

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

27 MAY 2022

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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.

BMIA Action

The Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority held their May regular meeting on Tuesday, May 24th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- ✓ **APPROVED** waiver connecting to City water;
- ✓ **ACKNOWLEDGED** receipt of Construction Permit from DEQ for lift station;
- ✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

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 Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023.

The Public Hearing will be conducted at a Joint Special Meeting on **Tuesday, June 14** at **6:00 p.m.**

City Council Action

The Blanchard City Council held their May regular meeting on Tuesday, May 24th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- ✓ **HELD** Public Hearing re: Zoning Application to reclassify property from A-1 to C-4;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Zoning Ordinance No, 754 approving zoning reclassification from A-1 to C-4;

- ✓ **APPROVED** Emergency Clause on Zoning Ordinance No 754;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-15 approving agreement with Crawford & Associates to provide financial consulting;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-16 approving agreement with HSPG & Associates to perform 2022 Audit Services;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-17 approving agreements with OTC for sales/use tax administration;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-18 approving agreement with Grady County Criminal Justice Authority for inmate housing;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-19 approving Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) with the State Fire Marshal's Office for commercial/industrial plan reviews;
- ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-20 approving the renewal of reservation agreement with the Blanchard Senior Citizens;
- ✓ **APPROVED** proposed renovations to Police Station in the amount of \$250,000;
- ✓ **DISCUSSED** SH-76 road improvements planned by ODOT;
- ✓ **APPROVED** speed reduction request to ODOT on US-62 near or in-front of Four Lake Addition;
- ✓ **DISCUSSED** code enforcement policy for courtesy notice;
- ✓ **RENEWED** OMAG Municipal Property Protection Plan for city facilities;
- ✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 28th.

Farmers Market

The 2022 Blanchard Farmers Market is open for business! The Market will run thru **Saturday, October 2nd**.

Please visit our website at www.cityofblanchard.us under RESIDENTS and make application to participate.

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).

Fight the Bite!

These insects kill more people in 1 day than sharks do in a century!



Individuals can reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases, such as the West Nile virus, by getting rid of standing water around houses and by using insect repellent. Here is a simple way to remember how to "Fight the Bite" using mosquito safety. Just remember 3 D's and a P!

- DRAIN stagnant water;
- DRESS wear long sleeves and pants;
- DEET repel when you're outside;
- PREVENT reduce your exposure.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution for managing mosquitoes. Countless products on the market claim to be effective and easy to use but few have appreciable value in lessening the annoyance and incidence of bites. Unlike most insects found around homes, mosquitoes are pervasive outdoor pests and there are limits to what can be done to minimize their abundance. Nonetheless, there are measures that can afford some relief.

Fire Hydrant Repair

The repair of two (2) fire hydrants in old town have been re-scheduled to next



Blanchard.

Tuesday (May 31st) due to this week's weather.

Low water pressure or no water may be experienced in part or all of downtown

Flag Day

People across the United States celebrate Flag Day on **Tuesday, 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.

Food Trucks

The Blanchard Parks Department will be bringing back several food trucks throughout the summer.

On Mondays and Tuesday when available food trucks will be available at 300 N Main Street (Municipal Court House). Starting each Tuesday in June, Chick-Fil-A will join us for lunch and dinner ... so stay tuned for more updates on Blanchard's Parks and Recreation facebook page.

Franchise Election

AEP/PSO is holding a special election in Blanchard seeking voter approval to extend the Franchise Agreement with the City of Blanchard for a new 25 year term.

The election will be **Tuesday, June 28th**.

Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 30th** 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 service will run as usual.



The City of Blanchard is looking for qualified people to fill the following positions:

1. **Police Officer** (Full-time with Benefits).
2. **Reserve Officers** (No benefits).
4. **Dispatcher** (Full-time with Benefits).
5. **Volunteer Firefighters** (Pension Only).
6. **Code Enforcement Officer** (Full-time with Benefits).
7. **Utility (water/sewer) Laborers** (Full-time with Benefits).

Benefits for full-time employment include but not limited to:

- Health, Dental and Vision paid for by the City for the employee;
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Plan;
- Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS) - Police Officers Only;
- 10 paid Vacation days per year;
- 10 paid Sick days per year;
- 9 paid Holidays per year;
- No cost Life Insurance paid by the City;
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by the City.

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For more information, please contact the Human Resource Officer at 405-485-9392 or

download an application at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Independence Day



The City's Independence Day celebration will be **Saturday, July 2nd**, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Plans for the event are underway.

We will be honoring Oklahoma's recording artists.

June Meeting Calendar

- 6th ~ TEAM Blanchard (6pm)
- 6th ~ BPS Board of Education (6pm)
- 9th ~ Planning Commission (6pm)
- 14th ~ Public Hearing: FYE2023 Budget (6pm)
- 21st ~ Board of Adjustment (6pm)
- 24th ~ BMIA Board of Trustees (6pm)
- 24th ~ City Council (6pm)

June Special Events

- 4th ~ Farmers Market
- 6th ~ D-Day
- 7th ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A
- 11th ~ Farmers Market
- 14th ~ Flag Day
- 14th ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A
- 18th ~ Farmers Market
- 18th ~ Kids Fishing Derby

- 19th ~ Father's Day
 21st ~ First Day of Summer
 21st ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A
 25th ~ Farmers Market
 28th ~ Primary and Special Elections
 28th ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A
 For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page.



The City's 2nd Annual Father's Day Kid's Fishing Derby will be **Saturday, June 18th**.

The Blanchard Parks Department will be teaming up with several local businesses and the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, to host this event at the ponds located in Crystal Lake Park (just south of South Park).

We will conduct our annual Kid's Fishing Derby allowing "Catch and Release" fishing for kids under the age of 16 to participate.

We encourage and invite ALL dad's to bring their kids for some bonding time and your kids can win some cool prizes for catching the largest fish and the most, etc.

Registration begins at **8:00** a.m. and the Derby starts at **9:00** a.m. and will end at **12 Noon**. Pioneer will be serving hot dogs thru-out the morning **FREE** for all participants.

All children under the age of 16 **DO NOT** need a fishing license. **NO FISHING** for 16 years of age or older during this time.

For more information, contact Chris Wittenbach, Parks Director at 405.248.6521.

May Special Events

- 28th ~ Farmers Market
 30th ~ Memorial Day

Memorial Day

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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 Monday, May 30th.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since May 20th that NO oil or gas wells were permitted and zero completed within the City limits of Blanchard.



Park Events

The upcoming 2022 events are:

- *June 3rd • Summer Concert Series
- *June 10th • Summer Concert Series
- *June 17th • Summer Concert Series
- *June 24th • Summer Concert Series
- *July 2nd • Independence Day Celebration
- *August 19th & 20th • Bluegrass Festival
- *September 24th • Mufflers on Main
- *October 22nd • Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- *October 31st • Pumpkinfest
- *November 12th • Veterans Day Parade
- *December 10th • Christmas Events & Parade of Lites

Details of each event will be posted on the City's Facebook page and the City's website.

Police Blotter

NO arrests reported.

Senior Dining

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

30th ~ CLOSED.

31st ~ Ham & Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert.

1st ~ Enchilada Casserole, Chips, Beans, Salad, Dessert.

2nd ~ Hobo Beans, Okra, Pickle & Onions, Cornbread, Dessert.

3rd ~ Chef Salad, Crackers, Beets, Fruit, 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 5.0.\$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, call (405) 485-9260.

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

Memorial Day holiday weekend brings many families together for food, fun and family. It marks the time that we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It also marks the beginning of the summer season. The City's Parks come to life with concerts, movies, fireworks and the opening of the City's water park marks the beginning of summer!

The Splash Pad is opened seven (7) days a week from 11am to 9pm and is located in Lions Park at 415 SW 7th Street just west of Main Street.

Pavilions can be rented for parties or family gatherings.

Contact City Hall for reservation info and check out the City's website www.cityofblanchard.us or visit the Blanchard Parks and Recreation Facebook page for more summer fun.

Summer Concert Series

The City's Summer Concert Series kicks off every Friday night in **June** beginning at **7:00** p.m. at Lions Park (415 SW 7th Street, Blanchard):

3rd ~ **Oklahoma Opry Band** (Country)

10th ~ **Middle of Nowhere Band** (Classic Rock)

17th ~ **Sully & Sisson** (60s, 70s, 80s)

24th ~ **The Road Ponies** (Various)

Restore Christian Church will provide a concession stand for each concert.

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 **4:13am** (CDT) on **Tuesday, June 21st**.

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.

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and 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.

2035 Comp Plan

The Blanchard Planning Commission set a public hearing for **Thursday, June 9th**, to receive public comments regarding the proposed 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The document is available and accessible for download and/or reading on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Public comments can be sent to the City Clerk at P.O. Box 480, Blanchard or emailed to cityclerk@cityofblanchard.us.

Watering Odd-Even



Oklahoma City's odd-even watering rotations permanent and has been in place since 2013. It eases the summer-time demand on their water treatment system.

These restrictions apply to Blanchard residents since we receive one-hundred (100) percent of our water from OKC.

Addresses ending in a 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8, can water on any day that ends in an even number. Addresses ending in a 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9 can water on any day ending in an odd number. Most Oklahoma lawns don't need more than one (1) inch of water per week in the summer to maintain optimum health. Use a rain gauge to determine how much water your lawn is getting. Fewer, deeper waterings ensure better root health. Visit www.squeezeeverydrop.com for details.