



E-Mail Newsletter

12 April 2024

Volume 143, Number 2

Meeting Dates

APRIL

15th ~ Tourism:

CANCELED

16th ~ Board of Adjustment

22nd ~ Tourism Special

25th ~ Planning Comm

*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

All You Can Eat Breakfast

The Blanchard Masonic Lodge will host their April AYCE Breakfast for \$7:00 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

APRIL

- 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
- Animal Cruelty Prevention Month
- Earth Month
- Fair Housing Month

Bark in the Park 2024

Blanchard's Annual
Bark In The Park
DOG SHOW

Micro Chipping
Dog Trainer
Vaccines

APRIL 27 2024
LIONS PARK
10 AM - 2 PM

Best in Show
Smallest dog
Largest dog
 ugliest dog
Best costume

Food Trucks
Inflatable Fun

Blanchard Animal Welfare Adoptions

FRIENDS OF THE SHELTER FOUNDATION

Free Dog Tags
Pioneer LIBRARY SYSTEM

Dr. Howard DMV Low Cost Vaccine Clinic

APRIL 27
10 AM

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>

After

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (BMIA) held their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th**, and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- **Discussed** water improvements;
- **Discussed** sewer improvements;
- **Authorized** the City Engineer to prepare an Engineering Report regarding sewer improvements serving the TIF No. 3;
- **Approved** Consent Agenda.

The next BMIA meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th.

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.

Council Action

The City Council of the City of Blanchard held their April meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th**, and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following:

- **Issued** four (4) Proclamations;
- **Held** Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to reclassify property from the S-1 District to the A-1 District;
- **Adopted** Ordinance No. 813 classifying property to the A-1 District;
- **Approved** Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 813;
- **Held** Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to reclassify property from the A-1 District to the R-E District;
- **Adopted** Ordinance No. 814 classifying property to the R-E District;
- **Approved** Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 814;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-20 approving the 2023 Code Supplement;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-23 approving annual Engagement Letter with Crawford & Associates for FYE2025;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-24 approving a Letter of Support & annual Delta Public Transit Agreement;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-25 approving an annual Agreement with Pioneer Library beginning July 1, 2024;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-26 approving the annual Reservation Agreement with Blanchard Senior Citizens;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-27 approving annual Audit Agreement with HSPG & Associates;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-28 approving Special Event Permit for the Blanchard Chamber of Commerce;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-29 approving the reappointment of incumbents to various boards;
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 2024-30 approving the nomination and appointment of Jim Lackey to the Board of Adjustment;
- **Approved** a Promissory Note for the completion of the Veterans Memorial not to exceed \$25,000;
- **Amended** animal registration fees and authorized City Attorney to amend Ordinance No. 807 adopted by City Council on 2/13/24;
- **Discussed** the appointment and make up of Ad Hoc

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

Committee members for the Central Business District;

- **Approved** Amendment No. 3 with Glenn Sullivan & Associates; and discussed funding and cost estimates for Phase II Section Line Road Improvements;

- **Tabled** sealed bids to make street improvements to NE 7th Street and requested to look at more local streets;

- **Accepted** a Road & Utility Easement granted by the Blanchard Public School Board of Education;

- **Declined** the City Engineer's proposal to perform drainage study on Partridge Lane within the Quail Haven Addition;

- **Approved** Consent Agenda; and

- **Tabled** Executive Session.

The next meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, May 14th.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard has the following positions open:

- 3 ~ Police Officers;
- 1 ~ Water & Sewer Utilities Technician;
- 1 ~ Sanitation Worker (Transfer Center);
- 1 ~ Heavy Equipment Operator;
- 3 ~ Seasonal Street Workers;
- 4 ~ Line Install Crew;
- 1 ~ City Planner;

Applications available for download from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Return to the HR Director at payroll@cityofblanchard.us or drop off at City Hall, 2008 N. Council Avenue. The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

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.

Farmers' Market

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

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



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.

We're on the Web!
Please visit us at
www.cityofblanchard.us

May Daze Festival



31st Annual
MAY
DAZE

May 17th & 18th
10 am-8pm
Main Street - Blanchard

Sponsored By:

FESTIVAL
Blanchard Chamber of Commerce

Live Music
100+ Vendors
Food Trucks & Vendors
KID'S ACTIVITIES

For more information, call the Blanchard Chamber Office at 405.485.8787.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, April 5th**.

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

Police Blotter (missed)

1.24.2024 ~ OCHOA-FERNANDEZ, Hector arrested on outstanding Oklahoma County Warrants.
1.08.2024 ~ BURDIN, Karen arrested on outstanding Potter County, Tx Warrants.
12.28.2023 ~ Unreported name arrested on outstanding Blanchard Warrants.
12.13.2023 ~ WALKER, Ricky arrested for possession of CDS and Paraphernalia.

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!

Sales Tax April Report

The sales tax collections for the month of April was more than \$22,018 or more than (5%) less than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$8,315,168 of retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	Collections	% Change
July 2023	464,658.88	6.14%
August 2023	596,217.70	36.19%
September 2023	468,184.72	6.95%
October 2023	543,597.76	24.17%
November 2023	499,693.71	14.14%
December 2023	435,504.94	-0.52%
January 2024	477,017.00	8.96%
February 2024	438,490.54	0.16%
March 2024	389,696.68	-10.98%
April 2024	415,758.40	-5.03%
May 2024	-0-	00.00%
June 2024	-0-	00.00%
Totals	4,728,820.33	108.02%

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

Monday ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Pigs-in-a-Blanket, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Dessert.

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

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.
Friday ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **April 15th** thru **April 19th** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **April 18th**.

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, please 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.

SWODA Transportation Chat

Blanchard will host the monthly Southwestern Oklahoma Transportation Chat Group on **Monday, May 6, 2024**, at 10:00 a.m., Old City Hall, 114 West Broadway.

The group will be talking with the community about

transportation needs, concerns and strategies for improvements. This chat is important because it brings the community together to discuss and focus on transportation solutions that work for everyone. Thus ensuring that the solutions are efficient and consider the needs of citizens, businesses, agencies, and transit agencies.

Tornado Safety

In Oklahoma, tornados are frequent in the spring and summer months. An average of 800 tornados are reported each year, causing 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries per year. These storms are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or greater. The following guidelines will assist in keeping you safe:

Tornado Watch - means a tornado is “possible”. When the National Weather Service issues a warning, it is time to turn on a TV or radio, look out the window from time to time, and be more alert to what is happening outside.

Tornado Warning - means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Warning Signs - A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

» If there is a tornado warning or watch posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger.

» A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.

» Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.

» A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, then turning into a roar as it comes closer.

» Tornados usually move from southwest to northeast.

Safety Tips -

- Shelter indoors, away from flying debris.
- Go to your basement, storm cellar, safe room or lowest level of your home.
- Go to the most interior hallway or room without windows. Stay away from windows and doors.
- Avoid places/rooms with wide-span roofs (cafeterias, gymnasiums, shopping malls).
- Don't try to outrun a tornado in your car. It's one of the

most unsafe places to be during a tornado.

- Don't seek shelter in drainage systems, culverts or ditches because of flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Use Tax April Report

The use tax collections for the month of April was more than 9 Hundred or less than (1%) less than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,507,154.80 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	Collections	% Budget Change
July 2023	140,366.02	11.10%
August 2023	132,514.92	4.89%
September 2023	161,802.84	28.07%
October 2023	168,818.86	33.62%
November 2023	159,179.60	25.99%
December 2023	148,458.17	17.51%
January 2024	229,082.13	81.32%
February 2024	255,360.26	102.12%
March 2024	144,524.27	14.39%
April 2024	125,357.74	-0.78%
May 2024	-0-	00.00%
June 2024	-0-	00.00%
Totals	1,665,464.81	131.82%

Weatherization Assistance

PSO offers to its customers a 'Home Weatherization Assistance Program'.

Homeowners and renters with an annual household income of \$55,000 or less in a home less than 2,200 square feet and built prior to 2010 may be eligible for FREE home upgrades such as attic insulation, air and duct sealing, and more.

PSO's service provider, Titan ES, will perform an energy assessment at your home. If your home qualifies, Titan will schedule and complete the necessary home upgrades.

The services are completed at NO cost to you. PSO pays Titan ES for any approved upgrades completed on your home.

For more information, contact the PSO Customer Services Account Representative at 405.222.7615.