



E-Mail Newsletter

2 December 2022

Volume 126, Number 1

Meeting Dates

- December 5th**
8am - TEAM Blanchard
6pm - BETA
6pm - BPS Bd of Ed
- December 8th**
6pm - Planning Comm
- December 12th**
2pm - Traffic Court
- December 13th**
6pm - BMIA
6pm - City Council
- December 20th**
6pm - BOA

* All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.



CDBG Public Hearing

The City of Blanchard will hold a Public Hearing on a proposed FY-2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund Phase II to update and replace existing water lines in old town Blanchard.

The Hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13th, 2022**, at **6:00** p.m. at the Blanchard Municipal Courthouse located at 300 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK.

The Public meeting will provide citizens with information on:

- » Type of projects for which funding is available.
- » Identify needs and priorities.
- » The amount of funds available.
- » How much of the funding will be for low and moderate income.
- » A timetable for implementation of proposed program when funded.
- » Opportunity for comment on proposed activities.
- » Discussion of proposed budget.

It is anticipated that the City will make an application to the State of Oklahoma Department of Commerce for CDBG Grant funds to carry out the proposed activities. All interested citizens are invited to attend this hearing. The application will be available from the City Clerk for review at the time of submission. The project serves the Blanchard Old Town Area.

Special Events

December 7th

– Pearl Harbor Day

December 10th

– 5k Fun Run

December 10th

– Christmas on Main

December 10th

– Christmas Parade

December 21st

– WINTER BEGINS

December 23rd

– CITY OFFICES
CLOSED

December 24th

– CHRISTMAS EVE

December 25th

– CHRISTMAS

December 26th

– CITY OFFICES
CLOSED

December 31st

– NEW YEAR'S EVE

For Blanchard
City events:

Please visit our
website at

www.cityofblanchard.us

Library Events:

Please visit their
website at

<https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
122 N. Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392

Fax: (405) 485-3199



CDBG Closeout

The City of Blanchard will hold a Public Hearing regarding the proposed close out of the FY-2017 and 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Phase I project that updated and replaced existing water lines in old town Blanchard by Orr Construction.

The hearing will be held by the City Council on **Tuesday, December 13th, 2022**, at **6:00** p.m. at the Blanchard Municipal Courthouse located at 300 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK.

Christmas On Main



Each December, the City comes alive with lights and fun for the whole family. Old City Hall will be a great place to see and visit with your friends and get a FREE picture with the jolly ole elf, himself. Then step outside for more festivities:

- » Pics with Santa from **2 - 4pm**
- » Food Trucks and Train Rides from **2 - 4pm**
- » Shop Blanchard Give Away at **4pm**
- » Blanchard Kindergarten Kids performance at **5pm**

The Blanchard Annual Lighted Christmas Parade will step off at **6pm** on **Saturday, December 10th**. The theme of the Parade is "A Peanuts Christmas." Come dressed as your favorite character.

For more information, please visit the City's facebook. The Parade Entry Form is on the site for downloading.

E-mail:

citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us

After Hours

For Public Works
after-hour
incidents:

- *water leaks
- *waterline breaks
- *sewer backups
- *sewer line breaks
- *lift station alarms
- *manholes
overflowing
- *low-water
pressure
- *no water
- *potholes
- *road repairs
- *signs missing
- *signs down
- *roadway flooding
- *debris in road
- *street lite out

Please call
405.485.9391.

The Blanchard
Emergency
Communications
Center is 24-7 and
will contact the on-
call personnel
regarding the
incident.



Christmas Tree Farms

Oklahoma is home to twenty (20) Christmas Tree Farms where you can cut your own tree or purchase beautiful pre-cut evergreen trees and wreaths. Visit

www.oklahomaagritourism.com/activity/christmas-trees/1 to find a Christmas Tree farm near you.

Employment Opportunities

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

- » **Chief of Police** (full-benefits).
- » **Police Officers** (full-benefits).
- » **Reserve Police Officers** (no benefits).
- » **Volunteer Firefighters** (pension and stipend per call).
- » **Dispatcher** (full-benefits).
- » **Street Laborers** (full-benefits).
- » **Utility Laborers** (full-benefits).

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

- Medical benefits paid on behalf of employee.
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Plan (City/BMIA employees only).
 - OK Police Pension and Retirement System (police officers).
 - 10 paid vacation days per year.
 - 10 paid sick days per year.
 - 9 paid holidays per year.
 - 1-floating holiday.
 - Life Insurance (paid by the City).
 - Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For more information, please contact the Human Resources Officer at 405.485.9392 or download an application from www.cityofblanchard.us.

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 stays 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 firemen, police



5K Fun Run

Run, Run, Rudolph!

Everyone is invited to help support the Blanchard Running Club. The Booster Club for the Blanchard High School and Middle School Cross Country and Track will be sponsoring a 5K Fun Run. The Fun Run will be held **Saturday, December 10th**, beginning at **10** a.m. The starting line will be at the Flagpole on Main Street. Cost is \$25. 12 and under are FREE!

You can register by contacting BlanchardRunningClub@Gmail.com. For more information please contact Amanda Burnside @ 405.226.0802.

Holiday Closing

City offices will be closed for the observance of Christmas and New Year's on:

- **Friday, December 23rd (for Xmas Eve)**
- **Monday, December 26th (for Xmas)**
- **Monday, January 2nd (New Year's 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 collection as usual.

City Offices will reopen on the **Tuesday (December 27th)** following the Christmas Holidays and **Tuesday (January 3rd)** after New Year's.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, November 18th**.

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



On the BETA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority (BETA) will hold their December meeting on **Monday, December 5th** at 6pm, Municipal Courthouse, 300 North Main, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- »»» Economic Development:
 - Industrial Prospects;
 - Commercial Businesses.
- »»» Farmers Market.
- »»» Resolution re: 2023 Calendar of Meetings.
- »»» Consent Docket.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority will be Monday, February 6, 2023.

On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their December meeting on **Thursday, December 8th** at 6pm, Municipal Courthouse, 300 North Main, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- »»» Public Hearing:
 - Resolution recommending approval or denial.
- »»» Resolution recommending approval or denial of Oasis Ranch Section 5.
- »»» Consent Docket.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be Thursday, January 12, 2023.

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.



Park Events

The upcoming **2022** events are:

- **December 10th** ~ Downtown Christmas Events
- **December 10th** ~ Christmas Parade of Lites.

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

Pay It Forward

First Fidelity Bank is proud to sponsor KFOR-TV News Channel 4's Pay It 4Ward program. Pay It 4Ward is a program through which KFOR-TV viewers can nominate deserving friends, colleagues and acquaintances who have fallen on hard times or have been making a positive impact in the community. Each week someone will receive \$400 cash because one of their fellow Oklahomans wants to "Pay It 4Ward."

Ali Myer, Anchor/Reporter for KFOR News Channel 4 visited City Hall on Thursday, December 1st. **CONGRATULATIONS!** to Liesl Welu, Blanchard's Animal Control Officer, was nominated and recognized for making a positive impact in the Community with her TNR Program for feral cats.

Watch the program on **Wednesday (December 7th)** at 10pm broadcast.

Pearl Harbor Day

The National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which is annually on **December 7th**, commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, during World War II.

Many American service and women lost their lives or were injured on December 7, 1941. Pearl Harbor





Remembrance Day is also referred to as Pearl Harbor Day.

Police Blotter

- No Arrests.
-

Public Hearing

The Blanchard City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regular meeting on **Tuesday, December 13th** beginning at **6pm**. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public input regarding an application to the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation to fund certain park improvements.

The proposed application is seeking an 80-20 grant to fund approximately 5,280 L.F. of walking trails and pedestrian bridges serving Crystal Lake Park linking to South Park. This proposal is the second of a multi-phase project of a Blanchard Master Plan for park improvements connecting city parks to other parks, public schools, library, downtown and post office.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend said hearings.

Road Improvements

The Haskell Lemon Group (Contractor) will began section line road improvements on Monday, December 5th.

County Line Road between 10th Street NW for one-mile to 25th Street NW will be the first road segment to be repaired and paved.

Please avoid this area due to construction! If you need to visit the Blanchard High School campus, please use Paulk Drive to access the school.

Phase I improvements total \$7,158,655 and will include



South County Line Road from 250th North to OK-76; Morgan Road from US-62 to 25th Street NW, County Line Road between 10th Street NW to 25th Street NW and 55th Street NE from OK-76 east for one-half mile.

Safest Cities in Oklahoma

Low crime rates are an important factor when determining the livability of any given city in Oklahoma. Finding the safest places to live in Oklahoma can be challenging, especially in larger cities which tend to have more crime. Using science and data, AreaVibes has created a list of the safest places to live in Oklahoma with a population over 5,000.

Blanchard is the 3rd Safest City in Oklahoma in 2022. It has impeccably low crime rates when compared to other cities in the state. How did they choose the safest places to live in Oklahoma? To create the list, they looked at both property crimes (burglary, theft, vehicle theft) and violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, assault), then calculated the number of crimes per 100,000 people so that all cities are compared equally. Higher weights were given to violent crimes.

Blanchard Key Findings

- crime rates are 54% lower than the national average;
 - Violent crimes in Blanchard are 77% lower than the national average;
 - In Blanchard you have a 1 in 92 chance of becoming a victim of crime;
 - Blanchard is safer than 74% of the cities in the United States.
-

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, December 5th** ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

» **Tuesday, December 6th** ~ Salmon, Blackeyed Peas, Cabbage, Cornbread, Dessert.

» **Wednesday, December 7th** ~ Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Salad Bun, Dessert.

» **Thursday, December 8th** ~ Pinto Beans, Spinach, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

» **Friday, December 9th** ~ Pizza, Salad, Vegetable, Dessert.

If you are 60 years of age or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a 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, 101 S. Main Street, please call 1-866-THAT-BUS. The City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus services.

For more information regarding the Senior Center, please call 405.485.9260.

So...Think, Shop, Live Blanchard

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

Winter Solstice



The winter solstice is one of the two times each year that the Sun is at its farthest point from the equator and appears to stand still. It occurs on **Wednesday, December 21st** at **3:48 p.m. CST**.

The word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol*, or "Sun," and *stitium*, or "stoppage." The Halcyon Days also occur around this time. According to ancient legend, a grieving wife named Alcyone, or Halcyon, threw herself into the sea upon

discovering the drowned body of her beloved husband, Ceyx. The gods took pity on the pair, transforming them into kingfishers with the power to still the stormy seas for 14 days around the time of the winter solstice while they built their nest and hatched their young.

Xmas Parade

The City's annual Christmas Parade will be **Saturday, December 10th** beginning at **6pm**. We currently have over fifty (50) entries this year.

Parade Entry Forms are still available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The City of Blanchard Presents
A Peanuts Christmas Lighted Parade
Dec. 10, 2022

2-4 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm
(Old City Hall) Food Trucks Train Rides Pictures With Santa	Shop Blanchard Give Away	Kinder- Gartners Sing	Lighted Parade Begins!