

# *B* BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

22 JULY 2022

VOLUMN 121, ISSUE 4

## *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.

## *Alert System*

If you having done so, please sign up for the City's NEW Emergency Alert System by going to the City's website below at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?RegionId=1828>.



## *Bluegrass Festival*

Blanchard Parks & Recreation Department is proud to present Blanchard's 11th Annual Bluegrass Festival this August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

A weekend of great bluegrass music provided by some of the best musicians ... be sure to bring a lawn chair and don't forget the kids!



BRAUM'S is taking applications and will begin interviewing on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at old City Hall, 114 W. Broadway, for positions of employment at their new Blanchard location. Please stay tuned!

## 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.

## 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.



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

1. **Police Officers** (Full-time w/Benefits).
2. **Reserve Officers** (No benefits).
3. **Volunteer Firefighters** (Pension Only).
4. **Code Enforcement Officer** (Full-time w/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).

## July Meeting Calendar

26<sup>th</sup> ~ BMIA Board of Trustees (6pm)

26<sup>th</sup> ~ City Council (6pm)

## July Special Events

23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Farmers Market

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Parents' Day

29<sup>th</sup> ~ Voter Registration Deadline

30<sup>th</sup> ~ Farmers Market

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page.

## National Airborne Day

August 16<sup>th</sup> is a day designated by the



United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne units of the armed forces.

It was created in 2001 by President George W. Bush.

August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States

ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

## Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since July 15<sup>th</sup> that NO oil or gas wells have been permitted and zero completed within the City limits of Blanchard.

## ONG Application

The Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, a division of ONE Gas, Inc. has filed an Application with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) requesting review and approval of its calculation under the Performance Based Rate Change Plan.

ONG is seeking an increase of approximately \$19,668,043 in base rates. If approved, would raise an average residential customer's service charge by approximately \$1.95 monthly or \$23.40 annually.

The hearing was recessed and will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2022. After the hearing, the Commission will issue such orders and grant such relief as it deems proper, necessary, fair, just and reasonable.

For further information regarding their application, contact Curtis M. Long or J. Dillon Curran, Attorneys for ONG, 1700 Leadership Square, OKC, OK, telephone (405)272-5711; or Michael Valez, Attorney Section Supervisor for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 N. Lincoln Blvd, OKC, OK 73105, phone (405)522-5930.

## On the BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the BMIA will meet in regular session on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- ✓ City's Recycling Program; and
- ✓ Consent Agenda.

The full agenda packet will be available on the city's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## On the Council Agenda

The City Council will meet in regular session on July 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following the BMIA Board of Trustees' meeting to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- ✓ Public Hearing on Zoning Application;
- ✓ Zoning Ordinance;
- ✓ Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance;
- ✓ Public Hearing on Insufficiency of Petition for Detachment;
- ✓ Petition for Detachment;
- ✓ Ordinance re: amending Section 1-305;
- ✓ Emergency Clause for Ordinance;
- ✓ Resolution re: approving Final Plat of Narrow Gate Estates;
- ✓ Resolution re: approving Pioneer Library System's annual Agreement;
- ✓ Resolution re: accepting a 12-inch water line and appurtenances as a "public utility;"
- ✓ Resolution re: approval of City of Newcastle for road improvements on North County Line Road;



✓ Resolution re: approval of four (4) Road and Use Maintenance Agreements with OVINTIV;

✓ Resolution re: accepting OMAG's recommendation to deny three (3) Tort Claims;

✓ Consent Agenda;

✓ Executive Session.

The full agenda packet is available on the city's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## Park Events

The upcoming 2022 events are:

\*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.

## Pet Care

IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOU, IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR PET! Keep your pets safe and cool in the summer by remembering that if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Bring pets inside when it's hot, and provide them with plenty of shade and fresh water when they're outside. Walk your pets at cooler times of the day and never leave an animal in a car. Contact Animal Control at 405-485-9392 if you see an animal in distress.

## Police Blotter

7.17.22 ~ SCOTT, Michael arrested for DUI, APC and Destruction of Property.

## Sales Tax Holiday

Oklahoma's annual sales tax holiday will begin at 12:01 am on Friday, August 5, 2021 and end at twelve Midnight on Sunday, August 7, 2021. Certain clothing and shoe purchases are exempt from sales tax for this time period only. Qualified items are exempt from state, city, county and local municipality sales taxes.

Retailers are required to participate and may not collect state and local sales or use tax on most footwear and clothing that are sold for less than \$100 during the holiday.

For more information and answers to common questions on the sales tax holiday, as well as a listing of sales tax exempt items, please refer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website at [www.tax.ok.gov](http://www.tax.ok.gov).

## School Begins



Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, for Blanchard students.

Please drive carefully in posted school zones. The speed limit is 25 mph... fines are double for speeding.

## 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:**  
**Monday, 25 July** ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Fruit.  
**Tuesday, 26 July** ~

Tetrazzini, Corn, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Wednesday, 27 July** ~ Pizza, Salad, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Thursday, 28 July** ~ Navy Beans, Spinach, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday, 29 July** ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Cornbread, 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.

## 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.

## 2022 Election Dates

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Primary Runoff Election

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ General Election

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE~POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7am - 7pm.

## Voter Registration Deadline

**Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, is the last day to apply for voter registration in order to be eligible to vote in the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Runoff Primary.

## 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.

## *Shop Local!*

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

**1. More of your money will be kept in the Blanchard local economy:** For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in Blanchard. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community.\*

**2. You embrace what makes Blanchard unique:** 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. You create local jobs:** Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

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

**5. You nurture community:** 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. You conserve your tax dollars:** 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. You create more choice:** Locally owned 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 take advantage of their expertise:** 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. You invested in entrepreneurship:** Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

**10. You made Blanchard a destination:** The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone! \*Source: Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.