



E-Mail Newsletter

15 March 2023

Volume 142, Number 3

Meeting Dates

March 18th
6pm ~ Tourism
March 19th
6pm ~ Spec City Council

All You Can Eat Breakfast

The Blanchard Masonic Lodge will host the March AYCE Breakfast on Saturday, March 16th from 7am to 11am.

Proceeds go to a selected youth organization as a fundraiser.

April Fool's Day



Tuesday, April 1st or All Fool's Day, a holiday of uncertain origin, is known for practical joking and celebrated on the first day of April. Prior to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1564, the date was observed as New Year's Day by cultures as varied as the Romans and the Hindus. The holiday is considered to be related to the festival of the Vernal Equinox, which occurs on March 20th. The English gave April Fool's Day its first widespread celebration during the 18th century.

BMIA Action

The Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority met in regular session on Tuesday to discuss, consider and took appropriate action on the following:

- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-03 authorizing OWRB application for financing of \$9,200,000 water/sewer projects.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-04 approving revised Agreement for 12-inch water main to serve the Hux Grove Addition on SW US-62.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-04 approving revised Agreement for 12-inch water main to serve the Hux Grove Addition on SW US-62.

*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

Special Events

16th ~ St Patty's Day
Parade

17th ~ St Patrick's
Day

19^h ~ Spring Begins

24th ~ Palm Sunday

29th ~ Good Friday

31st ~ Easter Sunday

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>

- Tabled Construction Permit issued by DEQ for 8-inch water line to serve Hux Grove Addition.
- Approved Water Permit application for property north of 25th Street on Main Street.
- Approved Consent Agenda, as presented.

Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday immediately following the BMIA meeting to discuss, consider and took appropriate action as follows:

- Held Public Hearing for application submittal for \$600,000 CDBG matching grant.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-12 approving said 2024 CDBG Application.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-13 approving leveraged match.
- Adopted Citizens Participation Plan.
- Held Public Hearing on Zoning Application as recommended by the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Zoning Ordinance No. 809.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 809.
- Held Public Hearing on Zoning Application as recommended by the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Zoning Ordinance No. 810.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 810.
- Held Public Hearing on Zoning Regs pertaining to residential zoning as recommended by the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 811.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 811.
- Held Public Hearing on Landscaping Regs as recommended by the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 812.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 812.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 805.
- Adopted Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 805.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-14 authorized BMIA to file OWRB application NOT TO EXCEED \$9,200,000.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-15 supporting OTA's ACCESS OKLAHOMA PROGRAM.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-16 declaring April 2024 as "Fair Housing Month."
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-17 reappointing Randy Brink as Municipal Judge for a 2-year term.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-18 approving the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Funds in the amount of \$500,000 for road

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.

improvements to S. MacArthur.

- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-19 approving the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Funds in the amount of \$500,000 for road improvements to S. Rockwell.
- Tabled Resolution No. 2024-20 until the April meeting.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-21 authorizing City Manager and/or acting City Manager to remove authorized officer, upon termination of employment from bank signatures.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-22 amending the City's Fee Schedule pertaining to animal control.
- Authorized to seek an extension of the DEQ Construction Permit for Phase II water improvement in Original Town of Blanchard.
- Authorized to proceed improvements for the Central Business District to include forming a Steering Committee.
- Set improvements for section line roads on Phase II.
- Discussed Runner-up award for 10th Street.
- Approved police department purchase of evidence lockers.
- Approved Change Order No. 1 for Police Station; approved Final Payment of \$51,888; and accepted Certificate of Completion.
- Authorized City Engineer to submit proposal for water drainage study for the Quail Haven Addition (Kitty Hawk and Partridge Lane).
- Approved Consent Agenda, as presented.
- Held Executive Session:
 - Approved 1-year contract extension for the City Manager.
 - Discussed economic development.

Easter

Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. According to the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen. Christians worldwide have celebrated Easter for centuries.

However, the roots of the Easter holiday's traditions and activities can be traced back to pagan celebrations. The name Easter is believed to come from *Eostara*, the goddess of rebirth. In early times the Feast of Eostara celebrated earth's resurrection and rebirth. Strict Puritans would have nothing to do with Easter - it was merely a human institution - in the past. Charles I, king of England, declared the day as scriptural as Sunday in 1647 but



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

Parliament contradicted him in print and abolished it with other church festivals.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. Easter is therefore delayed one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which lessens the likelihood of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. Eastern Orthodox churches in many countries such as Greece still figure their Easter date based on the Julian calendar.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are both fertility symbols, holdovers from the feast of Eostara. Other symbolic parallels include the pagan joy in the rising sun of spring, which coincides with Christians' joy in the rising Son of God, and the lighting of candles in churches, which corresponds to the pagan bonfires. The symbol of the cross and images of Jesus Christ, through paintings or statues, are remembered on Easter Day.

Easter will be **Sunday, March 31st**.

Fair Housing Month

April is 'Fair Housing Month'. The city encourages each citizen to implement the provisions of the city's Fair Housing Ordinance and requests that any person, or group of persons, planning activities to promote fair housing to inform the city clerk of such activities. A copy of the ordinance may be obtained from the city clerk.



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;

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.

◦ 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.

Special Events

MARCH

- 16 - St Patty's Day Parade
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 19 - Spring Begins
- 24 - Palm Sunday
- 29 - Good Friday
- 31 - Easter Sunday

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, December 8th**.

Park Events

- 3/16/24 ~ St Patti's Day Parade
- 4/27/24 ~ Bark in the Park
- 5/5/24 ~ Cinco D' Mayo
- 5/17/24 ~ May Daze
- 5/18/24 ~ May Daze
- March/October ~ Pop Up Parties (Food Trucks & Live Music)
- 6/7/24 ~ Concert in the Park
Movies Under the Stars
- 6/14/24 ~ Concert in the Park
- 6/15/24 ~ Fishing Derby
- 6/21/24 ~ Concert in the Park
Movies Under the Stars
- 6/28/24 ~ Concert in the Park
- 7/02/24 ~ Independence Day Celebration
- 8/16/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival

We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us

8/17/24 ~ Bluegrass Festival
9/28/24 ~ Mufflers On Main
10/31/24 ~ PumpkinFest
11/09/24 ~ Veterans Day Parade
12/14/24 ~ Christmas Parade of Lights
12/14/24 ~ Christmas on Main

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 (except City Observed Holiday).

MENU:

(March 18th - March 22nd)

Monday ~ Sausage Gravy, Potato, Biscuits, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Stroganoff, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Cook's Choice.

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

Friday ~ Pizza, Salad, Corn, 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.

SPRING BREAK

The Blanchard Public School District will be on Spring Break beginning **Monday, March 18th** thru **Friday, March 22nd**. NO class for students.



ST PATTY'S DAY

If you're inclined toward legend, lore and festivities of the Saint and how the Irish honor him, then check out this St. Patrick's Day site at www.st-patricks-day.com, where you'll find everything from parades to recipes.

In Dublin Ireland, the St. Patrick's Day Festival at www.stpatricksdays.ie is described as four (4) "madness and mayhem."



St Patty's Parade

The 13th annual Saint Patrick's Day parade will be held on Saturday, **March 16th** beginning at **4:30pm** with activities starting at 3:30pm with the Celtic dancers and music on Main Street.

Over fourteen (14) entries to date to include car clubs, jeeps and businesses.

A food truck on Main Street will be available serving corn dogs, funnel cakes, fries and drinks.



Vernal Equinox

Spring will begin on **Tuesday, March 19th** at **10:06p.m.** CDT. The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning "equal nite." The Vernal, or spring, equinox is the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from south to north, signaling the beginning of nature's renewal in the Northern Hemisphere.



