



E-Mail Newsletter

3 February 2023

Volume 128, Number 1

Meeting Dates

February 6th

8am - TEAM Blanchard

6pm - BETA

6pm - BPS Bd of Ed

February 9th

6pm - Planning Comm

February 20th

6pm - Tourism Board

February 21st

6pm - BOA

February 28th

6pm - BMIA

6pm - City Council

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

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.

Employment Opportunities

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

- » **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).

Special Events

February 12th

~ Super Bowl Sunday

February 12th

~ Lincoln's Birthday

February 14th

~ Valentine's Day

~ School Board Election

February 20th

~ Presidents' Day

February 21st

~ Mardi Gras

February 22nd

~ Ash Wednesday

February 22nd

~ Washington's Birthday

For Blanchard

City events:

Please visit our website at

www.cityofblanchard.us

Library Events:

Please visit their website at

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

City of Blanchard

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E-mail:

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We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us

- 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.

Heart Health Month

February is Heart Health Month! Are you at risk for diabetes? If so, you may also be at risk for heart disease. The American Heart Association says 65 percent of people with diabetes die from some form of heart disease or stroke. Do you have diabetes? Some symptoms of diabetes to look for include frequent urination, frequent hunger and thirst, blurry vision, feeling very tired, bruises and cuts that heal very slowly, unexplained weight loss, and numbness/tingling in the hands and feet. You may take the diabetes risk test at www.diabetes.org/are-you-at-risk/ by answering some basic health questions and your risk for diabetes will be calculated.

For more information about diabetes prevention and education, you may contact the American Diabetes Association.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, January 27th**.

On the BETA Agenda

The Blanchard Economic Trust Authority's Board of Trustees will meet in regular meeting on **Monday, February 6th** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action as follows:

- Economic Development regarding industrial prospects and commercial businesses;

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.

- **2023 Farmers Market;**
- **International Conference of Shopping Centers Red River event; and**
- **Consent Agenda.**

The Agenda Packet is available for viewing and/or downloading at www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their regular meeting on **Tuesday, February 9th** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- **Public Hearing** regarding an Ordinance amending Sections 21-712, 21-732, and 21-742, all in Article 7 of Chapter 21 and Section 21-511 of Article 5 of Chapter 21 of the Blanchard Municipal Code pertaining to the permitted uses for the medical marijuana industry; providing for severability, and declaring an emergency.
- **Resolution No. 2023-03** recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding an ordinance pertaining to medical marijuana; and
- **Consent Agenda.**

The Agenda Packet is available for viewing and/or downloading at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Police Blotter

- **1/31/23** ~ WALKER, Donna arrested for DUI and Transporting Open Container.
- **1/29/23** ~ SHUPERT, Johnny arrested for Outstanding Blanchard Traffic Warrants.
- **1/28/23** ~ ROSE, Douglas arrested for Outstanding McClain County Warrant for Animal Cruelty.

Pre-Construction Conference

The City held a pre-construction conference on Thursday

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

(February 2nd) with Grooms and Pollard (Contractor) regarding the installation of 12-inch water line improvements to serve Family Dollar/Dollar Tree and Yarbrough HVAC located on US-62 west of town.

They will start mobilizing next week with equipment and materials and start actual construction the following week.

Presidents' Day

Monday, the 20th day of **February**, will be observed as a federal holiday for Presidents' Day. In the United States, Presidents' Day is always celebrated on the third Monday of February. Trash service is unaffected.



City Offices are open for business.

Sealed Bids

The City is advertising for seal bids for the purchase of a used 2017 or newer International Dump Truck or equivalent for the Street Department and 3-zero turn riding mowers for the Parks Department.

Bids are due on **Wednesday, February 22nd** with potential award on Tuesday, February 28th.

Please visit the city's website at www.cityofblanchard.us for more information.

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**.

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.

MENU

Monday, February 6th ~ Chicken and Dumplings, Peas, Carrots, Dessert.

Tuesday, February 7th ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.

Wednesday, February 8th ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

Thursday, February 9th ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday, February 10th ~ Cook's Choice.

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.

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.



State Question 820

One State Question will appear on the **March 7, 2023**, Special Election Ballot. This initiative petition was placed on the ballot by gathering enough signatures from Oklahoma citizens for the legalization of recreational use of marijuana for persons 21 or older.

Trails Grant

The City has filed a 2023 Trails Grant application with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Board on Monday afternoon for the expansion of the Crystal Lake Walking Trails and for the installation of 2-pedestrian bridges linking the trails and fishing ponds.