



# E-Mail Newsletter

24 March 2023

Volume 129, Number 4

## Meeting Dates

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ City Council

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8am ~ TEAM Blanchard

6pm ~ BPS Bd of Ed

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ Planning Comm

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ Board of Adjustment

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ City Council

## Animal Cruelty Prevention Month



Preventing animal cruelty starts with responsible pet ownership. The month of April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month. Cruelty may include but not limited to animal *neglect* of unreasonable deprivation of necessary food, care or shelter or *inhumane treatment* includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Any physical punishment inconsistent with the health of such animal;
- ◆ Lack of food or water for more than a twenty-four (24) hour period;
- ◆ Knowingly permitting obvious nutritional deficiencies or other evident Health problems involving any animal;
- ◆ Improper use of any collar or harness or a fixed leash for the purpose of confining any animal which results in flesh laceration, obvious pain or to cause choking to such animal;
- ◆ Depriving animal of adequate shelter; and
- ◆ Inhumane killing or attempting to kill any animal.

You can report instances of animal cruelty calling the City of Blanchard at 405.485.9392 to be investigated by Animal Control Officer.

## April Fool's 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



\*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at

the Municipal Court  
House unless  
otherwise noted.

## Special Events

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

~ Nat'l Vietnam  
War Veterans Day

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

~ April Fool's Day

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

~ Palm Sunday

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

~ Passover Begins

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

~ Good Friday

~ BPS Holiday

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

~ Easter

**April 13<sup>th</sup>**

~ Passover Ends

~ Thomas Jefferson's  
Birthday

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

~ Purple Up! Day

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

~ San Jacinto Day

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

~ Oklahoma Day

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

~ Administrative  
Professionals Day

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**

~ BPS Holiday

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 Fool's 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 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>**.

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# *Employment Opportunities*

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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).

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# *Fair Housing Month*

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**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 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>**.



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 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.

## National Vietnam War Veterans Day

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.

## Oil ‘n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## On the BMIA Agenda

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

- ✓ Water improvements, consumption and regionalization of an umbrella trust.
- ✓ Amendment to the Development Agreement with Southwind Hills Land Development LLC approved at the 2/28/23 meeting to allow reimbursement of construction costs.
- ✓ Revised Consent Order issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
- ✓ Consent Agenda.

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

## On the Council Agenda

The City Council will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday nite at



## 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

6:00 p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

✓ Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Terence & Kristin Taylor, 1608 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, reclassifying property from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District, located in the W2 E2 SW4 SE4 of Section 36-T8N-R5W of the I.M.

✓ Ordinance No. 773 accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation reclassifying property, by amending the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to include additional territory within the A-1, Agricultural District; to delete such property from the S-1, Suburban District; providing for entering such amendments upon the Official Zoning Map; providing for Severability; declaring Repealer; and declaring an Emergency.

✓ Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 773.

✓ Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Jonathon & Melanie Elkins, 2114 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Street, reclassifying property from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District, located NW4 NE4 NW4 of Section 25-T8N-R5W of the I.M.

✓ Ordinance No. 774 accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation reclassifying property, by amending the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to include additional territory within the A-1, Agricultural District; to delete such property from the S-1, Suburban District; providing for entering such amendments upon the Official Zoning Map; providing for Severability; declaring Repealer; and declaring an Emergency.

✓ Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 774.

✓ Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Mike Box, 2221 SW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, reclassifying property from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District (amended to the R-E Residential Estates District, located in the SW4 SE4 SW4 of Section 25-T8N-R5W of the I.M.

✓ Ordinance No. 775 accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation reclassifying property, by amending the Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to include additional territory within the A-1, Agricultural District; to delete such property from the S-1, Suburban District; providing for entering such amendments upon the Official Zoning Map; providing for Severability; declaring Repealer; and declaring an Emergency.

✓ Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 775.

✓ Ordinance No. 776 levying and assessing a sales tax of five (5%) percent in addition to present sales taxes upon the gross proceeds or gross receipts derived from rents received from occupancy of hotel rooms, providing for use of tax funds; providing for tax rate; providing

causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and 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

exemptions; providing tax to be separately designated on bills; providing for operator's duties; providing for bond requirements; providing for assessment and determination of tax; providing for refunds; providing for notices; providing for remedies exclusive; providing general powers of the city manager; requiring certificates of registration; making records confidential; providing for criminal penalties; providing for civil remedies; requiring approval of ordinance by majority of registered voters voting at an election held for such purpose as provided by law; fixing effective dates; providing for Severability; and containing other provisions related thereto.

✓ Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 776.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-15 calling a Special Election to be held in the City of Blanchard on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023 or at some statutorily approved date thereafter to submit to the qualified voters of the City of Blanchard a Proposition to approve the 5% Hotel Tax as described in City of Blanchard Ordinance No. 776 said tax, if so approved by the voters to be effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2023.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-16 declaring the month of April 2023 as "Fair Housing Month" in the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-17 approving an Urban Project Agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for City-wide Sign Replacement in Blanchard in an estimated cost of \$27,576.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-18 approving the application with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for funding from the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Fund for both MacArthur and Rockwell Avenues at 75% funding with 25% municipal match.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-19 approving the SimpleCity Software Agreement for FrontDesk Services.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-20 approving Inventure Agreement for Project Management, Planning and Design Services necessary for the proposed TIF District No. 2.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-21 accepting nomination by the Mayor of Jason Kelly, 1665 N. Main Street, Blanchard, and appointing Mr. Kelly to the to the Planning Commission for an unexpired term ending June 2023.

✓ Resolution No. 2023-22 accepting nomination by Vice Mayor of Paula Irwin, 191 Partridge Lane, Blanchard, and appointing Ms. Irwin to the Tourism Board for an unexpired term ending June 2026.

✓ Authorize the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance repealing a portion of subsection 8 of Section 14-103 of the Blanchard Municipal Code pertaining to heavy trucks operated on city street or section line road without first obtaining written permit amended and adopted by Ordinance No. 770 on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

✓ Authorizing City Staff to continue exploring healthcare programs thru OML and bring back for final approval by Council.

✓ Acquisition of 1-truck (cab & chassis) for Animal Control Services and

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

authorize the lease-purchase financing along with other vehicles and equipment.

- ✓ Study downtown parking and solutions for recommendation to the City Council for upcoming agendas.
- ✓ Possible drainage improvements located on Partridge Lane in Quail Haven Addition.
- ✓ Status of Phase I, Section Line Road Improvements.
- ✓ Status of completion of the Fire Station No. 2 construction; an calling of bonds.
- ✓ Consent Agenda.
- ✓ Executive Session.

The full agenda packet will be available for viewing and/or accessing at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

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## *Police Blotter*

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- No arrests.

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## *Purple Up! Day*

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Help Celebrate Military Kids on Purple Up! Day. April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor our community youth impacted by deployment. It is no secret that our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate like a complicated obstacle course. However, if given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.

In celebration, you're invited to join in showing your support by being part of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple on *Saturday, April 15, 2023*. This will be a visible way to show support and thank military children for



their strength and sacrifices. (Did you know: Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.) The hope is everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative ... the goal is for military youth to witness a sea of “purple” on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community!

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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 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

**Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Dessert.

**Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Sliced Bread, Dessert.

**Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ 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, please call 405.485.9260.

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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 you and our community.

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## *Tourism Action*

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The Tourism Board held their monthly meeting on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took action on the following items:

- ✓ Discussed the planning of a Wine/Beer Festival;
- ✓ Discussed creating a brand for tourism;
- ✓ Discussed other tourism activities to include but not limited to commercial/radio advertising; website/social media; beautification.

✓ Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## *U.S. Submarine Force Day*

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The submarine force was established on April 11, 1900, when the United States Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, submarines have been used with fortitude and creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea, and have become an indispensable asset that patrols and protects worldwide today.

Submarines and their underwater warfighting companions have commanded and operated by courageous men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service of their country.

Oklahoma has recognized the significance of the US Submarine Force and their crew for their defense of our most cherished freedoms.

On **Tuesday, April 11, 2023**, has been proclaimed as the United States Submarine Force Day in Oklahoma.

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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.