

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

28 MAY 2021

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After Hours

For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, sewer backups, low-water pressure, no water, 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.

BMIA Action

The Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority held their May meeting on **Tuesday, May 25th** at **6:00p.m.** and discussed, considered and took action, including, but not limited to, approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of the following agenda items:

* **Approved** increase to water & sewer rates at 90% of surrounding city average for the Authority;

* **Approved** Consent Agenda.

The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, June 22nd**.

Budget Hearing

The Blanchard City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed revenues and expenditures for the upcoming Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022.

The Public Hearing will be conducted at a Joint Special Meeting on **Tuesday, June 1st** at **6:00 p.m.**

City Council Action

The Blanchard City Council held their May meeting on **Tuesday, May 25th** at **6:00p.m.** and discussed, considered and took action, including, but not limited to, approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of the following agenda items:

* **Held** Public Hearing on PC's recommendation to approve application for Conditional Use Permit for medical marijuana processing facility at 1103 S. County Line Avenue;

* **Adopted** Resolution No. 2021-17 approving the Conditional Use Permit;

- * **Held** Public Hearing on PC's recommendation to approve rezoning application reclassifying property from the Suburban District to Residential Estates District at 839 N. MacArthur Avenue;
- * **Adopted** Ordinance No. 735 approving the R-E Zoning application;
- * **Adopted** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 735;
- * **Held** Public Hearing on PC's recommendation to approve zoning application reclassifying property from the Agricultural District to Planned Shopping Center District for 2.27 acres next to Fox Run III;
- * **Adopted** Ordinance No. 736 approving the C-3 Zoning application;
- * **Adopted** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 736;
- * **Held** Public Hearing on PC's recommendation to approve zoning application reclassifying property from the Agricultural District to Single Family Residential District for 67.91 acres on 85th Street NW b/w OK-76 and Rockwell Avenue;
- * **Adopted** Ordinance No. 737 approving the R-1 Zoning application;
- * **Adopted** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 737;
- * **Appointed** Ben Whitt to the Board of Adjustment for a new 3-year term ending July 2024 and **Appointed** Lesley Franklin

to a new 3-year term ending July 2024 on the Planning Commission;

- * **Adopted** Resolution No. 2021-18 renewing the inmate housing agreement with the Grady County Criminal Justice Authority;
- * **Adopted** Resolution No 2021-19 renewing the transportation services agreement with the Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc./Delta Public Transit;
- * **Authorized** letter to Main Street merchants regarding parking;
- * **Approved** changes to the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule;
- * **Discussed** ADA accessibility at South Park at the request of BLLA;
- * **Ratified** the 25th Street NW emergency repairs;
- * **Approved** Consent Agenda; and
- * **Deleted** Executive Session.

The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, June 22nd**.

Close to Home



The City's Parks Department partnered with the Oklahoma Wildlife Department

to sponsor the "Close to Home" program.

This means the state will be stocking our new pond with over 400 fish and we will conduct our first annual Kid's Fishing Derby allowing "Catch and Release" fishing (16 & over must have a state fishing license) more information to come soon!

Farmers Market



The new Blanchard Farmers Market will open for the season beginning **Saturday, June 5th** from **8am - Noon** located at 316 E. Veterans Memorial (in the former campground site adjacent to the Blanchard Trinity Holiness Church). Please support our local market!

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 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 the United States 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, 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 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.

June Meeting Calendar

- 1st ~ Special Council/BMIA [6pm]
- 7th ~ BETA [6pm]
- 7th ~ BPS Board of Education [6pm]
- 10th ~ Planning Commission [6:30pm]
- 15th ~ BOA [6pm]
- 17th ~ Code/Juvenile Court [4pm]
- 22nd ~ Traffic Court [2pm]
- 22nd ~ City Council [6 pm]
- 22nd ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

Memorial Day



The custom of honoring our ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics.

After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor our military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decorations of soldier's graves were held in cities and towns thru-out the nation.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and for many years, states observed the holiday on different dates.

However, by federal law, Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday in May which will be May 31st.

**OFFICES CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAY**

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 31st** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash services will run as usual.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **May 21st** NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the

municipal limits of the City of Blanchard.

OCC Hearing

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission hearing regarding the Wildcat Saltwater Disposal Well 1 LLC has been re-scheduled to be heard on **Wednesday, June 23rd**, at **8:30 am**, with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Police Blotter

May 22nd ~ ASBERRY, Tywan arrested on Kansas Warrants;

May 24th ~ POOL, Casey arrested on Domestic A&B;

May 26th ~ SHIPMAN, Charles arrested on Outstanding Warrants;

May 28th ~ VERMILLION, Todd arrested On Outstanding Warrants;

Senior Nutrition



If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. A suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested. Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal.

LUNCH MENU

(May 31 - June 4)

Monday ~ CLOSED.

Tuesday ~ Chili Pie, Salad, Corn, Corn Chips, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bun, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Beets Tomato Relish, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Fish, Macaroni Salad, Vegetable, Cornbread, Dessert.

Please call 485-9260, if you would like to be considered for a home delivered meal. Please be advised, the home delivery will begin the next business day. However, the Center is still delivering lunches daily.

Special Events

31st ~ Memorial Day [City Hall Closed]

5th ~ Farmer's Market

12th ~ Farmer's Market

14th ~ Flag Day

19th ~ Farmer's Market

20th ~ Father's Day

20th ~ Summer Begins

26th ~ Farmer's Market

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 **10:32am (CDT) on Sunday, 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 southernmost point and is low in the sky. Its rays hit the Northern Hemisphere at an oblique angle, creating the feeble winter sunlight.

Tax Payment Deadline

Oklahomans now have until **June 15, 2021** to pay their 2020 individual and business income taxes, and their first quarter 2021 estimated income tax payments. As a result of the recent disaster declaration issued by FEMA, the IRS announced the tax deadline extension for all individuals who reside or own a business in all of Oklahoma's 77 counties to provide relief for those affected by February's historic winter storms. Following the announcement from the IRS, the Oklahoma Tax Commission ordered the payment deadline extension

to provide further relief to Oklahoma taxpayers. The Oklahoma Tax Commissioners elected to adjust the payment deadline extension from April 15 to June 15 for all individuals that reside or own a business in Oklahoma.

Due dates for other tax types, including sales and withholding, remain the same. For more information, visit the Oklahoma Tax Commission website.

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and local economy rely upon 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), facilities (city hall, etc.), projects (water & sewer and street improvements), programs (4th of July Celebration) and services (senior citizens nutrition).

Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting public 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 the City!

Shelter In-Place

The season of unstable, severe weather is upon us. FEMA recommends that families create a plan of their own to implement in order to shelter in-place at home.

Splash Pad



The City's Parks Department opened the water park today (May 28th). The Splash Pad is located in Lions Park just west of Main Street on 7th Street.

Tornado Safety



In Oklahoma, tornadoes are most 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.

Possible Shelters -

- Basements.
- Interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor.
- Small rooms - restrooms, closets, etc. Avoid rooms with wide span roof areas.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture - heavy table, cubicle work surface, etc.
- Stay away from exterior walls, windows, mirrors, items hanging overhead.
- Do not stay in vehicles.
- If no other shelter is available, lay down in a depression in the ground, such as a ditch.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.