



# E~Mail Newsletter

16 August 2024

Volume 147, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

### AUGUST

19<sup>th</sup> ~ Tourism Board  
20<sup>th</sup> ~ BOA (Canceled)  
27<sup>th</sup> ~ 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

## Allsup's

The company has started construction on their site located at the southeast corner of US-62 and OK-76 junction. The City is currently reviewing their submitted plans for the extension of the 12-inch water main to serve their store.

They want to be open by January 2025.

## Blanchard's Bluegrass Festival

The City's annual 2024 Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for this weekend beginning tonite, **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** and ends **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**. Activities will include \* Friday Gospel Night; \* Saturday is traditional Bluegrass; \* Food; \* Vendors; and \* FREE Entry.

## BMIA Action

The Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (BMIA) held their August meeting on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Discussed water issues and improvements.
- Discussed utility projects financed by the OWRB loan.
- Discussed sewer projects.
- Called special meeting of the Trust for Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Tabled easements for utilities from Dan Churchill (Blue Sky 415 LLC).
- Approved Consent Agenda as presented.

The next regular meeting of the Authority will be Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Bond Election

The Blanchard Public School Independent School District No. 29, McClain

# Special Events

## AUGUST

10<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market  
13<sup>th</sup>~Community Food Bank  
15<sup>th</sup> ~ School Begins  
16<sup>th</sup>~BlueGrass Festival  
16<sup>th</sup>~Nat'l Airborne Day  
17<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market  
17<sup>th</sup>~BlueGrass Festival  
22<sup>nd</sup>~Grady County Free Fair  
23<sup>rd</sup>~Grady County Free Fair  
24<sup>th</sup>~Grady County Free Fair  
24<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market  
27<sup>th</sup>~Runoff Primary Election  
27<sup>th</sup>~School Bond Election  
31<sup>st</sup>~Farmers Market

## SEPTEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup>~LABOR DAY  
3<sup>rd</sup>~McClain County Free Fair  
4<sup>th</sup>~McClain County Free Fair  
5<sup>th</sup>~McClain County Free Fair  
5<sup>th</sup>~Cleveland County Free Fair  
6<sup>th</sup>~McClain County Free Fair  
6<sup>th</sup>~Cleveland County Free Fair  
7<sup>th</sup>~McClain County Free Fair  
7<sup>th</sup>~Cleveland County Free Fair  
7<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market  
8<sup>th</sup>~Cleveland County Free Fair  
14<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market  
21<sup>st</sup>~Farmers Market  
28<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market

County, will conduct an election for the issuance of General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds in the total amount of over \$66million.

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.

## Bridge Replacement

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has submitted an Agreement for the Council consideration to replace the bridge over Stinson Creek on EW-1240 (west of Oklahoma State Highway 76) on 85<sup>th</sup> NW.

The cost of the bridge replacement is estimated at \$951,123 and will be paid for by the state at 100%.

## Chamber Luncheon

The August Chamber Luncheon will be held **Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **12** Noon at Winter Creek 19<sup>th</sup> Hole, 2300 Clubhouse Drive, Blanchard.

The Luncheon is \$10 per person and is sponsored by Liberty National Bank.

## Cleveland County Free Fair

The annual 2024 Cleveland County Free Fair in Norman will begin **Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** and ends **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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**.

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page regarding City sponsored events.

For Blanchard City events: Please visit our website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

Library Events: Please visit their website @ <https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

## Council Action

The Blanchard City Council held their August meeting on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Opened, conducted, and closed Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Resolution, recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance approving Zoning Application submitted by Sunshine Development of Indian Ridge from A-1, Agricultural District to the C-5, Automotive and Commercial Recreational District.
- Adopted Ordinance approving Zoning Reclassification from A-1 to C-5.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.
- Adopted Resolution approving the purchase and installation of antenna and repeater.
- Adopted Resolution accepting OMAG's recommendation to deny Tort Claim.
- Adopted Resolution nominating and appointing Mary Beth McKane to the Tourism Board to fill an unexpired term.
- Adopted Resolution approving the Projects Manager to attend the 2024 APA Quad State Planning Conference in Fayetteville, AR.
- Adopted Resolution approving the installation of regulatory signs "Yield to School Bus) at the Elementary School on Main.
- Adopted Resolution approving a FYE2025 Budget Supplement in the amount of \$3,000 for the Tourism Boards.
- Adopted Resolution approving a FYE2024 Budget Amendment of \$368,561.
- Tabled acceptance of easements from Dan Churchill (Blue Sky 415 LLC).
- Discussed the location of a 3<sup>rd</sup> fire station and the relocation of Fire Station No. 1.
- Discussed improvements, etc. for the Central Business District.
- Discussed Phase II of the Section Line Roads.
- Discussed Phase 1 of the Local Street Improvements.
- Authorized bids for the removal of trees in the R-O-W of US62.
- Approved Consent Agenda, as presented.
- Held an Executive Session and finalized the City Manager's FYE2025 Contract.

The next meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Grady County Free Fair

The annual 2024 Grady County Free Fair in Chickasha will begin **Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** and ends **Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**.

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## McClain County Free Fair

The annual 2024 McClain County Fair in Purcell will begin **Tuesday,**

## 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.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## National Airborne Day

August 16<sup>th</sup> is a day designated by the United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne units of the armed forces. It was created in 2001 by President George W. Bush. August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute. During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

# OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

*City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

## 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

## Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that no new oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard since **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**.

## On the Tourism Agenda

The Blanchard Tourism Board will hold their regular meeting on **Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>** at **6:45pm** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Discussion and possible action for approval or disapproval of final draft of video for presentation at the OML Annual Conference.
- Discussion and possible action on any additional items needed for decorating exhibit at OML Annual Conference.
- Discussion and possible action for any additional items for OML Conference.
- Consent Agenda.

The agenda is posted on the City's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us) and at City Hall.

## Park Events

**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.

## Runoff Primary Election

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

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.



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](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

## Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of August are more than twenty-six percent (26.77%) lower than a year ago and more than six percent (6.21%) lower than last month's collections. Sale Taxes are based on five (5%) of \$8,732,055.80 retail sales inside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '24	463,695.31	-0.21
Aug '24	436,602.79	-26.77
Sep '24	-0-	-0-
Oct '24	-0-	-0-
Nov '24	-0-	-0-
Dec '24	-0-	-0-
Jan '25	-0-	-0-
Feb '25	-0-	-0-
Mar '25	-0-	-0-
Apr '25	-0-	-0-
May '25	-0-	-0-
Jun '25	-0-	-0-
Totals	900,298.10	-15.14

## 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).

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](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## *Use Tax Collections*

The use tax collections for the month of August are more than forty-six (46.68%) percent higher than a year ago and more than twenty-five (25.68%) percent than last month's collection. Use Taxes are based on five (5%) of \$8,773,223.40 retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '24	244,287.42	74.04
Aug '24	194,373.75	46.68
Sep '24	-0-	-0-
Oct '24	-0-	-0-
Nov '24	-0-	-0-
Dec '24	-0-	-0-
Jan '25	-0-	-0-
Feb '25	-0-	-0-

Mar '25	-0-	-0-
Apr '25	-0-	-0-
May '25	-0-	-0-
Jun '25	-0-	-0-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>438,661.17</b>	<b>60.75</b>

## *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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

Please call City Hall or email us complaints of possible violations anonymously at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://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.