



# E-Mail Newsletter

17 March 2023

Volume 129, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

- March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
6pm ~ Blanchard  
Tourism Board
- March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
8am ~ TIF Review  
Committee
- March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
6pm ~ BMIA  
6pm ~ City Council

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

## April Fools' Day

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** or All Fools' Day, a holiday of uncertain origin, is known for practical joking and celebrated on the first of April. Prior to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1564, the date was observed as New Year's Day by cultures as varied as the Roman and the Hindu. The holiday is considered to be related to the festival of the Vernal Equinox, which occurs on March 20th. The English gave April Fools' Day its first widespread celebration during the 18th century.

## Easter Sunday

Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. According to the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen. Christians worldwide have celebrated Easter for centuries.

However, the roots of the Easter holiday's traditions and activities can be traced back to pagan celebrations. The name Easter is believed to come from *Eostara*, the goddess of rebirth. In early times the Feast of Eostara celebrated earth's resurrection and rebirth. Strict Puritans would have nothing to do with Easter – it was merely a human institution – in the past. Charles I, king of England, declared the day as scriptural as Sunday in 1647 but Parliament contradicted him in print and abolished it with other church festivals.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. Easter is therefore delayed one week if the full

# Special Events

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**

~ 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

~ Nat'l Vietnam

War Veterans 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>**

# After Hours

For Public Works

moon is on Sunday, which lessens the likelihood of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. Eastern Orthodox churches in many countries such as Greece still figure their Easter date based on the Julian calendar.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are both fertility symbols, holdovers from the feast of Eostara. Other symbolic parallels include the pagan joy in the rising sun of spring, which coincides with Christians' joy in the rising Son of God, and the lighting of candles in churches, which corresponds to the pagan bonfires. The symbol of the cross and images of Jesus Christ, through paintings or statues, are remembered on Easter Day. Easter is **Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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).
- » **Transfer Site Laborer** (full-benefits).
- » **Police Officer** (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.
- 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).

## Fair Housing Month

**APRIL** is 'Fair Housing Month'. The City encourages each citizen to implement the provisions of the City's Fair Housing Ordinance and requests that any person, or group of persons, planning activities to promote fair housing to inform the City Clerk of such activities. A copy

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.

of the Ordinance may be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk.

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## *Municipal Election*

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Registered voters will choose between 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

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## *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*

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President Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing a National Vietnam War Veterans Day that will be observed every **March 29<sup>th</sup>** in perpetuity.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. – known as “The Wall” – will again, and always, have a significant role in our nation’s honoring of Vietnam War veterans on **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.**

The Wall is an arresting reminder to more than five (5) million annual visitors of the service and sacrifice of more than 58,000 Americans. There is something haunting, cleansing and healing about this hallowed site, and we encourage every American to experience it.

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## *Oil ‘n Gas*

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There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

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## *On the Tourism Agenda*

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The Tourism Board will hold their monthly meeting on Monday nite at 6:00 p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- ✓ Planning a Wine/Beer Festival
- ✓ Branding

# 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

✓ Tourism activities to include but not limited to commercial/radio advertising; website/social media; beautification.

✓ Consent Agenda.

The full agenda packet can be viewed or accessed at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

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## Police Blotter

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- 3.17.23 ~ COOLEY, Linda, Sara arrested on Public Intoxication and Assault and Battery.
- 3.13.23 ~ MILLSAP, Sara arrested on outstanding Blanchard Warrant for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
- 3.12.23 ~ ORR, David arrested on Domestic Assault and Battery/Obstruction/Resisting Arrest.
- 3.12.23 ~ HUSSELDT, Nicholis arrested on outstanding McClain County and Jefferson County Warrants.

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## Senior Dining

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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, March 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pig-n-Blanket, Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw, Biscuit 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.

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.

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## *Shelter Registration*

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Blanchard Emergency Management would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that severe storm season is fast approaching. We want to express how important it is for everyone to register their home's storm shelters and safe rooms. The City of Blanchard storm shelter registry provides emergency services with information that allows them to locate citizens after a tornado or other natural disaster. Registration helps ensure that people in shelters affected by the storm are able to get help quickly with the potential of shelters' exits being blocked due to debris or structural damage. Registration is doubly important with the possibility of shelters flooding due to broken water lines or simply rain waters entering the shelter and drowning people trapped inside. Registration forms include your address, list of persons who would normally be present at the home and could potentially be in the shelter, the location of the shelter/safe room on the property, and contact information for yourself and an emergency contact. If you have previously registered and some part of your information has changed, feel free to submit an updated form. If you have a question as to if your shelter is registered please contact the Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Charlie Largent at the Blanchard Fire Department at 405.485.3939.



Registration forms available at Blanchard City Hall and online [www.cityofblanchard.us/document\\_center/storm\\_shelter\\_registration.pdf](http://www.cityofblanchard.us/document_center/storm_shelter_registration.pdf). Please return all registrations to the Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

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## *So... Think, Shop, Live Blanchard*

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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

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

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

you and our community.

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## *Vernal Equinox*

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Spring will begin on **Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** at **4:24p.m.** CDT and ends **Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** 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.

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## *Zoning Cases*

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The Blanchard Planning Commission and City Council will hear two (2) zoning cases in April for the possible reclassification of property:

✓ An application filed by Stephen & Regina Boulware to re-zone property from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates for Lot 19 in Block 3 of Rolling Hills Estates, Grady County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

✓ An application filed by Joe & Kimberly Rogers to re-zone property from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates for Lot 22 in Block 2 of Quail Haven Subdivision, McClain County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

For more information, please see the Blanchard News Edition 3/16/23 or visit the City’s website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us) to view the agenda packet in April when posted.