



# E-Mail Newsletter

15 December 2023

Volume 138, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

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

6pm ~ Tourism Board:  
Canceled

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

4pm ~ Juvenile/Code  
Court

## BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (BMIA) met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took action re:

- **AUTHORIZED** the City Engineer to make application to DEQ for permit for the construction of a water line extension to the Hux Grove Addition (225 lot subdivision) located in Grady County on US-62 southwest of Blanchard's City Limit.
- **AUTHORIZED** the City Engineer to make application to DEQ for permit for the construction of disinfection and discharge facilities at the wastewater treatment facility.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-09 authorizing issuance of \$4,000,000 of Utility System and Sales Tax Revenue Note Series 2023 for transportation improvements associated with TIF No. 2.
- **AUTHORIZED** the City Staff to purchase a new booster pump for installation at the booster station.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting of the BMIA Board of Trustees will be **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

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

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122 N. Main Street  
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## Christmas

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



# Special Events

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Winter Solstice

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

Observed: City Hall Closed

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Eve

25<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Day

City Hall Closed

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

**JANUARY**

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

City Hall Closed

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/events?l=virtual,blanchard>



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.

## Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took action re:

- **HELD** Public Hearing re: the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve zoning application to reclassify property from the A-1, Agricultural District to the C-5, Automotive & Commercial Recreational District.
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 800.
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 800.
- **HELD** Public Hearing re: the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve zoning application to reclassify property from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates District.
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 801.
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 801.
- **ADOPTED** Ordinance No. 802.
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 802.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-62 regarding bridge replacement on 85<sup>th</sup> Street just west of OK-76.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-63 accepting Water Line Permit for High School water line.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-64 accepting \$1,000 grant award for 911.
- **VOTED** not to lease soon-to-be vacant police station.
- **APPROVED** the lease-purchase of a 4-post vehicle lift for City Mechanic's shop.
- **APPROVED** the lease-purchase of 2-Dispatch Consoles for the Emergency Communications Center.
- **APPROVED** the lease-purchase of a 2023 F-550 Extended Cab 4x4 for the Blanchard Fire Department.
- **TABLED** the Community Garden until February 2024.
- **DISCUSSED** road improvements under Phase I and Phase II.
- **APPROVED** Task Authorization No. 3 with Freese and Nichols

# 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.



for improvements to serve TIF No. 2 and surrounding area.

- **AUTHORIZED** the City Manager to explore funding opportunities for CDBG grant funding for water improvements in original town.
- **AUTHORIZED** the City Manager to explore funding opportunities under OTRD Recreational Trails Program.
- **AUTHORIZED** the City Manager to explore funding opportunities under ODOT's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for sidewalk improvements.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-65 authorizing BMIA to issue its Utility System and Sales Tax Revenue Note, Series 2023 in the amount of \$4,000,000 for transportation improvements.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.
- **HELD** an Executive Session.

The next meeting of the City Council will be **Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

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## Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve observed on **Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** and Christmas Day observed on **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** ~ City Offices are **Closed**

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

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## 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;

# 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



◦ 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.

## Meetings

Effective beginning January 1, 2024, the City Council and the BMIA Board of Trustees monthly meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month.

## Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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)

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*

**12.13.23** ~ WALKER, Ricky arrested for Possession of CDS and Paraphernalia.

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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:**

**(December 18<sup>th</sup> - December 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Monday** ~ Menu Not Available.

**Tuesday** ~ Menu Not Available.

**Wednesday** ~ Menu Not Available.

**Thursday** ~ Menu Not Available.

**Friday** ~ Center 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.

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## *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

We're on the Web!

[www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)



**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.**

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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.**

