



E-Mail Newsletter

1 September 2023

Volume 135, Number 1

Meeting Dates

September 8th

6pm ~ Planning Commission

September 18th

6pm ~ Tourism

September 19th

6pm ~ BOA

September 26th

5:30pm ~ PreMeeting

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ Council

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

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

Autumnal Equinox



Fall begins **Saturday, September 23rd** at **1:50 a.m.** CST. The Autumnal Equinox is defined as the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from north to

south. The celestial equator is the circle in the celestial sphere halfway between the celestial poles. Another definition of fall is nites of below-freezing temperatures combined with day of temperatures below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The word equinox means "equal nite"; nite and day are the same length of time. The equinoxes are times when the Sun's apparent motion undergoes the most rapid change. Around the time of the equinoxes, variations in the position on the horizon when the Sun rises and sets can be noticed from one day to the next by alert observers.

Citizenship Day

Formerly called Constitution Day, Citizenship Day will be observed on **Sunday, September 17th**. However, September 17th marks the anniversary of the date in 1787 when the final draft of the

Special Events

SEPTEMBER

2nd ~ Farmers Market
4th ~ Labor Day
6 - 11 ~ McClain County Free Fair
7 - 10 ~ Cleveland County Free Fair
9th ~ Farmers Market
11th ~ Patriot Day
14 - 24 ~ State Fair
15th ~ Rosh Hashanah Begins
16th ~ Farmers Market
17th ~ Constitution Day
17th ~ Rosh Hashanah Ends
23rd ~ Farmers Market
23rd ~ First Day of Autumn
24th ~ Yom Kippur Begins
25th ~ Yom Kippur Ends
30th ~ Farmers Market
30th ~ Mufflers on Main

Constitution of the United States was signed by delegates to the Constitutional Convention after months of wrangling. The framers had been arguing constantly as they met in secret, but they had leaked reports to the press indicating that all was well.



The Federalists [as they were called] argued thru June and most of July and reached an agreement on July 16. After deciding to leave out a bill of rights - because everyone was worn-out and they thought there was no need for such a list - the framers completed the final draft on September 17 and made it ready for submission to the states for ratification.

Cleveland County Free Fair

The annual Cleveland County Free Fair for 2023 will begin on **Thursday, September 7TH** and will end on **Sunday, September 10TH** in Norman.



The annual Free Fair offers four (4) days of non-stop family fun. Come to this traditional county fair for everything from goat roping to carnival rides. Enjoy a variety of tasty fair food, kick back and listen to endless live entertainment or browse through livestock displays.

Kids will enjoy a petting zoo filled with a variety of furry and feathered friends, a baby crawling contest and the Oklahoma Pedal Pull Championship, an event that features youth from all over Oklahoma competing to pedal child-powered tractors the quickest with weighted sleds in tow.

The Cleveland County Free Fair will also offer visitors endless home economics displays including baked goods and canning category winners, as well as artistic displays featuring crafts, drawings, sculpture, photography and fabric art. Don't forget to attend the fair's much-anticipated horse show to witness a variety of equestrians compete for top honors.

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page regarding City sponsored events

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>

Constitution Week



Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined event that is annually observed in the United States on September 17.

This event commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787.

It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become US citizens.

The City Council proclaimed the week of September 17 - 23 for observance of National Constitution Week.

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is open for business every **Saturday** beginning at **8am** until **12 Noon** thru October.

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



Great State Fair of Oklahoma



The annual 2023 Great State Fair of Oklahoma will begin **Thursday, September 14TH** and run thru **Sunday, September 24TH** at the OKC Fairgrounds on May Avenue.

From family entertainment, horse shows and

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.

educational exhibits to all the delicious fried treats in between, enjoy this "best of the best" showcase of our state's agriculture, manufacturing and commerce at the OKC Fairgrounds.



September is here and what better way to greet the coming of Fall than with a three-day weekend.

Labor Day has become synonymous with three-day weekends, end-of-summer barbecues and of course sales. The holiday that falls on the first Monday of September has a deep history. Labor Day is a way to remember the men and women that fought for the rights of workers in the labor movement of the late 19th century. Because of that work we get days off like this to celebrate.

During the Industrial Revolution, laborers organized strikes, demonstrations and rallies to fight for better working conditions. Labor Day marks the achievements of the men and women who fought for the rights of workers in the labor movement of the late 19th century. Because of this, we have the 40-hour work week, benefits, paid time off, sick leave and safe working conditions.

The holiday celebrates American workers, unions and labor leaders.

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

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

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.

McClain County Free Fair

The annual 2022 McClain County Free Fair begins **Wednesday, September 6TH** thru **Monday, September 11TH** in Purcell.

The annual Free Fair includes 4-H, FFA, HCE and open class competition events, an antique tractor display featuring a five-gallon ice cream maker, kiddie tractor pull, best dressed pet contest and fun for the entire family. Browse through exhibits of local crops and farming and celebrate the agricultural abundance of the area. Exhibits on clothing construction, food preservation, baked goods, science projects, photography and more will also be featured.

Don't miss the fair's popular horse show or the all-you-can-eat bean and cornbread supper. Visitors to the McClain County Free Fair will also enjoy live entertainment throughout the event, a beef and dairy show and a children's rodeo. Bid for tasty treats in the fair's pie, cake and salsa auction, or simply come to this Purcell fair for luscious barbecue and yummy homemade ice cream.

Mufflers On Main



The City's 9th annual car and truck show will be held on **Saturday, September 30th** from **10am to 2pm**, on Main Street.

There will be entertainment for all with food vendors, games and live bands. For more information, contact Chris Wittenbach at 405-485-9392 or parks@cityofblanchard.us.

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.

OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

City Offices will be closed on **Monday, September 4th** for Labor Day observance.

If you have a Police or Fire emergency, please call 911. If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485-9391 or 306.9532 for public works personnel on-call.

City offices will reopen **Tuesday, Sept 5th** at 8am. Trash service runs as usual.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, August 25th**.

Pet Care

IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOU, IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR PET!

Keep your pets safe and cool in the summer by remembering that if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Bring pets inside, when it's hot, and provide them with plenty of shade and fresh water when they're outside.

Walk your pets at cooler times of the day and never leave an animal in a car. Contact Animal Control at 405-485-9392 if you see an animal in distress.

Police Blotter

• **No Arrests Reported.**

School In Session



The Blanchard Public Schools are in session!

Please drive carefully in posted school zones. The speed limit is 25 mph ... and fines are double for speeding.

Senior Nutrition Center

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

(September 4TH - September 8TH)

Monday ~ CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY.

Tuesday ~ Chilli Pie, Salad, Corn Chips, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Tetrazzini, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Ribbett, Potato Salard, Green Beans, Bun, 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.

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 Meeting Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority and the City Council will meet in special session on **Tuesday, August 29TH**, at **5:30p.m.** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- Presentation given by Superintendent Brady Barnes on the upcoming Bond Election; and Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-55 supporting the Blanchard Public Schools Bond Issue.
- Discussed utility rates for water/sewer/sanitation services due to increases with the cost of services from water providers (OKCWUT and the City of Newcastle), sewer treatment costs and compliance with ODEQ Consent Order, and solid waste collection (Waste Connections).

The Agenda Packet is available on the city's website located at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Upcoming Special Events

The upcoming 2023 events are:

- * **September 30th** ~ Mufflers on Main
- * **October 21st** ~ Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- * **October 21st** ~ Wine Art Music Festival (Main Street)
- * **October 31st** ~ Pumpkinfest (Main Street)
- * **October 31st** ~ Halloween (City-wide)
- * **November 10th** ~ Veterans Memorial Dedication
- * **November 11th** ~ Veterans Day Parade (Main Street)

* December 9th ~ Christmas Events & Parade of Lites

Details of each event will be posted on the City's Facebook page and the City's website.

Water Restrictions

The City of Oklahoma City is still experiencing low water pressure issues in providing water across the river which results in lower pressure for Blanchard, Cole and Dibble customers.

As a result, outside watering restrictions are in place and **PROHIBITED** until further notice.

Zoning Case

An application to re-zone property from A-1, Agricultural District to R-E, Residential Estates District from Richard Hamilton on the following described property:

A tract of land being a part of the East Half of the NE4 of the NW4 of Section 33-T9N-R4W of the Indian Meridian, McClain County, Oklahoma, being more particularly described as follows: The South 727.00 feet of the East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE4 of the NW4 of Section 33.

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on said application at 6:00p.m. on September 14, 2023, at the Blanchard Municipal Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street, Blanchard, at its regularly scheduled meeting.

The Blanchard City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Planning Commission's recommendation at 6:00p.m. on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, during its regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the BMIA meeting held at the Blanchard Municipal Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street, Blanchard.

If the Planning Commission's recommendation is in favor of approving the rezoning request, at which time an Ordinance amending the Zoning Map may be considered and voted upon.