



# E-Mail Newsletter

17 November 2023

Volume 137, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**

2pm - Traffic Court

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - BMIA

6pm - City Council

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**

4pm - Juvenile/Code Court

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - Tourism

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

2pm - Traffic Court

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - BMIA

6pm - City Council

**December 14<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - Planning Commission

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

4pm - Juvenile/Code Court

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - Tourism

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

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

## BMIA Wrap

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took the following action re:

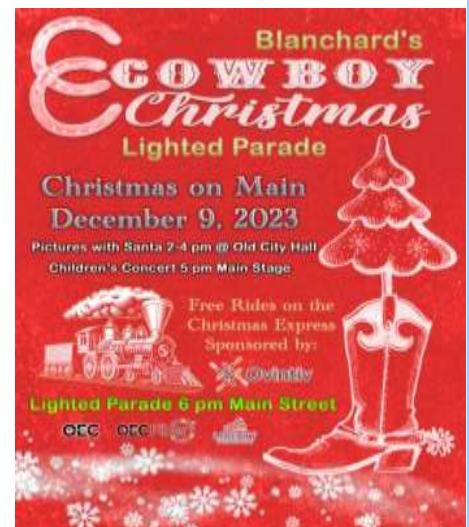
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-07 adopting the Holiday Schedule for BMIA employees.
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-08 adopting the 2024 Calendar of Meetings.
- **Approving** sewer variance for proposed commercial building to be located on south Tyler Avenue.
- **Approving** Consent Agenda.

The next regular meeting of the Blanchard Planning Commission will be **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

## Christmas on Main

- Pictures with Santa @ 2pm-4pm
- Shop Blanchard Giveaways @ 4:30pm
- Children's Christmas Concert
- Lighted Christmas Parade
- Parade starts at 6 PM

Come on down and enjoy Christmas on Main starting with pictures with Santa at the Old City Hall, then step onto Main Street for a Christmas concert followed by a lighted parade.



# Special Events

## NOVEMBER

23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Thanksgiving  
Day

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Thanksgiving  
After

## DECEMBER

6<sup>th</sup> ~ City Hall Open  
House

7<sup>th</sup> ~ Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day

9<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas on  
Main

9<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Lited  
Parade

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Christmas Eve

31<sup>st</sup> ~ New Year's Eve

## JANUARY

1<sup>st</sup> ~ New Year's Day

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

For Blanchard City events:  
Please visit our website at  
[www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

Library Events: Please visit  
their website at  
[https://pioneer.libnet.info/eve  
nts?l=virtual,blanchard](https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard)

# Council Wrap

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took the following action re:

- **Adopting** Ordinance No. 797 amending the BMC pertaining to sign regulations.
- **Approving** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 797.
- **Adopting** Ordinance No. 798 amending the BMC pertaining to property maintenance – vegetation and trees on rights-of-way, alleys and closed streets.
- **Approving** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 798.
- **Adopting** Ordinance No. 799 adding regulations to the BMC pertaining to vagrancy, loitering, sleeping in parks and at memorials.
- **Approving** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 799.
- **Tabling** Ordinance amending the BMC pertaining to ATVs/Golf Carts.
- **Tabling** Emergency Clause for Ordinance.
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-58 approving the 2024 Holiday Schedule.
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-59 approving alternative 2024 Meeting Calendar to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-60 approving the Workers' Comp reimbursement.
- **Adopting** Resolution No. 2023-61 accepting the FYE2024 CENA Grant award in the amount of \$12,000.
- **Discussing** the creation and development of a Community Garden.
- **Approving**, at the recommendation of the Municipal Judge, the remission of fines and court costs due to death of the defendant.
- **Approving** expenditure request by the BPD to outfit new 2023 Chevy Tahoe.
- **Approving** an Agreement with the Chickasha Nation for cross-deputization.
- **Approving** new Lexipol policies.
- **Discussing** the status of Phase I and II road improvements.
- **Completing** Fire Station No. 2 (all subcontractors paid).
- **Approving** Consent Agenda.
- **Tabling** Executive Session.

The next regular meeting of the Blanchard City Council will be **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

# 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.

## Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Day, **November 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ City Offices **Closed**

Day After Thanksgiving, **November 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ City Offices **Closed**

Trash service will **NOT** run on Thanksgiving (**Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**) and Christmas Day (**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**).

## 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.

## New City Hall

The City of Blanchard City Hall has been relocated to the Riley Exploration building, 2008 N. Council Avenue. City Hall will be opened for limited activity next week (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) in order to get offices setup and functioning.

The City offices that have been relocated to the new address are as follows:

- City Manager
- City Clerk
- Human Resources/Payroll
- Finance Director

# 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 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.

- Accounts Payable
- Utilities
- Municipal Court
- Planning & Zoning
- Receptionist
- Animal Control
- Building Inspections
- Code Enforcement
- Parks Director

The Police Department and the Emergency Communications Center will be relocated to the building at 122 N. Main on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Oklahoma's Growing Adventure

Whether you've been blasting Christmas music for weeks or you are patiently waiting until Thanksgiving to pull out the decorations, it is not too early to start planning where to get your Christmas tree.

Central Oklahoma is home to seven (7) Christmas tree farms where you can cut your own tree or purchase beautiful pre-cut evergreen trees and wreaths. The following is a list of Christmas tree farms within a close proximity to Blanchard:

- November 24 ~ All Pine Christmas Tree Farm (Yukon)
- November 24 ~ Cross Timbers Christmas Tree Farm & Pumpkin Patch (Harrah)
- November 24 ~ Martinbird Tree Farm (Tuttle)
- November 24 ~ Silver Bells Christmas Tree Farm (Tuttle)
- November 18 ~ Sorghum Mill Christmas Tree & Blackberry Farm (Edmond)
- November 24 ~ Wells Christmas Tree Farm (Norman)
- November 25 ~ Wonderland Farms (Harrah)

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.

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## Open House

The City will host an open house for the new City Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue, on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.

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## Police Blotter

No arrests.

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## Run Run Rudolph 5K

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event will take place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The run begins at 10 a.m. Registered by December 1<sup>st</sup> to get a t-shirt.

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## 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** (except City Observed Holiday).

**MENU:**

**(November 20<sup>th</sup> - November 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday** ~ Ribette, Parsley Potatoes, Baked Beans, Dessert.

**Tuesday** ~ Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Wednesday** ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Bread, Dessert.

**Thursday** ~ **CLOSED**.

**Friday** ~ **CLOSED**.

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.

## *Thanksgiving*

Our modern Turkey Day has its origins in 2 very different holidays: the harvest home feast and the formal day of thanksgiving proclaimed by church or government authorities in gratitude for a particular event, such as a military victory. Very few days of thanksgiving coincided with harvest celebrations. Thanksgiving Day began in Plymouth Colony in 1621, when the Pilgrims gave thanks for their survival and a good first crop.



In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday in November for a national celebration of Thanksgiving Day (in 1941, the U.S. Congress decreed that Thanksgiving should fall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November).

Roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and pumpkin pie were the main dishes of the New England home feast and became popular because of their supposed connection to the Pilgrims.

## *Tourism Board*

The November meeting of the Tourism Board is canceled due to the Thanksgiving Holidays.

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## *Upcoming Special Events*

- \* **December 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Open House (City Hall - 2008 N Council Ave)
- \* **December 9<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.

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## *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 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:27 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.

