

# BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

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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.

## *BOA Meeting*

The June meeting of the Blanchard Board of Adjustment is canceled due to a "lack of agenda item."



**BRAUM'S** will soon be taking applications and interviewing for positions for employment at their new Blanchard location. Please stay tuned!

## *Budget FYE2023*

Here is the breakdown of our approved FYE2023 Budget adopted by the City Council and the BMA Board of Trustees. The new Fiscal Year begins July 1, 2022 and ends June 30, 2023.

ACCOUNTS/FUNDS	Revenues	Expenses	Reserves
City General Fund*	7,892,348	7,838,766	1,057,773
Street & Alley Acct	977,119	957,376	223,275
Nutrition Acct	123,728	114,490	-0-
Emergency Mgmt Acct	705,806	-0-	484,113
Capital Projects Fund	-0-	-0-	-0-
Outdoor Warning Fund	27,187	12,000	-0-
Technology Fund	31,670	28,670	-0-
Parkland Fund	17,629	7,500	-0-
Street Improvement Fund	12,364,700	12,364,700	-0-
Veterans Memorial Fund	133,473	131,500	-0-
TIF District No. 1 Fund	425,426	300,000	-0-
ARPA Fund	1,555,654	1,555,000	-0-
CDBG Fund	680,309	680,309	-0-
Insurance Fund	1,345,779	739,583	-0-
BMA General Fund	3,352,384	3,341,631	491,881
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>29,633,212</b>	<b>28,066,525</b>	<b>2,257,042</b>

\* Denotes Discretionary Funds. All other accounts and funds are restricted to what they were approved by the voters and/or established to account for the revenues and expenditures for specific purposes.

## CDBG Project

The City held a pre-construction meeting Thursday morning. The contractor (Orr Construction) plans to begin the water project on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. They estimate to complete the construction by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Phase 1 will begin with the replacement of water lines in old Town Blanchard that are less than six (6) inches in diameter.

## Consumer Confidence Report

DEQ announced this year's 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) covering calendar year 2021 has been finalized and available to distribute to our water customers.

In order to meet all the CCR requirements, the City/BMIA will distribute the exact website link provided below to all of our utility customers, put the link on an upcoming bill, mailer, or handout and will be sent to each of our individual utility customer.

<http://sdwis.deq.state.ok.us/DWW/CCRReports/OK3004710.pdf>

## Farmers Market

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

Please visit our website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://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 (16<sup>th</sup>).

## 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.

## Food Trucks

The Blanchard Parks Department has brought back several food trucks throughout the summer.

On Mondays and Tuesdays 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

Letter from AEP/PSO. If you are a registered voter living within the city limits of Blanchard, then you are eligible to vote on the renewal of the PSO electric franchise. The election will be held from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**, at your normal polling place.

The PSO electric franchise allows PSO to use City streets and alleys to provide electric service to Blanchard. The franchise also enables PSO to make new capital investments in their electric system while maintaining their existing facilities in Blanchard.

In return for this access, PSO collects for, and remits to the City a monthly franchise fee that in the last twelve (12) months totaled \$75,404.31. The City also saves more than \$22,164.24 annually on municipal street lighting costs through a special lighting program available only to those communities having a PSO electric franchise.

In addition to the franchise-related financial aspects, PSO continues to invest in Blanchard. They have invested in tree management and upgrading their electric system to expand the opportunity for growth, improve the reliability

of their electric service in Blanchard and the surrounding area, and mitigate the potential damage from ice and wind. PSO remitted \$137,227.32 in sales tax for the City and paid more than \$96,954.00 in McClain County and \$1,073,109.98 in Grady County in property tax.

PSO currently offers free home weatherization to eligible customers in Blanchard.

PSO is proud to have provided electricity to Blanchard and with your positive vote, they look forward to doing so for many years to come.

The potential loss of these funds to the City is equivalent to 4.25 police officer positions or 4.19 firefighter positions.



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

1. **Reserve Officers** (No benefits).
  2. **Volunteer Firefighters** (Pension Only).
  3. **Code Enforcement Officer** (Full-time with Benefits).
  4. **Street 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](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## Independence Day

The City's annual Independence Day celebration will be **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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

- 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Board of Adjustment (**Canceled**)
- 24<sup>th</sup> ~ BMIA Board of Trustees (6pm)
- 24<sup>th</sup> ~ City Council (6pm)

## June Special Events

- 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Farmers Market
- 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Kids Fishing Derby
- 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Father's Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> ~ First Day of Summer
- 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A
- 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Farmers Market
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Primary and Special Elections
- 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Food Truck Tuesday: Chick-Fil-A

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page.



The City's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father's Day Kid's Fishing Derby will be tomorrow (**Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**).

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

We will conduct our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kid's Fishing Derby allowing "Catch and Release" fishing for kids under the age of 16 to participate.

We encourage and invite ALL dads and moms 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.

We have two (2) albino catfish and special prizes will be awarded to the kids catching them.

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.

## Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **June 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Summer Concert Series
- \*July 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Independence Day Celebration
- \*August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Bluegrass Festival
- \*September 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Mufflers on Main
- \*October 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- \*October 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Pumpkinfest
- \*November 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Veterans Day Parade
- \*December 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 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

- 6.17.22 ~ VERMILLION, Todd arrested on Municipal Warrants.
- 6.15.22 ~ HARRIS, Tony Carl arrested on Municipal Warrant for FTA.
- 6.12.22 ~ VELA, Lise arrested on charges on Possession of CDC and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

## Senior Dining



SENIORS

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

- 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Spaghetti, Salad, Corn, Dessert.
- 21<sup>st</sup> ~ Breakfast Sausage, Biscuit, Gravy, Fruit.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Pinto Beans, Tomato Relish, Tater Tots, Cornbread, Dessert.

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Chicken Salad, Three Bean Salad, Jello Salad, Crackers, 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, call (405) 485-9260.

## Storm Damage

Over a 72-hour period last week, Blanchard received 4.28 inches of rain. This caused substantial damage to 55<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 70<sup>th</sup> Street NE (see pics).

70<sup>th</sup> Street NE

55<sup>th</sup> Street NW



City crews began the repairs starting on 70<sup>th</sup> Street NE. The cost estimate is \$24,000.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Blanchard):

24<sup>th</sup> ~ The Road Ponies (Various music)



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 21<sup>st</sup>.



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.

## Vision 2035 Comp Plan

The Blanchard City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** to receive public comments on the Planning Commission's recommendation to adoption the proposed Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

## 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 watering ensures better root health. Visit [www.squeezeeverydrop.com](http://www.squeezeeverydrop.com) for details.