



E-Mail Newsletter

13 October 2023

Volume 136, Number 2

Meeting Dates

October 16th

6pm ~ Tourism

October 17th

6pm ~ BOA

October 19th

4pm ~ Juvenile Court

October 24th

5:30pm ~ Pre-Meeting

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

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

- 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 our website at www.cityofblanchard.us

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

Council-BMIA Action

The Blanchard City Council and BMIA Board of Trustees met in Joint Special meeting on **Tuesday, October 10th** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **Discussed** increases to 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).
- **Approved** a ODEQ Application for wastewater discharge, as requested by the City Engineer.
- **Approved** recommendations by the City Engineer regarding improvements to the OKC Booster Station.
- **Held** Executive Session with NO action taken.

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

Daylite Saving Time Ends

FALL BACK **SUNDAY, November 5th**, when Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Clocks will "fall back" one-hour.

Credit for Daylite Saving Time belongs to Benjamin Franklin, who first suggested the idea in 1784. The idea was revised in 1907,



when William Willett, an Englishman, proposed a similar system in the pamphlet 'The Waste of Daylight'.

The Germans were the first to officially adopt the light extending system in 1915 as a fuel-saving measure during World War 1. The British switched one year later, and the United States followed in 1918, when Congress passed the Standard Time Act, which established our time zones. This experiment lasted only until 1920, when the law was repealed

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.

due to opposition from dairy farmers [cows don't pay attention to clocks]. During World War II, Daylight Saving Time was imposed once again [this time year around] to save fuel.

SO REMEMBER! When you change the clocks, change your batteries in your smoke and CO² detectors.

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>.



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.

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

Memorial Poker Ride

The 4th Annual Veterans Memorial Poker Chip Run will be held in Blanchard on **Saturday, 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 in 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 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, October 6th**.

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.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their regular October meeting on **Thursday, October 12th** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **Approved** the 2024 regular Planning Commission meeting dates.
- **Approved** Consent Agenda.

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

Police Blotter

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

PumpkinFest

Are you ready for a real SPOOKY GOOD TIME?

The City's annual PumpkinFest will be held on **Tuesday, October 31st** from **6pm to 9pm** on Main Street.

Activities include:

- Costume Contest (Ages 0-10) (11-18) & (19-over)
- Pet Costume Contest (all pets must be on a leash)
- Face Painting
- Free Candy &

Refreshments

- Games and Trunk or Treats
- Safe Candy Walk & Music

For more information, please contact

Chris Wittenbach at

405.248.6521

parks@cityofblanchard.us.



or

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of October are more than seventeen percent (17.09%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) tax rate applied to \$7,923,544.20 retail sales.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	464,658.68	19.73
Aug '23	596,217.70	37.60
Sep '23	464,184.72	-5.86
Oct '23	543,597.76	19.73
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
Totals	2,068,658.86	20.14

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:

(October 16th - 20th)

Monday ~ Chef's Salad, Fruit, Crackers, Dessert.

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

Wednesday ~ Tetrazzini, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Ribbette, Potato Salad, 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.

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.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of October are more than seventeen percent (17.66%) of the monthly budgeted amount applied to \$2,807,333.68 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '23	140,366.68	39.16
Aug '23	132,514.92	40.90
Sep '23	161,802.84	17.66
Oct '23	168,818.86	41.14
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
Totals	603,502.64	33.50

Wine Arts & Music Festival

The Blanchard Tourism Board will host the first annual Wine Arts & Music (WAM) Festival on Saturday, October 21st.

The event will be held on Main Street just south of US-62 from 12 Noon to 6 pm.

Art vendors, food trucks and live music!