



E-Mail Newsletter

5 April 2024

Volume 143, Number 1

Meeting Dates

APRIL

9th ~ Council/BMIA

11th ~ Planning Comm

15th ~ Tourism

16th ~ Board of Adjustment

*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

The City of Blanchard has an Adopt-A-City Street Program which allows residents/groups to adopt and clean up a one-mile stretch of road on one of our City Streets. Cleanup involves a two-year commitment, and cleanup is done twice a year, spring and fall. A sign will be placed on the street with your name or group name of who is responsible for cleaning that street. If you are interested in adopting one of the available streets, please contact the Parks Department at (405) 485-9392 or parks@cityofblanchard.us or visit the City's facebook page. Thank you for helping us keep the City of Blanchard looking great!

All You Can Eat Breakfast

The Blanchard Masonic Lodge will host their April AYCE Breakfast for \$7:00.

on **Saturday, April 13th** from **7am to 11am**.

Proceeds go to a selected youth organization as a fundraiser.



Animal Cruelty Prevention Month

Preventing animal cruelty starts with responsible pet ownership. The month of April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month. Cruelty may include but not limited to animal neglect of unreasonable deprivation of necessary food, care or shelter or inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Any physical punishment inconsistent with the health of such animal;
- ◆ Lack of food or water for more than a twenty-four (24) hour period;



Special Events

APRIL

6th ~ Spring Bazaar

11th ~ United States

Submarine Force Day

13th ~ AYCE Breakfast

15th ~ Purple Up! Day

22nd ~ Earth Day

23rd ~ Passover Begins

24th ~ Administrative Professionals Day

24th ~ US Submarine Force Day

27th ~ Bark in the Park

- Animal Cruelty Prevention Month
- Earth Month
- Fair Housing Month

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>

- ◆ Knowingly permitting obvious nutritional deficiencies or other evident Health problems involving any animal;
- ◆ Improper use of any collar or harness or a fixed leash for the purpose of confining any animal which results in flesh laceration, obvious pain or to cause choking to such animal;
- ◆ Depriving animal of adequate shelter; and
- ◆ Inhumane killing or attempting to kill any animal.

You can report instances of animal cruelty calling the City of Blanchard at 405.485.9392 to be investigated by the Animal Control Officer.

BETA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority held their April meeting on **Monday, April 1st**, and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- **Discussed** the status of economic development pertaining to industrial prospects and commercial businesses;
- **Discussed** the status of the 2024 Farmers' Market to include the purchase of five (5) new tents;
- **Discussed** the status of TIF No. 2;
- **Discussed** the status of TIF No. 3; and
- **Approved** the Consent Agenda as presented.

The next meeting of the Trust will be June 3rd.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard has the following positions open:

- Police Officer;
- Water & Sewer Utilities Technician;
- Street & Alley Laborer; and
- Summer help.



Fair Housing Month

April is 'Fair Housing Month'. The city

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.

encourages each citizen to implement the provisions of the city's Fair Housing Ordinance and requests that any person, or group of persons, planning activities to promote fair housing to inform the city clerk of such activities. A copy of the ordinance may be obtained from the city clerk.

Farmers' Market

The annual Blanchard Farmers' Market opens tomorrow (**Saturday, April 6th**) beginning at **8am**.

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



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

May Daze Festival



Plans are underway for the Chamber's 30th Annual May Daze Festival in May.

The "Unofficial" start to summer in Blanchard begins with the Chamber's annual Festival in May.

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

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, March 29th**.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (BMIA) will hold their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th**, beginning at **6p.m.** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Status of water improvements;
- Status of the sewer improvements;
- Authorizing the City Engineer to prepare an Engineering Report regarding sewer improvements serving the TIF No. 3;
- Consent Agenda; and
- Executive Session.

The Agenda is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. The next meeting of the Trust will be **May 14th**.

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.

On the Council Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will hold their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th**, beginning immediately following the BMIA meeting to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Issuance of Proclamations;
- Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to reclassify property from the S-1 District to the A-1 District;
- Ordinance classifying property to the A-1 District;
- Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance;
- Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to reclassify property from the A-1 District to the R-E District;
- Ordinance classifying property to the R-E District;
- Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance;
- Resolution approving the 2023 Code Supplement;
- Resolution approving annual Engagement Letter with Crawford & Associates for FYE2025;
- Resolution approving a Letter of Support & annual Delta Public Transit Agreement;
- Resolution approving an annual Agreement with Pioneer Library beginning July 1, 2024;
- Resolution approving the annual Reservation Agreement with Blanchard Senior Citizens;
- Resolution approving annual Audit Agreement with HSPG & Associates;
- Resolution approving Special Event Permit for the Blanchard Chamber of Commerce;
- Resolution approving the reappointment of incumbents to various boards;
- Resolution approving the nomination and appointment of Jim Lackey to the Board of Adjustment;
- Authorize the City Attorney to draft Promissory Note for the completion of the Veterans Memorial not to exceed \$25,000;
- Revisit Ordinance No. 807 adopted by City Council on 2/13/24;
- Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee members for the Central

We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us

Business District;

- Amendment No. 3 with Glenn Sullivan & Associates; and status of funding and cost estimates for Phase II Section Line Road Improvements;
- Authorize sealed bids to make street improvements to NE 7th Street from Main Street east to western boundary of Blanchard Crossing;
- Acceptance of Road & Utility Easement granted by the Blanchard Public School Board of Education;
- Authorize City Engineer to perform drainage study on Partridge Lane within the Quail Haven Addition;
- Consent Agenda; and
- Executive Session.

The Agenda is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. The next meeting will be May 14th.

Park Events

4/27/24 ~ Bark in the Park

5/5/24 ~ Cinco D' Mayo

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

Purple Up! Day

Help Celebrate Military Kids on Purple Up! Day. April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor our community youth impacted by deployment.

It is no secret that our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate like a complicated obstacle course. However, if given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.

In celebration, you're invited to join in showing your support by being part of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple on **Monday, April 15, 2024**. This will be a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. (Did you know: Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.)

The hope is everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative ... the goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community!



Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of April is shown in the Chart below based on five (5%) of \$8,315,168 of 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	477,017.05	11.45
Feb '24	438,490.54	4.75
Mar '24	389,696.68	-11.13
Apr '24	415,758.40	6.69
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
Totals	4,350,622.18	10.39

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).

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **April 8th** thru **April 12th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **April 4th**.

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.

Spring Bazaar

The Blanchard Methodist Women will host their annual Spring Bazaar on **Saturday, April 6, 2024**, at 1101 North Main St.

SWODA Transportation Chat

Blanchard will host the monthly Southwestern Oklahoma Transportation Chat Group on **Monday, April 6, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m., Old City Hall, 114 West Broadway.

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 most 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.

» Tornadoes 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.

U.S. Submarine Force Day

The submarine force was established on April 11, 1900, when the United States Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, submarines have been used with fortitude and creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea, and have become an indispensable asset that patrols and protects worldwide today.

Submarines and their underwater warfighting companions have commanded and operated by courageous men and women

who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service of their country.

Oklahoma has recognized the significance of the US Submarine Force and their crew for their defense of our most cherished freedoms.

On **Thursday, April 11, 2024**, has been proclaimed as the United States Submarine Force Day in Oklahoma.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of April is shown in the Chart below based on five (5%) of \$2,507,155 of 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	229,082.13	39.36
Feb '24	255,360.29	44.58
Mar '24	144,524.27	-7.67
Apr '24	125,357.74	-15.29
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
Totals	2,273,798.24	27.89