



E-Mail Newsletter

26 May 2023

Volume 131, Number 4

Meeting Dates

JUNE 5th

8am ~ TEAM Blanchard

6pm ~ BETA

6pm ~ School Board

JUNE 8th

6pm ~ Planning Comm

JUNE 12th

2pm ~ Traffic Court

JUNE 13th

6pm ~ Special Council

JUNE 15th

6pm ~ Juvenile Court

JUNE 20th

6pm ~ BOA

JUNE 27th

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ City Council

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

Annexation Hearing

The Blanchard City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, June 13th** at **6pm** regarding the Consent of Annexation of appropriately 370 acres of land located on the north and south side of the H.E. Bailey Spur just west of US-62.

Notice was published, as required, in the Blanchard News Edition on Thursday, May 25th, 2023.

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, May 23rd and discussed, considered and took action on the following agenda items:

- **DECLARED** an Emergency for sewer line and manhole repair on 2nd Street and Van Buren pursuant to BMC Section 1-401.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 27th**.

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

Special Events

May 27th

~ Farmers Market

May 29th

~ MEMORIAL DAY

June 3rd

~ Farmers Market

June 6th

~ D-Day

June 10th

~ Farmers Market

June 11th ~ 17th

~ Flag Week

June 14th

~ Flag Day

June 17th

~ Farmers Market

June 18th

~ Father's Day

June 21st

~ Summer Begins

June 24th

~ Farmers Market

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>

Meeting on **Tuesday, June 13th** at **6:00 p.m.**

Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 23rd and discussed, considered and took action on the following agenda items:

- **PROCLAIMED June 14th** as Flag Day and **June 11th - 17th** as Flag Week;
- **MADE** presentation on proposed Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan by the Public Finance Law Group;
- **HELD** Public Hearing on proposed Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan developed by the Public Finance Law Group;
- **HELD** Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval of Zoning Application as recommended by Planning Commission submitted by Kary & Karla Jessup, 2530 N MacArthur Avenue from the A-1, Agricultural District to the C-4, Restricted Commercial District, a part of SW4 SW4 of Section 15-T8N-R4W of the I.M., McClain County, Oklahoma, consisting of 4.69 acres MOL;
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 783 approving Zoning Reclassification as recommended by the Planning Commission;
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause of Zoning Ordinance No. 783;
- **HELD** Public Hearing to solicit input regarding the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve rezoning application submitted by Rob & Lisa Standridge, 349 Imperial Drive, from the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District to the C-5, Automotive & Commercial Recreation District, for a part of Lots 24 & 25, Block 3 of Kendall Heights Addition, being a subdivision of the City of Blanchard, a part of Section 19-T8N-R4W of the I.M., McClain County, Oklahoma, consisting of 1.08 acres MOL
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 784 approving Zoning Reclassification as recommended by the Planning Commission.
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause of Zoning Ordinance No. 784;
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 785 amending Article 10, Chapter 13 pertaining to Youth Access to Tobacco Products;

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.

- **DENIED** the Emergency Clause on Ordinance No. 785;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-34 accepting McClain County ARPA funds in the amount of \$120,000.00 for a 12-inch water line with appurtenances serving the Blanchard High School;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-35 renewing three (3) Interlocal Agreements with McClain County;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-36 approving Service Agreement with Merchant McIntyre & Associates in the amount of \$24,000.00;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-37 nominating and appointing Christina Short to fill an unexpired term on the City Council representing At-Large seat;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-38 nominating and appointing Kristi Johnson to serve a 3-year term on the Pioneer Library Board representing Blanchard;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-39 directing the publication of Notice of Public Hearing of proposed Consent to Annexation of approximately 370 acres;
- **APPROVED** Request to purchase or lease-purchase 2022 Ford PI Utility AWD vehicle for Blanchard Fire Department in the amount of \$36,235 off of state contract with Bill Knight Ford of Tulsa;
- **DISCUSSED** Road Improvements status;
- **DISCUSSED** Fire Station completion status;

ADDENDUM:

- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-40 declaring intent to consider approval of a project and creation of a proposed tax increment district under the Local Development Act; directing preparation of a Project Plan; appointing a Review Committee; directing the Review Committee to make findings as to eligibility and financial impact on any taxing jurisdiction and business activities with the proposed TIF district; directing the Review Committee to make a recommendation with respect to the proposed Project Plan; directing the Blanchard Planning Commission to make a recommendation with respect to the proposed project plan; and containing other provisions relating thereto.
- **APPOINTED** Jason Soward to the vacant Tourism Board to

Shop Local

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

1. 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 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. Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.
4. Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.
5. 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. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and

fill an unexpired term ending June 2025;

- **AUTHORIZED** City Manager to investigate and bring back recommendations regarding traffic control devices and/or speed control devices; and

- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda with changes to minutes.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, June 27th**.

Employment Opportunities

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

- » **Reserve Police Officers** (no benefits).

- » **Street Laborers** (full-benefits).

- » **Utility Laborers** (full-benefits).

- » **Transfer Site Laborer** (full-benefits).

- » **Police Officer** (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).

- 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.

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. 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 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. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This

BENEFITS EVERYONE!

* Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is opened for business every Saturday until October.

Please visit our website 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

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We're on the Web!
www.cityofblanchard.us

holiday until 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed a law declaring that it be celebrated annually on the third **Sunday** in **June** (18th).

Fishing Derby



The City's 3rd annual Fishing Derby will be **Saturday, June 17th** at the Crystal Lake Park on South Tyler Avenue (just south of the City's Ballfields). More information will be announced.

Flag Day



People across America will celebrate Flag Day on **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 (**June 11th - 17th**), 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.

Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 29th** 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.

City offices will reopen on **Tuesday, May 30th** at **8am**.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

The BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be

numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

Memorial Day



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 29th**.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, May 19th**.

Play in the Park

The Blanchard Community Coalition in partnership with the City of Blanchard, TSET HLP, McClain County, Pioneer Telephone, Guaranteed Rate, OU Southwest Prevention Center, Blanchard Public Library, Blanchard Drug and Gift and Legacy Bank presents Play in the Park.

The event for kids in grades K-6th will be **Thursday, June 15th** from **5pm to 7pm**, held at Lions Park, 413 SW 7th Street (just west of Main Street).

Activities include inflatables, music, snow cones and **MORE!**

Police Blotter

- 5/21/23 ~ WEBB, Jeffrey Allen arrested an Outstanding McIntosh County Warrant.
-

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

(MAY 29th - JUNE 2nd)

Monday ~ **CENTER CLOSED** for Memorial Day Observance.

Tuesday ~ Spaghetti, Green Beans, Corn, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Chicken Pasta Salad, Carrot Raisin Salad, Beets, Crackers, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Chili Beans, Salad, Corn, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Fish, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Bun, 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.

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.

Shelter Registration

Blanchard Emergency Management would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that severe storm season is fast approaching. We want to express how important it is for everyone to register their home's storm shelters and safe rooms. The City of Blanchard storm shelter registry provides emergency services with information that allows them to locate citizens after a tornado or other natural disaster. Registration helps ensure that people in shelters affected by the storm are able to get help quickly with the potential of shelters' exits being blocked due to debris or structural damage. Registration is doubly important with the possibility of shelters flooding due to broken water lines or simply rain waters entering the shelter and drowning people trapped inside. Registration forms include your address, list of persons who would normally be present at the home and could potentially be in the shelter, the location of the shelter/safe room on the property, and contact



information for yourself and an emergency contact. If you have previously registered and some part of your information has changed, feel free to submit an updated form. If you have a question as to if your shelter is registered please contact the Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Charlie Largent at the Blanchard Fire Department at 405.485.3939.

Registration forms available at Blanchard City Hall and online www.cityofblanchard.us/document_center/storm_shelter_registration.pdf. Please return all registrations to the Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

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.

Special Election



A Special Election is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 13th**. The voters of Blanchard will decide the fate of a proposed 5% Hotel/Motel Tax.

If approved, it only goes into effect, if and when, a hotel and/or motel locates in Blanchard and is paid ONLY by visitors staying overnight when visiting Blanchard for ballgames, events, etc. or by overnite travelers staying the nite on their travels

to other locations.

Splash Pad



Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

The City's Splash Pad located 415 SW 7th Street just west of Main Street is now open for the Summer season.

The Splash Pad is open from **11am - 9pm** each day!

Please help keep our Parks clean and beautiful by using trash receptacles.

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 **9:57am** (CDT) on **Wednesday**,

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 southern most point and is low in the sky. Its rays hit the Northern Hemisphere at an oblique angle, creating the feeble winter sunlight.