



# E-Mail Newsletter

13 January 2023

Volume 127, Number 2

## Meeting Dates

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - BOA

**January 24<sup>th</sup>**

6pm - BMIA

6pm - City Council

## Banners

A huge thanks to all the businesses who donated a Christmas Banner for display in downtown Blanchard!

The Cottage on Main; Pioneer Telephone; OEC/OEC Fiber; Perryman & Perryman; Ovintiv; Blanchard Eyecare; Choice Realty; Re-Thread Consignment; Blanchard Chamber of Commerce; Guaranteed Rate (Patti Lamle); McClain County TSET; First National Bank; and Erhardt Group LLC.



**\*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.**

# Special Events

January 12<sup>th</sup>

– MLK Jr. Day

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

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

City of Blanchard  
P.O. Box 480  
122 N. Main Street  
Blanchard, OK 73010  
Phone: (405) 485-9392

Fax: (405) 485-3199

E-mail:  
[citymanager@cityofblanchard.us](mailto:citymanager@cityofblanchard.us)

We're on the Web!  
[www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

## Best Places in Oklahoma

Blanchard is ranked number 15 for one of the best places to live in Oklahoma in 2023.

## Carbon-Monoxide

Due to the extreme cold temperatures and the potential for power outages, please be aware of the hazards of the following types of heating:

- ◆ **Never** use gas grills, propane grills, charcoal grills in a house, garage or enclosed area;
- ◆ All gas fire heaters **MUST** be vented to the outside to remove carbon monoxide from an enclosed area; and
- ◆ **Please** read and follow all manufacturer instructions for any heater.

## Council Action

The Blanchard City Council held a special meeting on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **APPROVED** Change Order No. 1 with Haskell Lemon Group;
- **APPROVED** Change Order No. 2 with Haskell Lemon Group;
- **ADOPTED** Resolution declaring the intent to explore and create a TIF;
- **APPROVED** Agreement for TIF Counsel Services with The Public Finance Law Group PLLC; and
- **APPROVED** Dispatching Agreement with Town of Dibble.

The regular City Council meeting will be **Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**.

## Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

# 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.

- » **Reserve Police Officers** (no benefits).
- » **Street Laborers** (full-benefits).
- » **Utility Laborers** (full-benefits).

Benefits for full-time employment include but not limited to:

- Medical benefits paid on behalf of employee.
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Plan (City/BMIA employees only).
- OK Police Pension and Retirement System (police officers).
- 10 paid vacation days per year.
- 10 paid sick days per year.
- 9 paid holidays per year.
- 1-floating holiday.
- Life Insurance (paid by the City).
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For more information, please contact the Human Resources Officer at 405.485.9392 or download an application from [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

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## Martin Luther King Day

Blanchard Public Schools will be closed on **Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** for a School Holiday. However, City Hall is open for business.

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## Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Planning Commission Action

The regular meeting of the Blanchard Planning Commission held on **Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-01 recommending approval to the City Council regarding updating the Official Zoning Map as

# 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

of 12/31/22.

- **HELD** Public Hearing for a Zoning Application submitted by:  
Applicant: Terry Erhardt  
Address: 1745 South County Line Ave.  
Current Zoning: S-1 Suburban District  
Proposed Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District  
Location: NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 36-T8N-R5W of the I.M.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2023-02 recommending approval to the City Council regarding the above Zoning Application.
- **APPROVED** Lot Split Application, contingent upon rezoning and submitted by:  
Applicant: Terry Erhardt  
Address: 1745 South County Line Ave.  
Original Tract: 5.00 Acres  
Proposed Tracts: Tract 1A - 2.5 Acres; and Tract 1B - 2.5 Acres  
Location: NE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 36-T8N-R5W of the I.M.
- **APPROVED** Lot Split Application submitted by:  
Applicant: SKH Capital LLC  
Address: 203 South Van Buren.  
Original Tract: 17,500 Sq Ft  
Proposed Tracts: Tract 1A - 6,750 SF; and Tract 1B - 10,750 SF  
Location: Lots 13-17 in Block 96 of the original town plat.  
The next regular Planning Commission meeting will be **Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Police Blotter

- No Arrests Reported.

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## Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of January is more than twenty-six percent (26.56%) of the monthly budgeted

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 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.

amount based on five (5%) of \$8,560,163.60 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	341,443.27	19.73
Aug '22	433,295.74	26.51
Sep '22	493,098.78	109.33
Oct '22	454,007.33	40.16
Nov '22	457,106.95	41.12
Dec '22	487,024.24	38.91
Jan '23	428,228.18	37.11
Feb '23	0	0.00
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,093,984.49</b>	<b>42.33</b>

## Senior Dining

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.**

### MENU

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ Chicken and Rice, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

**Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Suasage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuit.

**Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Tater Tot Casserole, Salad, Corn, Dessert.

**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ Southwest Stew, Onion and Pickle, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Bun, Dessert.

If you are 60 years of age or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a 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, 101 S. Main Street, please call 1-866-THAT-BUS.

The City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus services.

For more information regarding the Senior Center, 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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## *Tourism Action*

The Blanchard Tourism Board held their first meeting on **Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **ADMINISTERED** the Oath of Office;
- **NOMINATED & APPOINTED** Cara Barnes as Chair;
- **NOMINATED & APPOINTED** Tanner Wilson as Vice Chair;
- **SET** the time of 6pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Old City Hall for Tourism meetings;
- **DISCUSSED** powers and duties of the new Board.

The next regular Tourism meeting will be **Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**.

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# Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of January more than fifty-four percent (54.49%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$3,287,691.20 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	100,869.95	22.75
Aug '22	94,050.49	-3.45
Sep '22	137,513.39	55.31
Oct '22	119,613.15	40.95
Nov '22	102,787.23	11.07
Dec '22	146,676.03	50.92
Jan '23	164,384.56	28.56
Feb '23	0	0.00
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	865,894.80	29.13

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## Voter Registration Deadline

**Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**, is the last day to apply for voter registration in McClain and Grady Counties to be eligible to vote in the February 14, 2023 Board of Education Primary and Special Election.

Requests for Absentee Ballots for the February 14, 2023 Election is **Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**.