



E-Mail Newsletter

8 December 2023

Volume 138, Number 2

Meeting Dates

- December 11th**
2pm - Traffic Court
- December 12th**
6pm - BMIA
6pm - City Council
- December 18th**
6pm - Tourism Board
- December 21st**
4pm - Juvenile/Code Court

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

City of Blanchard
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Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
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BETA Action

The Blanchard Economic Trust Authority (BETA) met in regular session on Monday, December 4th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **DISCUSSED** economic development activities in Blanchard.
- **HELD** Executive Session.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next regular meeting of the Blanchard Board of Adjustment will be **Monday, February 16th, 2024.**

BOA Action

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment met in regular session on Tuesday, December 5th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **HELD** Public Hearing re: the approval of a variance to allow relief to the applicant on the rear yard and side yard setbacks.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next regular meeting of the Blanchard Board of Adjustment will be **Tuesday, January 16th, 2024.**

Christmas

solstice seasons



The ancient Celts divided the year into four sections marked by Quarter Days - the days of the second and second equinoxes, on which the begins. Gradually, to conform more

Special Events

DECEMBER

9th ~ Christmas on Main

9th ~ Christmas Lited Parade

24th ~ Christmas Eve

25th ~ Christmas Day

31st ~ New Year's Eve

JANUARY

1st ~ 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

Library Events: Please visit their website at <https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

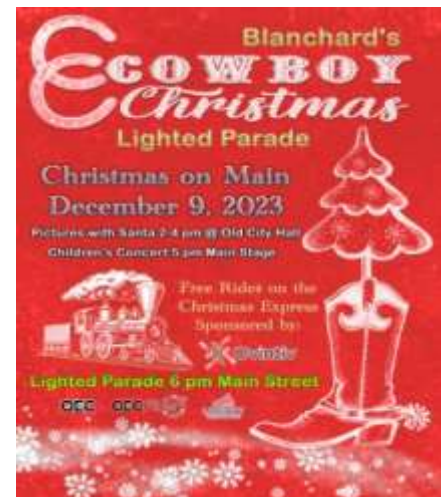


closely to the liturgical year of the Christian church, the Quarter Days became identified with the church's high seasonal festivals, which occurred close to the astronomical dates. Christmas, the fourth Quarter Day, was both the culmination of the old year and the first festival of the new year. The day originated as a solstice festival and signaled a time of resting and gathering fertility for a new round of sowing and reaping. This festival merged easily with the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, which occurred at this time of year.

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.



Christmas Parade

The annual Blanchard Christmas Parade will be tomorrow (**Saturday, December 9th**).

The lighted parade steps off at 6pm. The theme of the parade is a "Cowboy Christmas." Come dressed as your favorite cowboy.

For more information, please visit the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. The Parade Entry Form is on the site for downloading.



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.



Congratulations!

To the Blanchard Lions Football Team for winning the Class 4A Championship and the 4A Academics Championship with a combined GPA average of 3.638.

Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve, **Friday, December 22nd** and Christmas Day, **Monday, December 25th** ~ City Offices are **Closed**

Trash service will **NOT** run on Christmas Day (**Monday, December 25th**).

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.

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.

7. Locally owned



Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, December 1st**.

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:

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

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission met in regular session on Thursday, December 7th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **HELD** Public Hearing re: rezoning property from S-1 to R-E located at 2501 NW 10th Street.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution recommending approval to the Blanchard City Council.
- **DISCUSSED** commercial exterior wall ordinance.
- **DISCUSSED** landscaping ordinance.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next regular meeting of the Blanchard Planning Commission will be **Thursday, January 11th, 2024**.

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.



Police Blotter

No arrests.

Run Run Rudolph 5K

The 2nd annual event will take place tomorrow morning (**Saturday, December 9th**).

The run begins at 10 a.m.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of December is less than one percent (005.2%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$8,710,120.00 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	464,658.68	36.09
Aug '23	596,217.70	37.60
Sep '23	464,184.72	-5.86
Oct '23	543,597.76	19.73
Nov '23	499,693.71	9.32
Dec '23	435,504.94	-4.73
Jan '24	0	0.00
Feb '24	0	0.00
Mar '24	0	0.00
Apr '24	0	0.00
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
Totals	3,003,857.51	13.95

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:

(December 11th - December 15th)

We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us



Monday ~ Chicken & Dumplings, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Pizza, Salad, Corn, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Beets, Spinach, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Stroganoff, Carrots, Peas, 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.

Upcoming Special Events

* **December 9th** ~ Christmas Events & Parade of Lites

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



Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of December more than seventeen percent (17.51%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$2,929,163 retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	140,366.68	39.16
Aug '23	132,514.92	40.90
Sep '23	161,802.84	17.66
Oct '23	168,818.86	41.14
Nov '23	159,179.60	54.86
Dec '23	146,458.17	1.22
Jan '24	0	0.00
Feb '24	0	0.00
Mar '24	0	0.00
Apr '24	0	0.00
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
Totals	911,139.81	29.88

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 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.
