



E~Mail Newsletter

3 May 2024

Volume 144, Number 1

Meeting Dates

MAY

6th ~ TEAM Blanchard

6th ~ SWODA
Transportation Chat

9th ~ Planning Comm

13th ~ Tourism Special

14th ~ BMIA

14th ~ City Council

20th ~ Tourism

21st ~ Board of
Adjustment [CANCELED]

*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

Agritourism

Strawberry season is upon us and you have the opportunity to pick your own berries. You can bring the whole family and spend the day picking fresh strawberries!

Below is a list of u-pick strawberry farms in central Oklahoma near you:

- Buffalo Creek Berry Farm | Mustang, OK
- Growing Paynes | Mustang, OK
- McRay Farms, Luther, OK

Board of Adjustment

The May meeting of the BOA is canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard has the following positions open:

- 3 ~ Police Officers;
- 1 ~ Water & Sewer Utilities Technician;
- 1 ~ Sanitation Worker (Transfer Center);
- 1 ~ Heavy Equipment Operator;
- 3 ~ Seasonal Street Workers;
- 4 ~ Line Install Crew;
- 1 ~ City Planner; and
- 2 ~ Dispatchers.

Applications available for download from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Return to the HR

Special Events

MAY

4th ~ Farmers Market

6th ~ Champion's
Parade

9th ~ Ascension Day

11th ~ Farmers
Market

12th ~ Mother's Day

13th ~ H.S. Graduation

15th ~ School Out

17th ~ May Daze

18th ~ May Daze

18th ~ Armed Forces
Day

18th ~ Farmers
Market

25th ~ Farmers
Market

27th ~ Memorial Day

30th ~ Veterans
Memorial Dedication

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

Director at payroll@cityofblanchard.us or drop off at City
Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue. The City is an EOE.

Farmers' Market

The annual Blanchard Farmers' Market is
opened every Saturday beginning at 8am
thru September

The Market is located on US-62 across
from Ten Arrows Coffee and Bistro.



Graduation

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2024 BHS Seniors! Graduation
will be **Monday, May 13th**. Ceremonies begin at 7 pm at the
Blanchard Football Stadium.

Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 27th** in observance
of Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency,
please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call
485.9391. Trash service will run as usual.

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;

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.

- 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.

May Daze Festival



31st Annual **MAY DAZE** Festival

May 17th & 18th
10 am-8pm
Main Street - Blanchard

Sponsored By:  **FESTIVAL**

Blanchard Chamber of Commerce

Live Music
100+ Vendors
Food Trucks & Vendors
KID'S ACTIVITIES

For more information, call the Blanchard Chamber Office at 405.485.8787.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12th will be Mother's Day. Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration.

The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances. On May 8, 1914, President

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

Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence. The day is now characterized by gift giving, sending greeting cards and flowers, and giving mother a "day off" by taking the family out to eat. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, April 26th**.

On The Planning Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will meet in regular session on Thursday, May 9th to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following Agenda items:

- Lot Split Application submitted by:
Applicant: Richard Hamilton
Address: Between Hilltop Ln. and Harryman Rd.
Original Tract: 5.00 acres
Proposed Tracts: 3: 1.25 acres, 2.5 acres, and 1.25 acres.
- Zoning Amendment.
Discussion and consideration on a potential ordinance amending the bulk requirements, including, but not limited to the setback restrictions for residential zoning districts, as established in Article 7 of Chapter 21 of the Blanchard Code of Ordinances.
- Zoning Amendment.
Discussion and consideration on a potential ordinance amending the bulk requirements and permitted uses chart for the A-1 Agricultural zoning district, as established in Article 7 of Chapter 21 of the Blanchard Code of Ordinances.
- 4. **Presentation / Training.**
Discussion regarding subdivision requirements, and the purpose of subdivision as a portion of the development process.
The Agenda Packet will be posted on the City's website.

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.

Park Events

5/17/24 ~ May Daze

5/18/24 ~ May Daze

March/October ~ Pop Up Parties (Food Trucks & Live Music)

6/7/24 ~ Concert in the Park
Movies Under the Stars

6/14/24 ~ Concert in the Park

6/15/24 ~ Fishing Derby

6/21/24 ~ Concert in the Park
Movies Under the Stars

6/28/24 ~ Concert in the Park

7/02/24 ~ Independence Day Celebration

8/16/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival

8/17/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival

9/28/24 ~ Mufflers On Main

10/31/24 ~ PumpkinFest

11/09/24 ~ Veterans Day Parade

12/14/24 ~ Christmas Parade of Lights

12/14/24 ~ Christmas on Main

Police Blotter

NO ARRESTS REPORTED.

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

Monday ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuit, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Stroganoff, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Ham 'n Potatoes, Broccoli, Fruit, Dessert.

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

We're on the Web!
Please visit us at
www.cityofblanchard.us

Friday ~ Chicken Salad, 3-Bean Salad, Jello Salad, Crackers, Dessert.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **May 6th** thru **May 10th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **May 2nd**.

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, please 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.

SWODA Transportation Chat

Blanchard will host the monthly Southwestern Oklahoma Transportation Chat Group on **Monday, May 6th**, at 10 am, Old City Hall, 114 West Broadway (see Attached).

The group will be talking with the community about transportation needs, concerns and strategies for

improvements. This chat is important because it brings the community together to discuss and focus on transportation solutions that work for everyone. Thus ensuring that the solutions are efficient and consider the needs of citizens, businesses, agencies, and transit agencies.

Tornado Safety

In Oklahoma, tornados are frequent in the spring and summer months. An average of 800 tornados are reported each year, causing 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries per year. These storms are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or greater. The following guidelines will assist in keeping you safe:

Tornado Watch - means a tornado is “possible”. When the National Weather Service issues a warning, it is time to turn on a TV or radio, look out the window from time to time, and be more alert to what is happening outside.

Tornado Warning - means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Warning Signs - A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

» If there is a tornado warning or watch posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger.

» A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.

» Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.

» A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, then turning into a roar as it comes closer.

» Tornados usually move from southwest to northeast.

Safety Tips -

- Shelter indoors, away from flying debris.
- Go to your basement, storm cellar, safe room or lowest level of your home.
- Go to the most interior hallway or room without windows. Stay away from windows and doors.
- Avoid places/rooms with wide-span roofs (cafeterias, gymnasiums, shopping malls).
- Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. It's one of the

most unsafe places to be during a tornado.

- Don't seek shelter in drainage systems, culverts or ditches because of flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Veterans Memorial Dedication

The Veterans Memorial Dedication is scheduled for **Thursday, May 30th** at 10am. The Governor, LT Governor, Secretary of Transportation, Tourism Director, Assistant Adjutant General and other dignitaries will be in attendance.

Weatherization Assistance

PSO offers to its customers a 'Home Weatherization Assistance Program'.

Homeowners and renters with an annual household income of \$55,000 or less in a home less than 2,200 square feet and built prior to 2010 may be eligible for **FREE** home upgrades such as attic insulation, air and duct sealing, and more.

PSO's service provider, Titan ES, will perform an energy assessment at your home. If your home qualifies, Titan will schedule and complete the necessary home upgrades.

The services are completed at **NO** cost to you. PSO pays Titan ES for any approved upgrades completed on your home.

For more information, contact the PSO Customer Services Account Representative at 405.222.7615.

Champions Parade

Monday May 6th
7:30pm

The City of Blanchard & the Blanchard Parks Dept. would like to invite you to join us as we celebrate our State Champions. Come fill the Street and cheer on our state title winners.

Cheer - Stunt State Champions

Blanchard H.S. Marching Band - Sweepstake Champions

Tyler Misenheimer - Wrestling State Champion



This Parade will run from Legacy Bank south to the Flagpole we will gather immediately afterwards at the stage for a ceremony .

Please join us as we honor their victories...

SWOK TRANSPORTATION CHAT

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA TRANSPORTATION CHAT GROUP

Where?

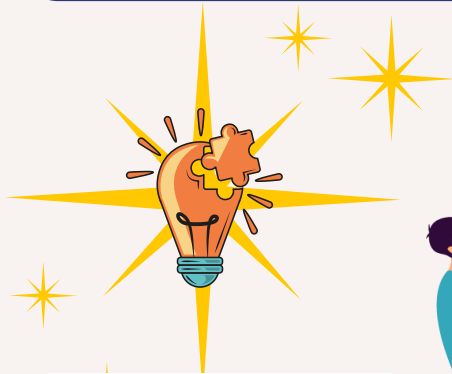
- **Historic Blanchard City Hall**
114 West Broadway
Blanchard, OK

When?

- **May 6, 2024**
10:00am - 11:00am

Talking with the community about transportation needs, concerns and strategies for improvement. This chat is important because it brings the community together to discuss and focus on transportation solutions that work for everyone. Thus, ensuring that the solutions are efficient and consider the needs of citizens, businesses, agencies, and transit agencies.

We Value Your Input!!



If you are unable to attend in person and would like to attend virtually, please email me at cristi@swoda.org to receive a virtual link or scan the QR code.