



E-Mail Newsletter

24 February 2023

Volume 128, Number 4

Meeting Dates

February 28th
6pm - BMIA
6pm - City Council

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

BOA Action

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment met in regular session on **Tuesday, February 21st** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- ☑ **HELD** Public Hearing re: a variance request from Phillip Foster, 757 South Morgan Road, to allow the use of the A-1 side yard setback of 10' for accessory structures, and to be allowed to build 35' in front of the established building line.
- ☑ **APPROVED** Finding of Fact on the variance application.
- ☑ **HELD** Public Hearing re: a variance request from Russell Allen, 6754 N. County Line Road, to allow the applicant to use a side yard setback of 10' for better placement of an accessory structure.
- ☑ **APPROVED** finding of Fact on the variance application.
- ☑ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 7th** at 6pm.

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

Special Events

March 3rd

~ Employee Appreciation Day
~ Nat'l Anthem Day

March 7th

~ Special Election

March 11th

~ St Patty's Day Parade

March 12th

~ Daylite Saving Time Begins

March 13th-17th

~ Spring Break

March 17th

~ St Patty's Day

March 20th

~ 1st Day of Spring

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>

♦ **Please** read and follow all manufacturer instructions for any heater.

Daylite Saving Time



When we change our clocks ... change our smoke detector batteries on **March 12th** when most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at **2:00 a.m.** on the second **Sunday** in **March (12th)**.

The country reverts back to standard time on the first Sunday in November. In the U.S., each time zone switches at a different time.

Three (3) bills were introduced in the Oklahoma Legislature in 2023 (SB7; SB69; HB2217), if passed, one would require daylight saving time to be observed the year-round (Passed Committee on a 8-2 vote; the 2nd will place the measure on a ballot referendum making Daylight Saving Time permanent; and the 3rd not observing Daylight Saving Time but adhere to Standard Time year around.

Tick Tock: Daylight-saving time isn't observed in Arizona or Hawaii.

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).
- » **Transfer Site Laborer** (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).
- 10 paid vacation days per year.

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.

- 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.

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 represent Ward 1:

[] Joe Davis* (incumbent)

[] Ben Whitt

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

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

National Anthem Day

Celebrated on **Friday, March 3rd** ... You don't need to know all the words to the National Anthem to appreciate its history. On this day in 1931, 'The Star Spangled Banner' was adopted as America's national anthem. The lyrics of the song were taken from Francis Scott Key's poem about the battle at Fort McHenry in the war of 1812 and set to the melody of a popular British drinking song. Today 'The Star Spangled Banner' is played to kick off large public events and sports games.



Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, February 17th**.

On the BMIA



The Board of Trustees of the BMIA will meet in regular session on **Tuesday, February 28th**, at **6pm**, Court House, 300 N. Main Street, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- ODEQ Construction Permit for water line replacement in Original Town of Blanchard.
- Consent Agenda.

The Agenda is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

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.

On the Council Agenda



The Blanchard City Council will meet in regular session on **Tuesday, February 28th**, at 6pm, Court House, 300 N. Main Street, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Public Hearing on proposed Medical Marijuana Ordinance.
- Ordinance re: amending Medical Marijuana Zoning Regulations.
- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
- Resolution re: Roads & Streets MOU with the Chickasaw Nation.
- Resolution re: Engineering Service Agreement with GSA.
- Resolution re: Special Event Permit for the BSA Troop 234.
- Resolution re: nomination and appointment of Amber Garrett to the Tourism Board.
- Resolution re: bids and award for the purchase of 3-zero turn riding mowers.
- Resolution re: bids and award for the purchase of a used dump truck.
- Resolution re: OMAG's recommendation to deny Tort Claim.
- Resolution re: Purchase Request for Parks' vehicles.
- Status of Road Improvements with Haskell Lemon.
- Status of Fire Station construction and completion.
- Status of Concession Stand/Press Box improvements.
- Status of Public Safety Complex.
- Consent Agenda.
- Executive Session.

The Agenda is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Police Blotter

- **NO ARRESTS.**

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We're on the Web!
www.cityofblanchard.us

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 27th ~ Chicken & Rice, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday, February 28th ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuit, Dessert.

Wednesday, March 1st ~ Ham & Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Cornbread, Dessert.

Thursday, March 2th ~ Beef Stew, Onion, Pickle, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday, March 3rd ~ 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, 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.

SPRING BREAK 2023

The Blanchard Public School District will be on Spring Break beginning **Monday, March 13th** thru **Friday, March 17th**.

NO Classes for students.



State Question 820

One State Question will appear on the **Tuesday, 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.

St Patrick's Day

If you're inclined toward legend, lore and festivities of the Saint and how the Irish honor him, then check out this St. Patrick's Day site at www.st-patricks-day.com, where you'll find everything from parades to recipes. In Dublin



Ireland, the St. Patrick's Day Festival at www.stpatricksday.ie is described as four (4) days of "madness and mayhem." St. Patrick's Day will be **Friday, March 17th**.

St Patrick's Day Parade



Plans are set for the annual St Patrick's Day Parade being held on **Saturday, March 11th**. Parade lineup begins at **3:30pm** at Legacy Bank and the parade kicks off at **4:30pm**.

If you would like to participate, please contact Chris Wittenbach @ 485.9392 or parks@cityofblanchard.us or visit www.cityofblanchard.us.

Tourism Action

The Blanchard Tourism Board met in regular session on **Monday, February 20th**, and took appropriate action on the following:

- ✓ **DISCUSSED** the creation of a wine/beer festival.
- ✓ **DISCUSSED** the creation of branding for tourism;
- ✓ **DISCUSSED** tourism activities; and
- ✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Monday, March 20th**.

Vernal Equinox



Spring will begin on **Monday, March 20th** at **4:24p.m.** CDT and ends **Wednesday, June 21st** at **9:57a.m.** CDT.

The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning "equal nite." The Vernal, or spring, equinox is the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from south to north, signaling the beginning of nature's renewal in the Northern Hemisphere.

