



E~Mail Newsletter

12 July 2024

Volume 146, Number 2

Meeting Dates

JULY

15th ~ Tourism Board

16th ~ Bd of Adjustment

Best Places in Oklahoma

In 2024, there are 596 cities and towns in Oklahoma, and Blanchard has been ranked as follows:

- * 2nd Best Place to Live in McClain County.
- * 3rd Safest City in Oklahoma; and
- * 47th Largest City in Oklahoma.

Blanchard's Bluegrass Festival

The City's annual 2024 Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for Friday, August 16th and Saturday, August 17th.

Activities will include:

- * Friday Gospel Night;
- * Saturday is traditional Bluegrass;
- * Food;
- * Vendors; and
- * FREE Entry.

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the BMIA met in regular session on Tuesday, July 9th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action as follows:

- **DISCUSSED** water improvements;
- **DISCUSSED** funding of improvements;
- **DISCUSSED** sewer improvements; and
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting of the Trust will be Tuesday, August 13th.

*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

Special Events

JULY

13th~Farmers Market
17th~Multi-Chamber
Luncheon
20th~Farmers Mkt
27th~Farmers Mkt

AUGUST

3rd~Farmers Market
10th~Farmers Market
16th~BlueGrass
Festival
17th~Farmers Market
17th~BlueGrass
Festival
24th~Farmers Market
31st~Farmers Market

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 @
<https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

Community Food Bank

Fresh and frozen food items are available to anyone in need on the second Tuesday of each month. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis for the 73010 zip code area, at the First Baptist Church of Blanchard, 919 10th Street NE from 4-6 p.m.

Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 9th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action as follows:

- **HELD** public hearing on zoning application reclassifying property from C-4, Restricted Commercial District to I-2, Heavy Industrial District;
- **DENIED** Zoning Ordinance to reclassify property;
- **DELETED** Emergency Clause;
- **HELD** public hearing on amending Sections 21-724 thru 21-728 pertaining to bulk regulations of the residential zoning districts;
- **ADOPTED** Zoning Regulation Ordinance amending such code as recommended by Planning Commission;
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause;
- **HELD** public hearing to amend Article 7 pertaining to the bulk regulations and permitted land use chart under A-1, Agricultural District;
- **ADOPTED** Zoning Regulation Ordinance amending such code as recommended by the Planning Commission;
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause;
- **HELD** public hearing re: adding a new Section 4-209 of Chapter 4 pertaining to requiring a permit for land clearing development within the corporate limits;
- **ADOPTED** Zoning Regulation Ordinance to add such code as recommended by the Planning Commission;
- **ADOPTED** Emergency Clause;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution appointing Jeff Lister to a new 4-year term serving on the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority (BETA);
- **ADOPTED** Resolution awarding the bid to Haskell Lemon Group in the amount of \$2,199,959.00 for Phase II of Section Line Road Improvements;
- **APPROVED** disclaimer in the matter of vacation of a portion of Meadow View Estates, CV-2024-151 as recommended by the City Attorney and authorized the Mayor to sign;
- **DISCUSSED** the Central Business District;
- **DISCUSSED** other street improvements;
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda; and
- **HELD** Executive Session.

The next meeting of the Blanchard City Council will be Tuesday, August 13th.

After Hours

- * water leaks
- * waterline breaks
- * sewer backups
- * sewer line breaks
- * lift station alarms
- * manholes over flowing
- * 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.

Shop

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard has the following open positions available:

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

Applications are available for download from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Return to the HR Director at payroll@cityofblanchard.us or drop off at City Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue. Positions are open until filled. The City is an EOE.

Grocery Tax Bill

The bill that reduced the state sales tax rate ONLY on food and food ingredients to 0% is House Bill 1955, commonly referred to as the "grocery tax" bill and goes into effect on August 29th, 2024.

This bill eliminates the state ONLY portion of the sales tax on food and food ingredient items typically purchased at a grocery store.

For more information and answers to common questions on the 'grocery tax', as well as a listing of sales tax exempt items, please refer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website at www.tax.ok.gov.

Multi-Chamber Luncheon

The annual Multi-Chamber Luncheon will be held **Wednesday, July 17th** from **11:30am - 1pm** at the Blanchard High School Cafeteria, 1440 N. County Line Avenue, Blanchard, OK.

Keynote speaker will be Phil Nichols, CFED, CEA, CPC. Luncheon is catered by Dakota's. Price is \$20 per person.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, July 5th**.

On the BOA Agenda

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment will meet in regular session **Tuesday, July 16th** at **6:00 p.m.** to discuss, consider and take

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 businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know

appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Public Hearing to solicit comments regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to vary from the sign ordinance to apply on side of building;
- Approve or deny the Finding of Fact on the above application.
- 2025 Schedule of Meeting Dates.
- Consent Agenda.

The Agenda is posted on the City's website @ www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the Tourism Agenda

The Blanchard Tourism Board will meet in regular session **Monday** nite (**July 15th**) at **6:00** p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Discussion and possible action re: quotes for 2-minute; 1-minute; and 30-second videos highlighting the City of Blanchard.
- Discussion and possible action re: placing promotion in Frontier Country Magazine; Chickasaw Country Travel Guide; and Blanchard Living.
- Discussion and possible action re: tri-fold, promotional materials, and promotional pamphlets for the OML Conference.
- Consent Agenda.

The agenda is posted on the City's website @ www.cityofblanchard.us.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their July meeting on Thursday, July 11th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- **HELD** Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by:

Applicant: Sunshine Development of Indian Ridge

Current Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District

Proposed Zoning: C-5 Automotive and Commercial Recreation District

Address: Northwest Corner of Veterans Memorial Highway and S. Morgan Ave.

- **APPROVED** Resolution No. 2024-17, recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance amending the zoning district from Agricultural (A-1) to Automotive and Commercial Recreation (C-5) on a tract of approximately 87.73 acres located within the West Half of Section 35, Township 8 North, Range 5 West of the Indian Meridian, Grady County, Oklahoma.

- **APPROVED** lot split application filed by:

Applicant: Julie Bowring

Address: N. Aspen Rd.

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.

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

Original Tract: One (1) original tract: 10.02 acres

Proposed Tracts: Two (2) tracts: 5.01 acres each

- **DISCUSSED** Resolution No. 2024-18 recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance amending Section 15-134 in Article 1 of Chapter Fifteen (15), Certain Sections within Articles Seven (7), Nine (9), and Ten (10) of Chapter Twenty-One (21) and Certain Sections within Articles One (1) and Three (3) of Chapter Twenty-Two (22) of the Code of Ordinances of Blanchard, Oklahoma, concerning fees for certain development types.

- **DISCUSSED** Resolution No. 2024-19 recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance adding new language to Article Two (2) of Chapter Four (4) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, requiring new developments in commercial and industrial zoning districts to be located in platted subdivisions; and

- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be **August 8th**.

Park Events

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.

Sales Tax Holiday

Oklahoma's annual sales tax holiday will begin at **12:01** am on **Friday, August 2, 2024** and ends at **12:01** am on **Sunday, August 4, 2023**.

Certain clothing and shoe purchases are exempt from sales tax for this time period only. Qualified items are exempt from state, city, county and local municipality sales taxes.

Retailers are required to participate and may not collect state and local sales or use tax on most footwear and clothing that are sold for less than \$100 during the holiday.

For more information and answers to common questions on the sales tax holiday, as well as a listing of sales tax exempt items, please refer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website at www.tax.ok.gov.

School Begins

Thursday, August 15th, for Blanchard students. Please drive carefully in posted school zones. The speed limit is 25 mph ... and fines are double for speeding.

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 ~ Chef's Salad, Fruit, Crackers, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Chili Pie, Salad, Corn, Corn Chips, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Tetrazzini, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chef's Choice.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **July 15th** thru **July 19th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **June 11th**.

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.

Splash Pad

The City's Splash Pad is open For further information, please visit the City's facebook page or website for more recreational activities.

Tall Weeds & Grass



The City of Blanchard is committed to adopted regulations concerning the abatement of tall grass, weeds and trash.

The Blanchard Municipal Code concerning public nuisances and property enhancement requires that owners or responsible persons of property located within the municipal city limits are prohibited from allowing debris, junk, waste or trash to accumulate, or weeds or tall grass over twelve (12") inches in height, dead trees, bushes, and shrubs to grow or stand upon the premises. This regulation is based upon the Oklahoma State Law Title 11, Section 22-111 which sets forth the procedure and definitions for the cleaning and mowing of property.

Property that abuts against public property (ie: alleys, streets, etc.) are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of mowing of tall weeds and grass, trees, etc.)

For more information, contact the Code Enforcement Officer at 405.485.9392 or file an anonymous complaint on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Veterans Memorial

There are more than 600 individual bricks still available for purchase and to be show-cased at this incredible Memorial. Individual bricks are \$125 apiece or 3 bricks for \$300. An Order Form can be found on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Water Rationing

REMINDER! The City of Blanchard receives 100% of our water from the City of Oklahoma City. As a result, we are on a full-time water rationing of odd-even days, as required by our Agreement with Oklahoma City.

This means if your address ends in an even number then you can legally water on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, and 30th of each month.

If your address ends in an odd number, then you can legally water on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, and 31st of each month.

Please call City Hall or email us complaints of possible violations anonymously at www.cityofblanchard.us.

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.
