



E-Mail Newsletter

9 June 2023

Volume 132, Number 2

Meeting Dates

JUNE 12th

2pm ~ Traffic Court

JUNE 13th

6pm ~ Special Council -
BMIA

JUNE 15th

6pm ~ Juvenile Court

JUNE 20th

6pm ~ BOA-Canceled

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.

BETA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority hold their June meeting on **Monday, June 5th** and discussed, considered and took action on the following agenda items:

- **Discussed** Industrial and Commercial Prospects;
- **Discussed** Farmers Market;
- **Approved** FYE2024 Budget;
- **Approved** Architectural contract with Prairie Rock Architecture; and
- **Approved** Consent Agenda.

The next Board of Trustees' meeting will be **Monday, August 7th**.

Special Events

June 10th

~ Farmers Market

June 11th ~ 17th

~ Flag Week

June 14th

~ Flag Day

June 15th

~ Play in the Park

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>

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, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

A summary of the proposed Budget can be found on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The Public Hearing will be conducted at a Special Meeting on **Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 p.m.** (see below)

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is open for business every **Saturday** beginning at **8am** until **12 Noon** thru 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

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.

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** (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 soon.

Flag Day

People across America will celebrate Flag Day on **June 14th** each year to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption. On the same day, the United States Army

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

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.

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.

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.

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).

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
122 N. Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

E-mail:
citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

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

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.

Independence Day Celebration

The City's Independence Day celebration will be **Monday, July 3rd**, from **6 p.m.** to **10 p.m.**

Plans for the event are underway.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, June 2nd**.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their June meeting on **Thursday, June 8th** and discussed, considered and took action on the following agenda items:

- **Adopted** Resolution recommending the City of Blanchard, OK, thru its City Council, create a tax increment district and approve the Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan.

- **Tabled** at the request of the applicant of a proposed Planned Unit Development application submitted by:

Applicant: Alliance Property Group LLC.

Current Zoning: R-2 Combined Residential District

Proposed Zoning: PUD Planned Unit Development

Location: Lots 1-8 of Block 129 of the recorded plat

- **Tabled**, at the request of the applicant, the Public Hearing regarding a Zoning Application submitted by:

Applicant: Alliance Property Group LLC.

Current Zoning: R-2 Combined Residential District

Proposed Zoning: PUD Planned Unit Development
Location: Lots 1-8 of Block 129 of the recorded plat

- **Tabled** at the request of the applicant of a Resolution recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning application (Alliance Property Group LLC.)

- **Approved** a Short form subdivision (lot split) application SUBJECT to Zoning Reclassification filed by:

Applicant: TPR Investments, LLC
Current Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning: R-2 Combined Residential District
Original Tract: 5.02 Acres
Proposed Tracts: Tract 1A 0.75 Acres
Tract 2A 0.75 Acres
Tract 1B 3.52 Acres
Location: 306 NE 25th St.

- **Opened, conducted and closed** Public Hearing receiving public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by:

Applicant: TPR Investments, LLC
Current Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning: R-2 Combined Residential District
Location: 306 NE 25th St.

- **Adopted** Resolution recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning application (TPR Investments, LLC)

- **Discussed** a potential new tobacco zoning ordinance.

- **Discussed** proposed new zoning classification under the label of Rural Residential.

The July meeting will be **Thursday, July 13th**.

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

- 6/06/23 ~ ORR, David arrested an Outstanding McClain County Warrants.
- 6/06/23 ~ CAIN, Tommy arrested an Outstanding Stephens County Warrants.

Proclamation

Whereas the Second Continental Congress adopted the American flag on June 14, 1777; and

Whereas June 14, 2023 marks over 240 years of displaying our American flag; and

Whereas it is fitting and proper to officially recognize "Old Glory" as a symbol of hope, inspiration and pride for the people of the United States and around the world; and

Whereas in order to commemorate the adoption of our flag, on August 3, 1949, the Congress, by Joint Resolution, designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested that the 'President issue an annual Proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and call upon citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed the week of June 11-17, 2023 declared as 'NATIONAL FLAG WEEK' in the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, and call upon our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of our Country by displaying our American flag at their homes and businesses throughout the City.

Proclaimed the 23rd day of May, 2023.

Road Improvement Status

Haskell Lemon is trying to wrap up all of the drainage improvements and side drains on South County Line Road before they start with the road repairs.

Once completed, the road will totally be rebuilt and overlaid. A couple of areas on Morgan Road needs attention, then they will move to 55th Street NE to make improvements.

The City has applied for funding with ODOT for MacArthur Avenue from US62 south to 7th Street SE and Rockwell Avenue from US62 south to approximately one-half mile south of 7th Street SE from the newly created Municipal Well Drilling Activity Funds (MWDAF) administered by the state.

The City Engineer has changed a few structures on south County Line and working on drainage easements for Rockwell and MacArthur.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of April are more than thirty-three percent (33.14%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$9,818,380.20 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	341,443.27	19.73
Aug '22	433,295.74	26.51
Sep '22	493,098.78	109.33
Oct '22	454,007.33	40.16
Nov '22	457,106.95	41.12
Dec '22	487,024.24	38.91
Jan '23	428,228.18	37.11
Feb '23	418,590.93	0.00
Mar '23	419,223.15	46.10
Apr '23	396,177.21	-5.82
May '23	556,977.55	64.43
Jun '23	490,919.01	33.24
Totals	5,375,872.34	40.61

Senior Nutrition Center

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

(June 12th - June 16th)

Monday ~ Chef's Salad, Fruit, Crackers, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Ribbettes, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Bun, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Tetrizzini, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chili Pie, Salad, Corn, Corn Chips, 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.

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



REMEMBER! A Special Election this **Tuesday (June 13th)** will determine the fate of a proposed five (5%) percent Hotel/Motel Tax. If approved:

- it only goes into effect, if and when, a hotel/motel locates in Blanchard;
- paid ONLY by visitors staying overnight in

the hotel/motel;

- it is NOT a monthly or annual tax paid by the citizens;
- funds will be segregated into its own bank account for accountability; and
- used solely to promote Blanchard tourism and special events.

PLEASE VOTE!

Special Meeting

The Blanchard City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority will hold a joint special meeting, **Tuesday, June 13th, 6pm** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Swearing-in Christina Short to the City Council;
- Public Hearing re: annexing approximately 375 acres more or less;
- Ordinance approving said proposed Consent to Annexation;
- Budget Hearing for both City and BMIA;
- Resolution approving City Budget for FYE2024;
- Resolution approving BMIA Budget for FYE2024.

The next regular meetings will be **Tuesday, June 27th**.

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.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of April are fifteen percent (15.35%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,454,854.40 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	100,869.95	22.75
Aug '22	94,050.49	-3.45
Sep '22	137,513.39	55.31
Oct '22	119,613.15	40.95
Nov '22	102,787.23	11.07
Dec '22	146,676.03	50.92
Jan '23	164,384.56	28.56
Feb '23	176,627.17	32.54
Mar '23	92,405.76	12.81
Apr '23	125,133.07	50.95
May '23	149,609.41	60.59
Jun '23	122,742.72	34.93
Totals	1,532,412.93	32.93