



E-Mail Newsletter

10 February 2023

Volume 128, Number 2

Meeting Dates

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.

BETA Action

The Blanchard Economic Trust Authority's Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on **Monday, February 6th** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action as follows:

- **DISCUSSED** Economic Development regarding industrial prospects and commercial businesses;
- **DISCUSSED** the **2023** Farmers Market;
- **DISCUSSED** the status of the International Conference of Shopping Centers Red River event attendance; and
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 3rd.

Candidates

Filing period for the City Council ended on Wednesday, February 8th at 5p.m.

Candidates for Wards 1 and 2 were able to file their candidacy at the McClain County Election Board from Monday thru Wednesday. The following individuals filed for office:

Ward 1

Joe Davis*

Ben Whitt

Ward 2

Michael Scalf*

*Incumbents

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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We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us

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:

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

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.

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.

Municipal Election

Registered voters will choose 1 of 2 candidates to serve on the Blanchard City Council to serve the following ward:

Ward 1

Joe Davis* (incumbent)

Ben Whitt

The municipal election for 2023 will be held on Tuesday, April 4th.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, February 3rd**.

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

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their regular meeting on **Tuesday, February 9th** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- **HELD 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; declaring repealer and declaring an emergency.
- **ADOPTED Resolution No. 2023-03** recommending approval to the City Council regarding an ordinance pertaining to medical marijuana; and
- **APPROVED Consent Agenda.**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 9th**.

Police Blotter

- **February 9th** ~ HOLMES, Corey arrested for Domestic Assault and Battery by Strangulation against his daughter and Resisting Arrest.
- **February 4th** ~ ALEXANDER, Tori arrested for Obstructing an Officer, Assault on a Peace Officer, and Resisting Arrest.
- **February 3rd** ~ HARRIS, Tony arrested on Outstanding Cleveland County Warrant.

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

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.

Monday of February. Trash service is unaffected.
 City Offices are open for business.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of February was more than twenty-three percent (23.71%) than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$8,371,819 of 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	418,590.93	21.56
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	3,512,575.42	39.49

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, February 13th ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday, February 14th ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetables, Dessert.

Wednesday, February 15th ~ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Sliced Bread, Dessert.

Thursday, February 16th ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday, February 17th ~ Sloppy Joe, Salad, Corn, 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.

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.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of May was sixty-six percent (66.00%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$3,532,543.40 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	176,627.17	32.54
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	1,042,521.97	29.69