



# E-Mail Newsletter

21 April 2023

Volume 130, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
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 held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and discussed, considered, and took appropriate action on the following Agenda items:

✓ **HELD** Public Hearing soliciting public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to allow the homeowners to operate a dog grooming business while in the R-2, Combined Residential District zoning submitted by Britany & Joel Sanfacon, 1048 Fox Run Lane

✓ **APPROVED** the Finding of Facts on the application as submitted.

✓ **HELD** Public Hearing soliciting public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to use a side yard setback of 5-10 feet for better placement of an accessory structure requested by Jason & Emily French, 1273 Blackjack Circle.

✓ **APPROVED** the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.

✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.

The next meeting of the BOA will be May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

» **Reserve Police Officers** (no benefits).

# Special Events

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

~ Oklahoma Day

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

~ Administrative Professionals Day

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

~ BPS Holiday

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

~ Nat'l Day of Prayer

**May 5<sup>th</sup>**

~ Cinco de Mayo

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**

~ Mother's Day

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**

~ Last Day of School

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**

~ May Daze

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**

~ Armed Forces Day

~ May Daze

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

~ MEMORIAL 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>

- » **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).

## Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market opens **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Please visit our website under RESIDENTS and make application to participate.

## Graduation

CONGRATULATION to the 2023 BHS Seniors! Graduation will be **Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. at the Blanchard H.S. Gym.

## Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** in observance of

# 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.

Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash service will run as usual.

## May Daze Festival

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



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!

## Mayor & Vice Mayor

The Blanchard City Council met in Special Session on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to nominate and elect a new Mayor and Vice Mayor to serve the City in those positions for the next two (2) weeks.

- Michael Scalf was nominated and elected as Mayor to serve until April 2025; and
- Chuck Kemper was nominated and elected as Vice Mayor to serve until April 2025.

## Memorial Day

The custom of honoring our ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

# 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

Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics.

After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor our military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decorations of soldier's graves were held in cities and towns thru-out the nation.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and for many years, states observed the holiday on different dates. However, by federal law, Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday in May which will be **Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

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## Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** will be Mother's Day. Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration. The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances. On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence. The day is now characterized by gift giving, sending greeting cards and flowers, and giving mother a "day off" by taking the family out to eat. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

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## Oil 'n Gas

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

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.

**April 14<sup>st</sup>.**

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## *Oklahoma Recovers | Red Cross Updates*

The Red Cross continues to support those impacted by the tornado that touched down last Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Their teams of trained disaster volunteers have been out in the impacted areas doing damage assessment, delivering emergency supplies and providing food and water.

With power continuing to be restored and the need for overnight sheltering diminished, our shelters are now pivoting to Resource Centers and will be open from 8am to 8pm in the following locations:

**12 Corners Baptist Church  
15601 E Etowah Rd.  
Noble, OK 73068**

**Cole Volunteer Fire Department  
27089 Main St.  
Cole, OK 73010**

**Shawnee Resource Center  
OBU Green Campus  
Don & Peggy Sumner Field House--\*NW of the museum  
1900 W MacArthur  
Shawnee Ok,74804**

Folks can stop in for a break and recharge devices or get some snacks or food, pick up supplies such as shovels, trash bags, tarps, etc.

Disaster workers will be in impacted communities tomorrow to continue delivering food and water and emergency supplies, and to assess damage to homes. Damage assessment is a critical step the Red Cross takes to help people begin planning their recovery. They continue to coordinate with local officials to ensure communities get the support they need.

If anyone you know has been impacted by this disaster, please they can contact 1-800-REDCROSS immediately. They

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](mailto:citymanager@cityofblanchard.us)

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

will be connected to local teams for support.

Be weather aware! We have rain forecasted in the state next week. The Red Cross Emergency app is a free and easy tool you can use to plan accordingly.

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## *On the BMIA Agenda*

The Blanchard Board of Trustees of the BMIA will hold their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action as follows:

- ✓ Accept and acknowledge receipt of Water Line Permit for Construction, Technical Specs and Plans.
- ✓ Consent Agenda.

The Trust Agenda Packet is on the City of Blanchard's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

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## *On the Council Agenda*

The Blanchard City Council will hold their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- ✓ Public Hearing re: Planning Commission's recommendation to deny a Zoning Application submitted by the Chickasaw Nation Housing Authority c/o Owners, for property on North Main Street, reclassifying from A-1, Agricultural District to R-1, Single-Family Residential District.
- ✓ Ordinance accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny Zoning Application of property or approve the application to reclassify property from the R-1 to the A-1 District.
- ✓ Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.
- ✓ Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to approve Zoning Application submitted by Stephen & Regina Boulware, 915 Bell Lane from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates District.
- ✓ Ordinance approving the Zoning application filed by Stephen & Regina Boulware.

- ✓ **Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.**
- ✓ **Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to approve 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.**
- ✓ **Ordinance approving the Zoning Application filed by Kimberly & Joe Rogers.**
- ✓ **Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.**
- ✓ **Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to approve Zoning Application submitted by Kenny Stevens, 4615 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District.**
- ✓ **Ordinance approving the Zoning Application filed by Kenny Stevens.**
- ✓ **Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.**
- ✓ **Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to approve Zoning Application submitted by Kenny Stevens, 1918 Bobwhite Trail from the S-1, Suburban District to the A-1, Agricultural District.**
- ✓ **Ordinance approving the Zoning Application filed by Kenny Stevens.**
- ✓ **Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to approve Zoning Application submitted by Stephen & Regina Boulware, 915 Bell Lane from the S-1, Suburban District to the R-E, Residential Estates District.**
- ✓ **Ordinance approving the Zoning application filed by Stephen & Regina Boulware.**
- ✓ **Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance.**
- ✓ **Ordinance repealing part of Ordinance No. 770 pertaining to permits for Oil and Gas trucking.**
- ✓ **Emergency Clause for Ordinance.**
- ✓ **Resolution renewing an Agreement for financial services with Crawford & Associates for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.**
- ✓ **Resolution renewing an Agreement for library services with Pioneer Library System for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.**
- ✓ **Resolution approving a Road Repair & Maintenance Agreement NextEra.**
- ✓ **Resolution approving a Road Repair & Maintenance Agreement**

with Native Exploration Operating, LLC.

✓ Resolution approving Special Event Permit for Good Old Days Mercantile for setup of food truck on Main Street for grand opening.

✓ Resolution approving Special Event Permit for Blanchard Education Foundation to hold a "wine/bourbon tasting" fundraiser at Old City Hall.

✓ Resolution approving Special Event Permit for Parks Department to hold a Cinco de Mayo event.

✓ Accepting sealed bids and award contract to construct a new maintenance building to the lowest and best bidder.

✓ Resolution approving a \$10,000 Budget Supplement for Blanchard Tourism Board to promote Hotel/Motel Tax and upcoming Special Events.

✓ Resolution authorizing certain officers to sign checks, checking and saving accounts, MMDA accounts and other investments and transfer and authorizing certain officers access to Safety Deposit Boxes.

✓ Change Order adding \$784,645 to Haskell Lemon Group's contract for NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street from SH-76 east to US-62.

✓ Possible changes to the City's Health, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance from OPEH&W to Municipal Health Solutions.

✓ Road Improvements status with Haskell Lemon Group.

✓ Fire Station No. 2 completion and acceptance.

✓ Consent Agenda.

The AGENDA PACKET will be posted on the City's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

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## *Police Blotter*

• 4.17.23 ~ BRANNON, Brian arrested on Possession of Stolen Vehicle.

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## *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 24<sup>th</sup>** ~ Stroganoff, Broccoli, Carrots, Dessert.  
**Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.  
**Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pizza, Salad, Corn, Dessert.  
**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ Pinto Beans, Relish, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.  
**Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ Fish, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, 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*

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*

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*

The Blanchard Tourism Board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, and discussed, considered, and took appropriate action on the following Agenda items:

✓ **VOTED** to promote the Hotel/Motel Tax Election for Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

✓ **DISCUSSED** the planning of a Wine/Beer Festival as

approved by the City Council.

✓ **TABLED** the creation of a brand for Tourism.

✓ **VOTED** to ask the City Council seed money to promote the upcoming election and City special events.

✓ **APPROVED** Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next meeting of the Tourism Board will be Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## *Work Zone Awareness Month*



The month of **May 17 - 23, 2023** has been declared Work Zone Awareness Months in Oklahoma to encourage residents to

exercise attentiveness and patience on public roadways.

Construction and maintenance of our streets, highways and utility infrastructure are critical to maintaining Oklahoma's economic vitality and keeping the state "open for business."

Accidents cause unexpected work zones along Oklahoma streets and highways, which places crews and first responders in direct contact with traffic.

By Oklahoma law, the fines for speeding in work zones are doubled and texting while driving is prohibited. In Blanchard, the fine is \$150.

Drivers should set aside distraction, be extra courteous and give work zones their individual attention when traveling.