



# E-Mail Newsletter

8 September 2023

Volume 135, Number 2

## Meeting Dates

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ Planning  
Commission

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ Tourism

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**

6pm ~ BOA

**September 26<sup>th</sup>**

5:30pm ~ PreMeeting

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ Council

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

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[citymanager@cityofblanchard.us](mailto:citymanager@cityofblanchard.us)

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

## Action Required

Pioneer will be replacing the traditional copper wire network with fiber-optic technology! Your Pioneer service(s) must be moved to the fiber network **BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 2023, OR YOU WILL NOT HAVE SERVICE FROM PIONEER.**

Pioneer provides service to your home over traditional copper wire network. They are in the final stages of upgrading their entire network with new fiber-optic technology. Fiber-optic technology can bring you additional services, and more reliable performance.

Fiber-optic technology uses cables made of glass or plastic strands that transmit light. This technology is more efficient than standard copper wiring. Fiber-optic technology can transfer more information, faster, with higher quality, and over greater distances. The fiber-optic cables aren't affected by electrical interference, making the upgraded network more reliable, and secure.

To maintain their fiber-optic networks as their primary network, they will terminate the existing copper network on October 16, 2023. Once the copper network has been terminated, if you have NOT converted to the fiber-optic network you will NOT have service. Please visit the local Pioneer office or call 405.387.8155 to speak to a representative about getting upgraded to the new fiber network.

If you already have Pioneer Internet service, your current Internet plan will be upgraded to one of their fiber plans, providing you with upgraded features like: symmetrical download and upload speeds, enhanced experience, and more reliable service. Plus, your internet equipment will also be upgraded to their newest gateway, which offers amazing WiFi 6 technology providing increased coverages and enhanced WiFi performance.

## Special Events

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

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

## 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.

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## Citizenship Day

Formerly called Constitution Day, Citizenship Day is observed **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**. However, September 17<sup>th</sup> marks the anniversary of the date in 1787 when the final draft of the 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.



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>

# Cleveland County Free Fair

The annual Cleveland County Free Fair ends **Sunday, September 10<sup>TH</sup>**.



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.

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## Constitution Week

*Celebrate*

**CONSTITUTION  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DAY**



*September 17*

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

*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.

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.

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## 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.



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## Great State Fair of Oklahoma

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



From family entertainment, horse shows and 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.

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## 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.

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## McClain County Free Fair

The annual McClain County Free Fair ends **Monday, September 11<sup>TH</sup>**.

The 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.

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## 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](mailto: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.

## NOW HIRING

The City of Blanchard has openings in MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS for both full-time and part-time positions.

Please visit our website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us) for all the current openings (postings will be available ASAP).

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

## Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will be meet in regular session on **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **6:00** pm to discuss, consider and take possible action re:

- Appointment of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman;
- Open, Conduct and Close Public Hearing re: rezoning application reclassifying property from the A-1 District to the R-E District;
- Resolution recommending approval or denial to the City Council re: the above Zoning Case;
- Presentation re: the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment; and mandatory training;
- Resolution recommending approval and adoption of a new Zoning Map as of 8/22/23; and
- Consent Agenda.

The full Agenda Packet will be available on the city's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## Patriot Day

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS of 9/11. Fly the U.S. Flag at Half Staff on **Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

Honor those who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by lowering your flags to half-staff.

On this day, we honor and remember the victims of the terrorist

attacks that year on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the World Trade Center in New York City, as well as those who lost their lives when hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania. On this day, we also honor those who lost their lives while attempting to save those who were trapped by the attacks.

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## *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.

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## *Police Blotter*

- **No Arrests Reported.**

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## *Sales Tax Collections*

The sales tax collections for the month of September is more than six percent (6.94%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$9,362,974.40 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	464,658.68	19.73
Aug '23	596,217.70	37.60
Sep '23	468,148.72	17.66
Oct '23	0	0.00
Nov '23	0	0.00
Dec '23	0	0.00
Jan '24	0	0.00
Feb '24	0	0.00
Mar '24	0	0.00
Apr '24	0	0.00
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,529,025.10</b>	<b>20.60</b>

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## *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.

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## *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 11<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup>)**

**Monday** ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Dessert.

**Tuesday** ~ Breakfast Sausage, Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.

**Wednesday** ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

**Thursday** ~ Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday** ~ Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, 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.



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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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## *Upcoming Special Events*

The upcoming 2023 events are:

- \* **September 30<sup>th</sup>** ~ Mufflers on Main
- \* **October 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- \* **October 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Wine Art Music Festival (Main Street)
- \* **October 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ Pumpkinfest (Main Street)
- \* **October 31<sup>st</sup>** ~ Halloween (City-wide)
- \* **November 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Veterans Memorial Dedication
- \* **November 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Veterans Day Parade (Main Street)
- \* **December 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ Christmas Events & Parade of Lites

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

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## *Use Tax Collections*

The use tax collections for the month of May more than twenty-eight percent (28.07%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$3,236,056.80 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	140,366.68	22.75
Aug '23	132,514.92	40.90

Sep '23	161,802.84	17.66
Oct '23	0	0.00
Nov '23	0	0.00
Dec '23	0	0.00
Jan '24	0	0.00
Feb '24	0	0.00
Mar '24	0	0.00
Apr '24	0	0.00
May '24	0	0.00
Jun '24	0	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>434,683.78</b>	<b>30.76</b>

## *Veteran's Memorial*

The Committee has raised 91% of the needed funds to construct the Veterans Memorial located on US-62 between Van Buren and Harrison Avenue. A grand total of \$281,510 of the \$308,000 has been raised, to date.

A minimum balance of \$26,490 is needed to complete the Memorial honoring our greatest American Heroes (Military service members and veterans). So there's still time to honor a loved one or recognize your business as a sponsor. Please contact any one of the Committee members: Michael Scalf, Chairman, Eddie Odle, Jeff Heefner, Gary Hoffman, Larry Mullins.

Tentatively, we plan on a Dedication Ceremony on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

GOAL: \$308,000



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## *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.

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## *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 **Thursday, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.