

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

29 JULY 2022

VOLUMN 121, ISSUE 5

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

- 1st ~ TEAM Blanchard (8am)
- 2nd ~ Special City Council (6pm)
- 8th ~ Traffic Court (2pm)
- 11th ~ Planning Commission (6pm)
- 16th ~ BOA (6pm)
- 11th ~ Planning Commission (6pm)
- 18th ~ Code/Juvenile Court (4pm)
- 23rd ~ BMIA Board of Trustees (6pm)
- 23rd ~ City Council (6pm)

August Special Events

- 4th ~ U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- 5th ~ Oklahoma Sales Tax Holiday
- 6th ~ Oklahoma Sales Tax Holiday
- 6th ~ Farmers Market
- 7th ~ Oklahoma Sales Tax Holiday
- 13th ~ Farmers Market
- 16th ~ National Airborne Day
- 18th ~ SCHOOL BEGINS
- 20th ~ Farmers Market
- 23rd ~ Primary Runoff Election
- 27th ~ Farmers Market

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page regarding City sponsored events.

Bluegrass Festival

The Blanchard Parks & Recreation Department is proud to present the City's 11th Annual Bluegrass Festival for Friday (August 19th) and Saturday (August 20th).

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!

BMIA Action

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

- ✓ **DISCUSSED** Recycling Program; and
- ✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next Board of Trustees' meeting is Tuesday, August 23rd.



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

Council Action

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

- ✓ **HELD** Public Hearing on Zoning Application;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Zoning Ordinance No. 755;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 755;
 - ✓ **HELD** Public Hearing on Insufficiency of Petition for Detachment;
 - ✓ **DENIED** Petition for Detachment;
 - ✓ **TABLED** Ordinance re: amending Section 1-305;
 - ✓ **TABLED** Emergency Clause for Ordinance;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-32 re: approving Final Plat of Narrow Gate Estates;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-33 re: approving Pioneer Library System's annual Agreement;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-34 re: accepting a 12-inch water line and appurtenances as a "public utility;"
 - ✓ **TABLED** Resolution re: approval of City of Newcastle for road improvements on North County Line Road;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-35 re: approval of four (4) Road and Use Maintenance Agreements with OVINTIV and requiring written notification to trucking firms of approved route;
 - ✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-36 re: accepting OMAG's recommendation to deny three (3) Tort Claims;
- ADDENDUM:**

✓ **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2022-37 re: accepting roads and streets within the Quail Haven Sub-division as public "dedicated" roads;

✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented;

✓ **HELD** Executive Session.

The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, August 23rd.

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.

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.

July Special Events

30th ~ Farmers Market

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page.

National Airborne Day



August 16th 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 22nd** that three (3) oil 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 City Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd beginning at 6p.m.

* Discussion, consideration and take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Blanchard objecting to the placement of High Voltage Electric Transmission Lines or other infrastructure on, through and across property within the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, in the vicinity of Section Three (3), Township Eight (8) North, Range Four (4) West, I.M., McClain County, Oklahoma;

and authorizing the publication of said Resolution and delivery of same to state and federal elected officials, public entities and all interested parties.

Park Events

The upcoming 2022 events are:

- * **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.

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

No arrests reported.

Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

The City of Blanchard was recognized as a Purple Heart City in September 2019.

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.

School Begins



Thursday, August 18th, 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, 1 August ~ Chicken and Rice, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday, 2 August ~ Loaded Potato, Salad, Roll, Dessert, Fruit.

Wednesday, 3 August ~ Chili Pie, Salad, Corn, Dessert.

Thursday, 4 August ~ Pinto Beans, Spinach, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday, 5 August ~ Fish, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, 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.

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.

SO ... 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 23rd ~ Primary Runoff Election

November 8th ~ General Election

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

U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard has its beginning with the founding of the United States Revenue Cutter Service on August 4th, 1790, which is the official



Coast Guard birthday. It merged with the United States Life-Saving Service and became the Coast Guard in 1915. In 1939, the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard and put in charge of maritime navigation.

In 1967, the Coast Guard was transferred to the Department of Transportation, and in 2003 to the Department of Homeland Security. Today, they are both a federal law enforcement agency and a military force.

The Coast Guard Reserve was established on June 23, 1939, as a civilian reserve. It was renamed the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1941.

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 for details.