



E-Mail Newsletter

12 May 2023

Volume 131, Number 2

Meeting Dates

MAY 16th

6pm ~ BOA

MAY 23rd

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ City Council

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

Armed Forces Day

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.

The single day celebration stemmed for the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. **Saturday, May 20th** will be Armed Forces Day in the United States.



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:

Special Events

May 14th

~ Mother's Day

May 15th

~ H.S. Graduation

May 17th

~ Last Day of School

May 19th

~ May Daze

May 20th

~ Farmers Market

~ Armed Forces Day

~ May Daze

May 27th

~ Farmers Market

May 29th

~ MEMORIAL DAY

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>

- 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.

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is opened for business every Saturday until October.

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

Graduation

CONGRATULATION to the 2023 BHS Seniors! Graduation will be **Monday, May 15th**. Ceremonies begin at **7 p.m.** at the Blanchard Football Stadium.



Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 29th** in observance of 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.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

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.

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

The BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

May Daze Festival

The "unofficial" start of 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!

Memorial Day

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

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

specific origin of Memorial Day, or 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 29th**.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14th is Mother's Day! 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 in May.



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.

National Peace Officers' Memorial Day & Police Week

National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week **Sunday, May 14th — Saturday, May 20th.**

Each year, our Nation recognizes **May 15th** as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week for those who, through their courageous deeds, have either lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty. We remember and commemorate all police officers for their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, dedicated service to their communities, and their help to preserve the rights and security of all citizens.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, May 5th.**

On the BOA Agenda

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment will meet in regular session on **Tuesday, May 16th** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to apply a side yard setback of 15 feet to match the placement of the house:

Applicant: Donald & Connie Wood

Address: 381 Turtledove Court

Legal: See Staff Report

- Approve or Deny by the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.
- Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to apply a side yard setback of 10 feet to match his subdivision's covenants.

Applicant: Jason & Emily French

Address: 1273 Blackjack Circle

Legal: See Staff Report

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Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

E-mail:
citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

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

- Approve or Deny by the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.
- Consent Agenda.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission met in regular session Thursday and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- Presentation on the proposed Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan;
 - Held Public Hearing re: the proposed creation of a tax increment district and adoption of the Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan;
 - Tabled Resolution recommending the City create a tax increment district and approve the Highway 62 Economic Development Project Plan;
 - Approved the Preliminary Plat for Blackberry Pond Estates location at the northwest corner of 10th and MacArthur;
 - Adopted Resolution recommending approval to the City Council regarding the Preliminary Plat for Blackberry Pond Estates;
 - Tabled the Pre-Application Review of a proposed PUD;
 - Tabled a proposed PUD located on Lots 1-8 of Block 129 of the Original Plat of Blanchard;
 - Tabled the PUD Overlay for Lots 1-8 of Block 129;
 - Held Public Hearing on a Zoning Application from A-1 to C-4 District;
 - Adopted Resolution recommending approval of rezoning of property from A-1 to C-4;
 - Held Public Hearing on a Zoning Application from R-3 to C-5 District;
 - Adopted Resolution recommending approval of rezoning of property from R-3 to C-5;
 - Held Public Hearing on a Zoning Application from A-1 to C-4 District;
 - Discussed the creation of a new Zoning District(s) regulations for the R-R, Rural Residential District;
 - Approved Consent Agenda, as presented.
-

Police Blotter

- No Arrests reported.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of May is more than sixty percent (64.6%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$11,139,551.00 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	341,443.27	19.73
Aug '22	433,295.74	26.51
Sep '22	493,098.78	109.33
Oct '22	454,007.33	40.16
Nov '22	457,106.95	41.12
Dec '22	487,024.24	38.91
Jan '23	428,228.18	37.11
Feb '23	418,590.93	0.00
Mar '23	419,223.15	46.10
Apr '23	396,177.21	-5.82
May '23	556,977.55	64.43
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	4,884,953.33	41.39

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

(MAY 15th - MAY 19th)

Monday ~ Chicken & Noodles, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Taco Salad, Beans, Chips, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Enchilada Casserole, Beans, Corn, Chips, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Relish, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chicken Pasta Salad, Carrot and Raisin Salad, Crackers, Dessert.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested 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 located at 101 S. Main Street, the City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus service. Rides are available by calling 1-866-THAT-BUS. For more information, call (405) 485-9260.

Shelter In-Place

The season of unstable, severe weather is upon us. FEMA recommends that families create a plan of their own to implement in order to shelter in-place at home.

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.

Special Election

A Special Election is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 13th**. The voters of Blanchard will decide the fate of a proposed 5% Hotel/Motel Tax.

If approved, it only goes into effect, if and when, a hotel and/or motel locates in Blanchard.

It will be paid for by visitors staying overnight when visiting Blanchard for ballgames, events, etc. or overnite travelers.

Splash Pad

The City's Parks Department plans to open the water park on **Friday, May 26th**.

The Splash Pad is located in Lions Park at 415 SW 7th Street just west of Main Street.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of May more than forty percent (40.6%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,992,188.20 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	100,869.95	22.75
Aug '22	94,050.49	-3.45
Sep '22	137,513.39	55.31
Oct '22	119,613.15	40.95
Nov '22	102,787.23	11.07
Dec '22	146,676.03	50.92
Jan '23	164,384.56	28.56
Feb '23	176,627.17	32.54
Mar '23	92,405.76	12.81
Apr '23	125,133.07	50.95
May '23	149,609.41	60.59
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	1,409,670.19	32.76

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.