



E-Mail Newsletter

7 April 2023

Volume 130, Number 1

Meeting Dates

April 13th
6pm - Planning Comm
April 18th
6pm - Board of Adjustment
April 25th
6pm - BMIA
6pm - City Council

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

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.

Animal Shelter

The City's Animal Shelter has been temporarily closed until further notice to prevent the spread of the following bacterial infections which can be fatal in dogs.

The H3N2, Influenza A and Strep Zoo have all been confirmed in

Special Events

April 9th

~ Easter

April 13th

~ Passover Ends

~ Thomas Jefferson's
Birthday

April 15th

~ Purple Up! Day

April 21st

~ San Jacinto Day

April 22nd

~ Oklahoma Day

April 26th

~ Administrative
Professionals Day

April 28th

~ BPS Holiday

OKC and surrounding shelters. A few of our dogs have been showing similar symptoms. Therefore, NO further adoptions, NO drop-offs or walks-ins until this is over.

We are asking the public to refrain from taking your dogs to the Parks for the next few weeks.



City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt

The annual City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Blanchard's Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is set for Saturday, April 8th, at the Old BHS Football Field at 11 A.M.



The hunt is FREE for all kid's ages pre-K thru the 5th grade and will include special prize eggs in each age category and Free hot dogs and chips. Over 8,000 eggs total will be scattered across the field, divided up into different sections for the varying age groups.

Hot dogs and chips start at 10:30 a.m. and the hunt begins PROMPTLY at 11:00 a.m. (DON'T BE LATE!). Come out and joint the fun, but it happens quick!

A special thanks from PHBC to the BHS Athletic Director Jeff Craig and the Blanchard Schools for annual use of the old football field, as well as the Tri-City Soccer Association, who currently uses the facility.

Congratulations

Mr. Ben Whitt was elected to the Blanchard City Council on Tuesday, April 4th representing Ward One. His four (4) term begins on Monday, April 17th at 12 Noon with the first Council meeting on Tuesday, April 25th.

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

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>

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 9th**.

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:

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.

- 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.

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

May Daze Festival



CORRECTION! The 'unofficial' start to summer in Blanchard begins with the Chamber's 29th Annual May Daze Festival starting on **Friday, May 19th** thru **Saturday, May 20th**.

Promotional (non-profit) booths are available at no cost to Chamber members. Your business may also volunteer for a shift in the Chamber booth if you would like to promote your business at the festival, but can't commit to a booth for the whole weekend.

Call the Chamber office at 485-8787 to reserve your space!

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

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, March 31st**.

On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their April meeting on **Thursday, April 13th** at 6:00 p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

✓ Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Resolution No. 2023-07 recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning application (Chickasaw Nation c/o the owners).

✓ Discussion and a vote on a motion to approve or deny a short form subdivision of 17.88 acres filed by Cory Miller, 502 S County Line Avenue.

✓ Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Stephen & Regina Boulware, 915 Bell Lane from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates District.

✓ Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Resolution No. 2023-08 recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning application filed by Stephen & Regina Boulware.

✓ Discussion and a vote on a motion to approve or deny a short form subdivision of 4.99 acres on an application filed by Stephen & Regina Boulware.

✓ Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Kimberly & Joe Rogers, 4933 Kitty Hawk Road from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates District.

✓ Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Resolution No. 2023-09 recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning Application filed by Kimberly & Joe Rogers.

✓ Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Kenny Stevens, 4615 SW 22nd Street, from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District.

✓ Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Resolution No. 2023-10 recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the

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.

Zoning Application filed by Kenny Stevens.

✓ Discussion and a vote on a motion to approve or deny a short form subdivision of 18.67 acres on an application filed by Kenny Stevens.

✓ Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by Kenny Stevens, 1918 Bobwhite Trail from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District.

✓ Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Resolution No. 2023-11 recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the Zoning Application filed by Kenny Stevens.

✓ Discussion and a vote on a motion to approve or deny a short form subdivision of 27.86 acres on an application filed by Kenny Stevens.

✓ Discussion and consideration in regard to creating a new zoning classification under the label of Rural Residential.

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, May 11th.

Police Blotter

- 4.04.23 ~ CALDWELL, Joshua arrested on Marijuana Trafficking.
- 4.01.23 ~ HALLUM, David arrested on Outstanding Custer and Canadian County Warrants.

Purple Up! Day



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

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
122 N. Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

E-mail:
citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

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

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!

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, April 10th ~ Tater Tot Casserole, Salad, Green Beans, Dessert.
Tuesday, April 11th ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuit, Dessert.
Wednesday, April 12th ~ Ham & Potatoes Casserole, Fruit, Cornbread, Dessert.
Thursday, April 13th ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.
Friday, April 14th ~ BBQ Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, 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.

Shelter Registration

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. Please return all registrations to the Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

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.

U.S. Submarine Force Day

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.

Happy Easter!

