



E-Mail Newsletter

29 March 2024

Volume 142, Number 5

Meeting Dates

APRIL

- 1st ~ BETA
- 1st ~ TEAM Blanchard
- 1st ~ BPS Bd of Ed
- 9th ~ Council/BMIA
- 11th ~ Planning Comm
- 15th ~ Tourism
- 16th ~ Board of Adjustment

*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
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All You Can Eat Breakfast



The Blanchard Masonic Lodge will host their April AYCE Breakfast on **Saturday, April 13th** from **7am to 11am**.

Proceeds go to a selected youth organization as a fundraiser.

Animal Cruelty Prevention Month



Preventing animal cruelty starts with responsible pet ownership. The month of April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month. Cruelty may include but not limited to animal neglect of unreasonable deprivation of necessary food, care or shelter or inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- ◆ Any physical punishment inconsistent with the health of such animal;
- ◆ Lack of food or water for more than a twenty-four (24) hour period;
- ◆ Knowingly permitting obvious nutritional deficiencies or other evident Health problems involving any animal;
- ◆ Improper use of any collar or harness or a fixed leash for the purpose of confining any animal which results in flesh laceration, obvious pain or to cause choking to such animal;
- ◆ Depriving animal of adequate shelter; and
- ◆ Inhumane killing or attempting to kill any animal.

You can report instances of animal cruelty calling the City of Blanchard at 405.485.9392 to be investigated by the Animal Control Officer.

Special Events

MARCH

30th ~ Easter Egg Hunt
31st ~ Easter Sunday

APRIL

Animal Cruelty
Prevention Month
Fair Housing Month
1st ~ All Fools' Day
6th ~ Spring Bazaar
11th ~ United States
Submarine Force Day
13th ~ AYCE Breakfast
15th ~ Purple Up! Day
22nd ~ Earth Day
23rd ~ Passover Begins
24th ~ Administrative
Professionals Day
24th ~ US Submarine
Force Day
27th ~ Bark in the Park

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/eve
nts?l=virtual,blanchard](https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual,blanchard)

April Fool's Day



Monday, 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.

City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt



The annual City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Blanchard's Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is set for **Saturday, March 30th**, at the Old BHS Football Field at **11 A.M.**

The hunt is **FREE** for all kids ages pre-K thru the 5th grade and will include special prize eggs in each age category and **Free** hot dogs and chips. Over 6,000 eggs total will be scattered across the field, divided up into different sections for the varying age groups.

Concessions start at **10:30 a.m.** and the hunt begins **PROMPTLY** at **11:00 a.m.** (DON'T BE LATE!). Come out and join the fun, but it happens quick!

A special thanks from PHBC to the BHS Athletic Director **Jeff Craig** and the Blanchard Schools for annual use of the old football field.

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.

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 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.

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

Easter will be this **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.

Farmers' Market

The annual Blanchard Farmers' Market opens **Saturday, April 6th** beginning at **8am**.

The Market is located at the same location on property on US-62 across from Ten Arrows Coffee and Bistro.



Filing Period

Political filing period begins **Wednesday** at **8am, April 3rd** when the candidate filing period opens.

Filing for statewide offices with the Secretary of the State Election Board. Candidates for county offices file with the Secretary of the County Election Board.

Voters in McClain County will fill the following offices:

- County Commissioner District No. 2
- County Clerk
- Court Clerk
- Sheriff

Filing form and information for county offices may be obtained directly from the McClain County Election Board.

Filing packets for all state offices are available for download on the State Election Board's website at

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.

www.oklahoma.gov/elections.

The filing period closes at 5p.m., **Friday, April 5, 2024.**

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.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, March 22nd**.

On the BETA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority will hold their April meeting on **Monday, April 1st**, beginning at 6p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate

action on the following:

- Status of economic development pertaining to industrial prospects and commercial businesses;
- Status of the 2024 Farmers' Market;
- Status of TIF No. 2;
- Status of TIF No. 3; and
- Consent Agenda.

The Agenda is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. The next meeting of the Trust will be June 3rd.

Park Events

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

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

Purple Up! Day

Help Celebrate Military Kids on Purple Up! Day. April marks the

nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor our community youth impacted by deployment. It is no secret that our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate like a complicated obstacle course. However, if given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.



In celebration, you're invited to join in showing your support by being part of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple on **Monday, April 15, 2024**. This will be a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. (Did you know: Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.)

The hope is everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative ... the goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community!

Top Safest Cities in Oklahoma

The City of Blanchard was ranked as the 9th safest city in Oklahoma for 2024. This ranking is up from 14th in 2023.

This ranking is based on the crime stats that the Blanchard Police Department reports monthly to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI) who in turns report these statistics to the FBI.

Visit the following link to see the full report at the website of <http://www.safewise.com/log/safest-cities-oklahoma/>.

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:

(April 1st - April 5th)

Monday ~ Spaghetti, Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Hot Dogs with Bun, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Tomato Spoon Relish, Spinach, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Ham Salad, Tomato Soup, Green 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.

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 Bazaar

The Blanchard Methodist Women will host their annual Spring Bazaar on **Saturday, April 6, 2024**, at 1101 North Main St.

U.S. Submarine Force Day

The submarine force was established on April 11, 1900, when the United States Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, submarines have been used with fortitude and creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea, and have become an indispensable asset that patrols and protects worldwide today.

Submarines and their underwater warfighting companions have commanded and operated by courageous men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service of their country.

Oklahoma has recognized the significance of the US Submarine Force and their crew for their defense of our most cherished freedoms.

On **Thursday, April 11, 2024**, has been proclaimed as the United States Submarine Force Day in Oklahoma.

Happy Easter!

