



E-Mail Newsletter

6 October 2023

Volume 136, Number 1

Meeting Dates

October 10th

6pm ~ Special BMIA

6pm ~ Special Council

October 12th

6pm ~ Planning Comm

October 16th

6pm ~ Tourism

October 17th

6pm ~ BOA

October 24th

5:30pm ~ PreMeeting

6pm ~ BMIA

6pm ~ Council

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

City of Blanchard
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Blanchard, OK 73010
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We're on the Web!
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

- 8th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 9th ~ Columbus Day
- 9th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 10th ~ Election Day
- 10th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 11th ~ Fall Break
- 11th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 12th ~ Fall Break
- 12th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 13th ~ Fall Break
- 13th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 14th ~ Fire Prevention Week
- 16th ~ Boss's Day
- 21st ~ Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- 21st ~ Wine Art Music Festival
- 31st ~ PumpkinFest
- 31st ~ Halloween

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

For Blanchard City events: Please visit out website at www.cityofblanchard.us

Columbus Day

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a small island in the Bahamas, convinced that he had reached the East Indies. Now, by federal law, Columbus Day is celebrated on the second Monday in October which is **Monday, October 9th**.

City offices will be open for business.

Fall Break

The Blanchard Public Schools will be out of classes on **Wednesday, October 11th** thru **Friday, October 13th** for Fall Break. **NO SCHOOL!**

Fire Prevention Week

A Proclamation designating the week of **October 8th** thru **13th** was proclaimed by the Mayor at the September Blanchard City Council meeting.

The 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention," effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

The City urges all the people of Blanchard to plan and practice a home fire escape and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the City of Blanchard Fire and Emergency Services during Fire Prevention Week 2023.

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>.



Library Events:
Please visit their
website at
[https://pioneer.libnet.
info/events?l=virtual,
blanchard](https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard)

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.

Memorial Poker Ride

The 4th Annual Veterans Memorial Poker Chip Run will be held in Blanchard, OK on **October 21st**. Registration time between **7am - 10 am** at Old City Hall located at 114 West Broadway.

The \$25.00 individual registration fee includes a free sit down breakfast, cooked and served by IHOP.

The selected route will take you through some beautiful back roads to and thru some the best countryside of Oklahoma. At each stop, you will draw a poker chip and the color will be recorded on your player card. No one knows the point value of the colors until you arrive at the final stop by 4 PM. The highest score will win \$500 cash and the lowest score will win \$200 cash plus there will be many additional door prizes handed out at the last stop. Any ties will be broken by drawing an additional poker chip.

You can ride individually, with a group or set a time and plan for your club to meet between 7 and 10 AM. After registering, you can eat breakfast provided by IHOP or visit one of our fine diners for

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.

breakfast. Each entry will receive a free annual rocker patch for the event. We have a colorful event patch available, you may purchase, for your vest, showing your support of the Veterans Memorial. Register on site that morning or you are able to pre-register online at www.cityofblanchard.us under the Veterans Memorial Park link to skip the waiting line.

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 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 29th**.

On The Council-BMIA Agenda

The Blanchard City Council and BMIA Board of Trustees will hold a special joint meeting on **Tuesday, October 10th** beginning at **6pm** to discuss, consider and take possible action re:

- Discussion and possible action on a motion to increase the Utility Rates for water/sewer/sanitation services due to increases with the cost of services from water providers (OKCWUT and City of Newcastle), sewer treatment costs and compliance with ODEQ Consent Order, and solid waste collection (Waste Connections). Action by the BMIA may include the adoption of a Resolution addressing utility fee increases and action by the City of Blanchard may include the adoption of a Resolution and/or an Ordinance changing utility rates, as desired.
- Discussion and a motion to approve an ODEQ Application for wastewater discharge, as requested by the City Engineer.
- Discussion and a motion to approve recommendations by the City Engineer regarding improvements to the OKC Booster Station.

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

• Executive Session

The regular October meetings of the City Council and BMIA Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, October 24th, 2023.

On The PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their regular October meeting on **Thursday, October 12th** beginning at 6pm to discuss, consider and take possible action re:

- Discussion and consideration and a motion to approve the 2024 regular Planning Commission meeting dates.
- Consent Agenda.

The November Planning Commission meeting will be Thursday, November 9th, 2023.

Police Blotter

- **10/06/23** ~ ROMERO, Xavian arrested on Public Intoxication.

School Bond Election

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

Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

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.

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.

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 (October 9th - 13th)

Monday ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Enchiladas, Salad, Beans, Chips, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Pigs-in-a-Blanket, Mac n Cheese, Baked Beans
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.

Upcoming Special Events

- * **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.



2023 Special Election

Tuesday, October 10th

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ~ POLLS ARE OPEN
FROM 7am – 7pm.