas

Parade. Cookies and hot cocoa will be served!

Meet Santa @FNBT

Santa visits children from 3 - 5pm at the First National Bank on Tuesday, December 14th.

Moving Forward!

The City of Blanchard maintains 172 lane miles of roads and bridges within 32.82 square miles of city limits with limited resources, both manpower and financially.

Remember! The City of Blanchard does NOT receive one dime of property tax for general operations. The breakdown of current property taxes all goes to the following taxing entities:

- 70.6% ~ Blanchard School District
- 8.7% ~ Mid-America Technology Ctr
- 3.0% ~ McClain-Grady County EMS
- 4.6% ~ Pioneer Library
- 7.9% ~ McClain County General Fund
- 2.0% ~ McClain County Health
- 3.2% ~ McClain County Common Fund
- 0.0% ~ City of Blanchard.

* Source: McClain County Assessor's Office

Property tax, otherwise, known as "ad valorem" tax, cannot be collected by cities and towns in Oklahoma. It is restricted by the Oklahoma Constitution. The State of Oklahoma is the ONLY

state in the Union where this law exists. Consequently, the city receives the majority of its operational funds from sales tax (representing 70.8% of all general fund tax revenues) which are collected from purchases made by citizens along with other service charges and fees. Therefore, if you shop in Newcastle, Norman, Moore, Oklahoma City or elsewhere, your purchases don't contribute to Blanchard. Sales taxes in Blanchard are how the city pays its staff, the Fire Department and Police Department as well as funding for all necessary repairs to roads and drainage issues. Everything is paid for with the local sales tax collected. The City receives four (4) cents of the current nine (9%) tax rate while the State of Oklahoma receives four and one-half pennies and McClain County receives one-half penny.

Of the four (4) cents collected by the City, one (1) cent is dedicated for capital improvements that originally financed the construction of the library and splash pad in 2007. Currently, the additional growth of this penny pays for the construction of a second fire station. It's set to expire June 30, 2027.

The City operates a Street and Alley Fund in accordance with Oklahoma state law. This account is funded by the use of money from the Motor Fuel Excise Tax and Motor Vehicle License and

Registration in an annual amount of approximately \$77,739.84. Currently, salaries and benefits exceed \$250,000, in addition, we pay \$40,000 annually for street lighting, signage, 14-miles of highway right-of-way mowing and maintenance (as required by Oklahoma state law). Therefore, we program 75% of 1 cent to supplement the Street and Alley Fund annually. This leaves 2.25 cents for general fund operations for police, fire, parks, etc.

The citizens of Blanchard will be asked on Tuesday, February 8th to consider adding a permanent one (1) cent sales tax solely to be used for road, street and bridge repairs and improvements. If approved, the additional one penny will generate a minimum of \$735,000 per year and will exclusively be earmarked and used for financing or refinancing of said road, street and bridge improvements and related costs (drainage, etc.).

The City's Ad Hoc Committee is prioritizing work on section line roads based on the impact to number of citizens (Average Daily Traffic), conditions of the roads, type of base material and drainage.

The passage of the additional 1 cent sales tax will assure our city residents that the City is committed to providing the best service and maintenance of the City's infrastructure of our roads,

streets and bridges for years to come!

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **December 3rd** that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority will meet in regular session Tuesday, December 14th at 6pm to discuss, consider and take possible action, including, but not limited to, the approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of the following agenda items:

- Consent Order No. 21-233 dtd 12/6/21 issued by DEQ; and payment of a cash penalty of \$6,000.00;
- Purchase of AMR meters and MXU units for water service of \$34,900.
- Consent Agenda.

The full Agenda with backup is available on the City's website.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 25th, 2022.

On the Council Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will meet in regular session **Tuesday,**

December 14th at 6pm to discuss, consider and take possible action, including, but not limited to, the approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of the following agenda items:

- Public Hearing for PC's recommendation to rezone property owned by Pioneer Telephone from A-1 to R-1;
- Zoning Ordinance No. 748.
- Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 748.
- Resolution 2021-51 appointing Danny Roberts to the Planning Commission.
- Resolution No. 2021-52 authorizing OMAG to distribute Escrow Account in the amount of \$5,739.40.
- Resolution No. 2021-53 accepting Judge's recommendation to dismiss \$1,100 on 3 deceased defendants.
- Out-of-state travel for the City Planner to attend the ICSC Conference.
- Special Event Permit authorizing ReThread Consignment to conduct monthly sale events on the sidewalk in 2022.
- Consent Agenda.
- Executive Session.

The full Agenda with backup is available on the City's website.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 25th, 2022.

Pictures w/Santa



Santa will be available on Saturday, **December 11th** from 2 to 4pm for pictures.

Santa will be visiting Blanchard to personally

attend the Christmas Parade and while he is here, he will be at Old City Hall for pictures.

Police Blotter

The following individuals were arrested:

- **December 3rd** ~ SLOAN, Nathan arrested on Blanchard Municipal Warrants.
- **December 4th** ~ GILBERT, Jamie arrested for Felony Eluding, Speeding, Defective Equipment, and No DL.
- **December 5th** ~ ABEL, Justin arrested on Possession of CDS and Drug Paraphernalia.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of December was more than twenty-three (23.79%) percent than the monthly

budgeted amount based on
\$8,765,137.00 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	285,172.32	5.12
Aug '21	342,497.79	20.77
Sep '21	235,561.39	-17.32
Oct '21	323,921.58	14.22
Nov '21	287,938.29	0.31
Dec '21	350,605.48	33.82
Totals	1,825,696.85	9.17

Senior Dining Program

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:

MENU

- 13th ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.
- 14th ~ Breakfast, Sausage, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.
- 15th ~ Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Vegetables, Ross, Dessert.
- 16th ~ Pinto Beans, Tomato Spoon Relish, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.
- 17th ~ Ribbette, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Dessert.

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 or this week's lunch menu, please call (405) 485-9260.

Shop Blanchard!



The Chamber's annual Shop Blanchard promotion will begin on November 11th and end on December 11th. Cut-off time will be 3 PM

on the 11th.

The drawing will be December 11th around 4pm to 6pm. All receipts must be from local businesses and dated from November 11 - December 11, 2021.

All giveaways are donated by local businesses.

Ways to Shop Local

- *Buy a gift card to use later
- *Shop online or by phone
- *Order take-out
- *Utilize delivery options
- *Order food ahead of time (don't wait in line)
- *Send an online gift or flowers
- *Update your memberships
- *Connect with local business owners, let them know you support them!



Upcoming Events

Saturday, 12-11 ~ Christmas Parade
Saturday, 12-11 ~ Christmas on Main

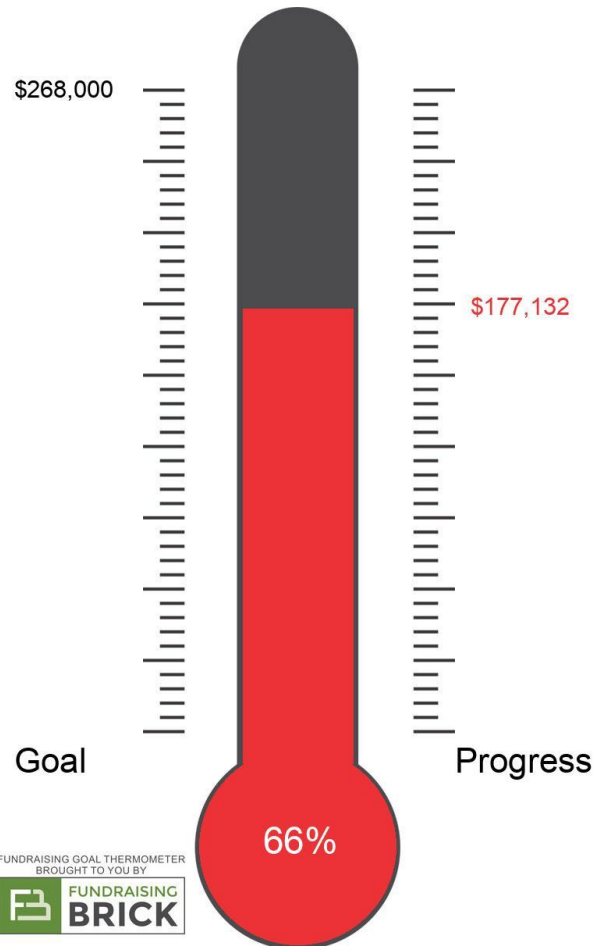
- Saturday, 12-11 ~ Pictures w/Santa
- Tuesday, 12-21 ~ Winter Begins
- Friday, 12-24 ~ Christmas Eve
- Saturday, 12-25 ~ Christmas Day
- Friday, 12-31 ~ New Year's Eve

Veterans Memorial

Use Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of December was more than two (2.71%) percent less than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,429,707.75 retail sales for Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	82,173.33	-12.03
Aug '21	97,410.72	24.96
Sep '21	88,542.03	13.13
Oct '21	84,860.61	-0.72
Nov '21	92,540.91	25.20
Dec '21	97,188.31	18.03
Totals	542,715.91	32.69



Winter Solstice

The winter solstice is one of the two times each year that the Sun is at its farthest point from the equator and appears to stand still. It occurs on **Tuesday, December 21st** at **9:59 a.m. CST**. The word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol*, or "Sun," and *stitium*, or "stoppage."

