



E~Mail Newsletter

2 August 2024

Volume 147, Number 1

Meeting Dates

AUGUST

5th ~ TEAM Blanchard
5th ~ BPS Bd of Ed
5th ~ BETA
6th ~ Tourism Special
8th ~ Planning Comm
13th ~ BMIA
13th ~ City Council
19th ~ Tourism Board
20th ~ BOA (Canceled)
27th ~ Sp Council/BMIA

*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

Absentee Ballots

Voters in McClain County who want absentee ballots mailed to them for the **August 27th** Runoff Primary Election should apply now with the McClain County Election Board.

Absentee ballots are available to all registered voters, provided they are eligible to vote in the election requested. No excuse is needed to vote by absentee ballot.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is **5:00 pm, Monday, August 12th**.

Voters can submit a request using the OK Voter Portal at [Oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp](https://oklahoma.gov/elections/ovp). Request forms are also available at [Oklahoma.gov/elections](https://oklahoma.gov/elections) and at the County Election Board Office located at 121 N. Second Avenue, Purcell.

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.

Board of Adjustment

The August meeting for the Blanchard Board Adjustment scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th, has been **canceled** due to a lack of agenda items.

Bond Election

The Blanchard Public School Independent School District No. 29, McClain County, will conduct an election for the issuance of General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds in the total amount of over \$66million.

Special Events

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/eve
nts?l=virtual.blanchard](https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual.blanchard)

Description of Proposed Bond Projects voting on **27th** day of **August, 2024**: to construct, equip, furnish and/or acquire the following:

- a high school saferoom/classroom addition \$22,596,266.00;
- to renovate, repair, remodel and/or acquire improvements to safety and security systems \$836,899.00;
- to acquire and install technology upgrades from the proceeds of bonds maturing within five (5) years from their date \$1,673,797.00;
- to construct, equip, furnish and/or acquire a baseball/softball complex \$18,411,772.00;
- to construct, equip, furnish and/or acquire a football/soccer fieldhouse \$20,085,570.00;

to acquire land for additional classrooms \$2,092,247.00;

- to acquire band instruments \$418,449.00 for a total of \$66,115,000.00.

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 **4:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm**.

Five Tribe Wildlife Management

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes announced the Five Tribe Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement permitting hunting and fishing licenses issued through each tribe to be recognized by the other tribes that are party to the agreement, all on respective reservation land.

Tribal members and citizens of the Cherokee Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Muscogee Nation and very soon the Seminole Nation can utilize their tribal membership to enjoy hunting and fishing in participating tribes' treaty territories.

State game wardens cross-deputized with the respective tribes can ticket and enforce laws on these reservations, as well.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that no new oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard since **Friday, July 26th**.

On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their August meeting on Thursday, August 8th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

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.

- Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on Resolution 2024-21, recommending approval or denial 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 the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, concerning fees for certain development types.

- Discussion, consideration, possible action and/or amendments on Resolution 2024-21, recommending approval or denial 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 the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, concerning fees for certain development types.

- Discussion and consideration of a resolution recommending approval or denial to the City Council of an ordinance amending Section 22-107 in Article 1 of Chapter Twenty-Two (22) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma, concerning lot split regulations.

The agenda will be posted on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the Tourism Agenda

The Blanchard Tourism Board did not have a quorum at the called special meeting on Thursday, so the Chairman has called a special meeting for **Tuesday** evening, **August 6th** at **6:45pm** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- approval or disapproval of a citywide made video for the OML conference and to be used afterwards on the Tourism page of city website.
- If approved for funds for videographer \$800-\$1000 for an informational video entitled "Explore Blanchard".
- Discussion of ending balance of tourism budget after video and conference.
- Board/Staff Comments.

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

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

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

Police Blotter

NO Arrests Reported.

Runoff Primary Election

Polls are open across the state from **7:00am** to **7:00pm** on election day, **Tuesday, August 27th**.

To find your polling place and view a sample ballot for your precinct use the OK Voter Portal.

There is NO excuse needed to vote "early" by in-person absentee ballot.

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 ~ Spaghetti, Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Hot Dogs w/Bun, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Tomato Spoon Relish, Spinach, Cornbread,

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.

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

Dessert.

Friday ~ Ham Salad, Tomato Soup, Green Salad, Crackers, Dessert.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **August 5th** thru **August 9th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **August 1st**.

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.

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 500 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.