



# E~Mail Newsletter

26 July 2024

Volume 146, Number 4

## Meeting Dates

### AUGUST

1<sup>st</sup> ~ Tourism Board  
5<sup>th</sup> ~ TEAM Blanchard  
5<sup>th</sup> ~ BPS Bd of Ed  
5<sup>th</sup> ~ BETA  
8<sup>th</sup> ~ Planning Comm  
13<sup>th</sup> ~ BMIA  
13<sup>th</sup> ~ City Council  
19<sup>th</sup> ~ Tourism Board  
20<sup>th</sup> ~ Bd 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

## Absentee Ballots

Voters in McClain County who want absentee ballots mailed to them for the August 27<sup>th</sup> 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 5pm, Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

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 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

Activities will include:

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

## 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.

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;

# Special Events

## JULY

27<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market

## AUGUST

3<sup>rd</sup>~Farmers Market

10<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market

16<sup>th</sup>~BlueGrass Festival

17<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market

17<sup>th</sup>~BlueGrass Festival

24<sup>th</sup>~Farmers Market

31<sup>st</sup>~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](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

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

- 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 4-6 p.m.

## 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](http://www.cityofblanchard.us). Return to the HR Director at [payroll@cityofblanchard.us](mailto:payroll@cityofblanchard.us) or drop off at City Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue. Positions are open until filled. The City is an EOE.

## Final Notice

All persons having indebtedness or claim against the City of Blanchard are hereby given final notice that all invoices and documentation pertaining to said purchase order or contract must be recorded in the office of the Blanchard Purchasing Agent on or before September 30, 2024, covering all debts now unpaid and incurred during the period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024, or said account shall be void and forever barred.

## *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.

## *Five Tribe Wildlife Management*

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes announced the Five Tribe Wildlife Management Reciprocity Agreement at its July quarterly meeting, allowing hunting and fishing licenses issued through each tribe to be recognized by the other tribes 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 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## *On the Tourism Agenda*

The Blanchard Tourism Board has called a special meeting for Thursday evening, August 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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

Arrests for the month of July:

7/03/24 ~ PIERCE, Harley arrested for DUI.

7/05/24 ~ BURKHOLTZ, Becky arrested for DUI.

7/10/24 ~ ANDERSON, Ralph arrested for DUI.

7/19/24 ~ RAMIREZ, Jony arrested for DUI.

## 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](http://www.tax.ok.gov).

## School Begins

Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 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** ~ Straganoff, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

**Tuesday** ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.

**Wednesday** ~ Ham & Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Dessert.

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

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

The Senior Nutrition MENU for the week of July 29<sup>th</sup> thru August 2<sup>nd</sup> is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge.

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)

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.

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## *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.

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## *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).

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## *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).

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## *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).

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## *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.