

# THE BLANDING BRIEF

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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**HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BLANDING CITY!

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY, AND AS YOUR MAYOR, I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO SPREAD SOME FESTIVE CHEER THROUGHOUT OUR WONDERFUL CITY! AS WE GATHER AROUND TWINKLING LIGHTS AND COZY FIREPLACES, I WANT TO EXTEND MY WARMEST WISHES TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE, I HOPE YOUR DAYS ARE FILLED WITH JOY, LAUGHTER, AND THE UNMISTAKABLE MAGIC THAT ONLY THE HOLIDAY SEASON CAN BRING.

OUR HOMES ARE ADORNED WITH DAZZLING DECORATIONS THAT LIGHT UP THE NIGHT, TURNING EVERY CORNER INTO A WINTER WONDERLAND. IT'S A SIGHT TO BEHOLD, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO TAKE A STROLL THROUGH OUR FESTIVELY ADORNED NEIGHBORHOODS, WHERE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS SHINES AS BRIGHTLY AS THE STARS ABOVE.

THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT ITS SHARE OF CHALLENGES, BUT TOGETHER, WE'VE SHOWN RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH AS A COMMUNITY. LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO APPRECIATE THE KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY THAT DEFINE US, AS WE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR.

IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER WAYS TO SPREAD JOY TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. WHETHER IT'S DONATING TO A LOCAL CHARITY, VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME, OR SIMPLY CHECKING IN ON A NEIGHBOR, LET'S EMBRACE THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SEASON AND MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

AS WE CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, MAY YOUR HOMES BE FILLED WITH LOVE, YOUR HEARTS WITH GRATITUDE, AND YOUR STOCKINGS WITH PLENTY OF GOODIES. FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! MAY THE COMING YEAR BRING US EVEN MORE REASONS TO CELEBRATE, AND MAY THE BONDS THAT UNITE US AS A CITY GROW STRONGER WITH EACH PASSING DAY.

WARMEST REGARDS,

LOGAN MONSON  
BLANDING CITY MAYOR



# Community Calendar

- JAN 1**      **New Years**
- JAN 15**     **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- JAN 30**     **Blanding Area Housing  
Assessment Open House**
- FEB 19**     **President's Day**
- Mar 10**     **Start of Daylight Savings**

**Do you have an event for the Community Calendar? Send it to [bmuhlestein@blanding.city](mailto:bmuhlestein@blanding.city)**

## Wellness Center Showers and Bathrooms

This year the Wellness Center has gone through some serious updates. The sprinkler and fire suppression system has been updated. As part of the updates, showers have also been added to the bathrooms.

While work has been extensive and long, it should be done around the beginning of the new year. Look out for an official notice on Facebook! We look forward to having this new feature at the Wellness Center

## Tip of the month

# xpress BILL PAY

Did you know that you can sign up online to pay your monthly utility bill?

Online bill pay and autopay saves you time and gives you more flexibility with paying your bills.

All you need is the internet, your account information, and an email address.

Steps to sign up:

1. Visit online at [www.blanding.city](http://www.blanding.city)
2. Click on "Pay/View My Utilities Online"
3. Complete the registration form.
4. Pay your bill OR set up autopay.
5. To further simplify, try out the **mobile app!**

## City Office Hours

If you have questions or need help with something, contact us at:

**Monday - Thursday**  
**7:30am - 5:30pm**

**Friday**  
**7:30am - 11:30am**

**(435) 678-2791**

[cityoffice@blanding-ut.gov](mailto:cityoffice@blanding-ut.gov)  
50 W 100 S, Blanding, UT

[www.blanding-ut.gov](http://www.blanding-ut.gov)

# The Story on Net Metering (Solar Panels)

Blanding City is temporarily closing the solar/net metering program to **new** applications until further notice. This closure will not affect current Net Metering customers. The goal during this closure is to revamp the program. The City will work closely with experts in the solar industry to clearly define and outline all details of the program. We want to educate any potential customers, solar sales companies, and the general public on those details.



- **New Net Metering agreements are currently paused**
- **Solar is NOT guaranteed to zero out your electric bill**
- **Solar Panels can have adverse affects to your structure**
- **Solar Panels have a life span and must one day be disposed of**

Making the decision to go solar should not be taken lightly. The customer should do their homework and know; how solar works, the terms of the solar company's contract, City policies and rates, other rules and regulations, and much more! The City's new program will hopefully help answer most of these questions, but it will ultimately be the responsibility of the customer to know all the details of going solar. We appreciate your patience and understanding as progress is made, and look forward to providing a better solar experience for everyone! Thank you.

# Blanding Has a New City Manager

My name is Trent Herring. I have lived in Blanding most of my life. I was born in the Monticello Hospital in 1983. Until I was 3 or 4 years old, our family moved around through Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. I remember coming back when I attended Pre-School and have been a Blandingite ever since. My favorite thing to do growing up was play baseball. I still enjoy that sport and get to play with my children now. I graduated from San Juan High School in 2002. I served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Recife Brasil from 2003-2005. Upon Returning from my mission, I met the love of my life Bailey Herring and we were married in the fall of 2005. She has blessed me with five children. Kessia (14), Kreed (13), Baze (11), Chattum (9), and Tag Thos (1). Bailey has been the rock of our family and she still amazes me with all that she does for our family. We spend most of our time as a family on the road playing baseball, basketball, and watching the wonderful art of Cheerleading and Dance.



After my mission, I worked in many different industries. I chased the money that the oil field had to offer. I worked at Lisbon Valley Mining Company. I worked in construction for Einerson Construction and Lyle Northern Electric. When the downturn of the economy in 2009 happened, I was able to find a job at the newly constructed Blue Mountain Hospital. I started there as the Maintenance Technician, but there was more I could do, so I offered to help in several different areas of the hospital. Throughout my 14 years at Blue Mountain Hospital, I worked as not only the Maintenance Technician, but also as the Materials Manager, Facilities Manager, Surgical Technician and helped anywhere else they needed my help. During those 14 years, I received my Bachelor's in Business Administration from American Intercontinental University. I then received my Master's of Business Administration through Boise State University. In 2018, I was fortunate enough to be offered the position of Chief Operating Officer. Blue Mountain Hospital was a great place that allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. I said goodbye to some amazing people and took the position as the Blanding City Manager on December 11, 2023.

# Blanding Revives Huff to Bluff as Bears Ears Marathon



We had a great turnout this year with 159 runners showing up to work their way towards Bluff. Andrew Yazzie, a local from Montezuma Creek came in first for the men's Marathon with Audra Sutherland from Provo Utah taking first in the women's marathon.

With Such a great result we are happy to announce we'll be doing it again next year on November 2nd, 2024.

We want to thank all those that volunteered to make this event possible: including those from Bluff Fort and Town of Bluff,

The San Juan High Cross Country Team, Utah State University Blanding campus, the Rotary club, several families and big thanks to our sponsors UNHS, Energy Fuels, Utah State University and Utah.com!





### The Justice Court Moved!

In October this year the Justice Court moved to the Police Building at 167 E 500 N, Blanding, UT 84511. The building had a few updates and will continue to have a few more updates in the year to come.

If you would like more information on the court, you can find that and more at [Blanding.city/justicecourt](http://Blanding.city/justicecourt)



### Employee of the Quarter

Have you interacted with or seen a city employee who has done an outstanding job in the community?

Now you can make recommendations for Employee of the Quarter!

Each person nominated or selected as the employee of the quarter will also be considered for employee of the year.

Both the quality and the quantity of recommendations for employee of the quarter and employee of the year will be taken into consideration by City Administration and the Mayor.

Submit recommendation at: [www.blanding-ut.gov/greatemployees](http://www.blanding-ut.gov/greatemployees)



### Feeling Cold in your House?

There are programs for assistance to keep your house warm.

For families and individuals you can get weatherization assistance from Utah Weatherization.

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1884>

HEAT assistance is also available for those at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Rate. You need to fill out a form from this website

<https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/scso/seal/heat.html>

Either apply online or print and fill out an application. If you printed your application, make sure to mail it to Southeastern Utah ALG HEAT Program PO Box 1106 Price, UT 84501

You can find more information at the website or by calling here: 435-613-0100

Need some energy helping tips? Try a few of these to stay warm this winter:

1. Find and seal leaks in your house
2. Take advantage of the Sun, open your curtains when the Sun is shining to allow radiant heat in.
3. You can cover drafty windows with plastic to reduce leaks.
4. Maintain your heating system.

You can find more tips here: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>

