



# E-Mail Newsletter

15 September 2023

Volume 135, Number 3

## Meeting Dates

**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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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

17 - 24 ~ State Fair

17th ~ Constitution Day

17th ~ Rosh

Hashanah Ends

21st ~ Chamber Luncheon

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

For Blanchard City events: Please visit out website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

Library Events: Please visit their website at <https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard>

# 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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## BOA Agenda

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment will meet for their September meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action re:

A. Open, conduct, and close 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 11 feet to their property:

Applicant: Hogland

Address: 310 W Veterans Memorial HWY

Legal: See Staff Report

B. Approve or Deny by the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.

C. Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to build in front of the established build line.

Applicant: Kacy Cogburn

Address: 1614 W Veterans Memorial HWY

# 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.

Legal: See Staff Report

D. Approve or Deny by the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.

E. Presentation to receive training concerning the roles and responsibilities of the planning commission and the board of adjustment, and discussion concerning the training.

F. Consent Agenda.

The full agenda packet is available on the City's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us)

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## Chamber Luncheon

The Blanchard Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon will be **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> @ 12 Noon**. The cost is \$10 per person.

The delicious business lunch will be catered by Dakota's and is sponsored by Ovintiv.

Several local shops will set up merchandise to display during the luncheon.

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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.



# 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 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

## 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 is open and will 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.

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.

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## Halloween

Trick or Treat" nite in Blanchard will be **Tuesday, October 31st** from **6 pm to 9 pm**.

Please drive carefully with caution and watch out for little ghosts and goblins!

For Halloween safety tips for your kids, pets, etc. please go to

<https://nnw.org/halloween-safety-tips>.



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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 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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## 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).

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## 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).

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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, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

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## PC Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission met in regular session on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed, considered and took the following action re:

- Appointed a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman;
- Opened, Conducted and Closed Public Hearing re: rezoning application reclassifying property from the A-1 District to the R-E District;
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-23 recommending approval of the above Zoning Case;

- Dustin Downey made presentation re: the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment; and upcoming mandatory training;
- Approved Resolution No. 2023-24 recommending approval of a new Zoning/Municipal Limits Map as of 8/22/23; and
- Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**.

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## *Police Blotter*

- **No Arrests Reported.**

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## *Road Closed*

10<sup>th</sup> Street NE between Rockwell Avenue and MacArthur Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, in order to replace a collapsing tinhorn across the road. It is anticipated the road will be closed for one (1) week.



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## *School Bond Election*

The Blanchard Public Schools will submit to the school patrons a proposed bond issue. The election will be **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

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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 18<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>TH</sup>)

**Monday** ~ Stroganoff, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

**Tuesday** ~ Loaded Potato, Salad, Bread, Dessert.

**Wednesday** ~ Ham and Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Dessert.

**Thursday** ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Spinach, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday** ~ Chicken Salad, 3-Bean Salad, Jello 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.

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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*

- \* **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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## *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 has been recommended for approval to the City Council on the following described property:

E2 of NE4 of NW4 of Section 33-T9N-R4W, IM, McClain County, Oklahoma.

The recommended approval of said zoning.

The Blanchard City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Planning Commission's recommendation **6:00p.m., Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, during its regularly scheduled meeting.