



E-Mail Newsletter

26 April 2024

Volume 143, Number 4

Meeting Dates

MAY

- 6th ~ TEAM Blanchard
- 6th ~ SWODA
- Transportation Chat
- 9th ~ Planning Comm
- 13th ~ Tourism Special
- 14th ~ BMIA
- 14th ~ City Council
- 20th ~ Tourism
- 21st ~ 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
Fax: (405) 485-3199

Agritourism

Strawberry season is upon us and you have the opportunity to pick your own berries. You can bring the whole family and spend the day picking fresh strawberries!

Below is a list of u-pick strawberry farms in central Oklahoma near you:

- Buffalo Creek Berry Farm | Mustang, OK
- Growing Paynes | Mustang, OK
- McRay Farms, Luther, OK

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

Special Events

MAY

- 9th ~ Ascension Day
- 12th ~ Mother's Day
- 13th ~ H.S. Graduation
- 17th ~ May Daze
- 18th ~ May Daze
- 18th ~ Armed Forces Day
- 27th ~ Memorial Day
- 30th ~ Veterans Memorial Dedication

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>

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.

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
www.shelterfriends.org est. 2013

Free Dog Tags
Pioneer LIBRARY SYSTEM

Dr. Howard DMV
Low Cost
Vaccine Clinic

APRIL 27
10 AM

Carly's Kids Corner

Hey kids! This site is loaded with awesome games and activities that help you learn more about trees and why

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.

they're so important to our world.

There are plenty of fun and educational resources to keep the kiddo's busy while school is prematurely out. Please visit <https://www.arborday.org/kids/>.

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.

Farmers' Market

The annual Blanchard Farmers' Market is opened every Saturday beginning at 8am thru September

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



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

Graduation

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2024 BHS Seniors! Graduation will be **Monday, May 13th**. Ceremonies begin at **7 p.m.** at the Blanchard Football Stadium.

Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 27th** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash service will run as usual.

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.

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.

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.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12th will be Mother's Day. Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration.

The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances. On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence. The day is now characterized by gift giving, sending greeting cards and flowers, and giving mother a "day off" by taking the family out to eat. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in

Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, April 19th**.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their April meeting on Thursday, April 25th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following items:

- **Opened, conducted, and closed Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by:**
Applicant: Abraham Aviles and Hanna Holsapple Aviles
Current Zoning: R-E Residential Estates District
Proposed Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District
Address: SE Corner of Laura Meadows Dr. and Veterans Memorial Hwy
- **Adopted Resolution No. 2024-14, recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance amending the zoning district from Residential Estates (R-E) to Agricultural (A-1) on a tract of approximately 5 acres located at the Southeast Corner of Laura Meadows Dr. and Veterans Memorial Highway, within the SW4 of Section 36-T8N-R5W of the Indian Meridian, Grady County, Oklahoma.**
- **Opened, conducted, and closed Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application submitted by:**
Applicant: Sunshine Development of Indian Ridge
Current Zoning: A-1 Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning: R-1 Single-Family Residential District
Address: Vicinity of 3730 W. Veterans Memorial Hwy
- **Adopted Resolution No. 2024-15, recommending approval to the City Council of an ordinance amending the zoning district from Agricultural (A-1) to *Single-Family Residential (R-1)* approximately 0.79 acres located within the W2 of Section 35-T8N-R5W of the Indian Meridian, Grady County, Oklahoma.**
- **Approved lot split application submitted by:**
Applicant: John Wehling

Address: N. Hilltop Ln.

Original Tract: Two (2) original tracts: 2.863 and 5.83 acres, respectively

Proposed Tracts: 3-tracts: 1.05, 2.373 and 5.27 acres

- **Approved lot split application submitted by:**

Applicant: Alliance Property Group

Address: 268 NE 70th St.

Original Tract: One (1) original tract: 8.48 acres

Proposed Tracts: 3-tracts: 2.5 acres, 2.5 acres, and 3.48 acres

- **Approved lot split application submitted by:**

Applicant: Richard Hamilton

Address: Between Hilltop Ln. and Harryman Rd.

Original Tract: One (1) original tract: 11.00 acres

Proposed Tracts: 3-tracts: 1.5 acres, 4.5 acres, and 5.0 acres

- **Discussed a potential ordinance amending the bulk requirements, including, but not limited to the setback restrictions, as established in Article Seven (7) of Chapter Twenty-One (21) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Blanchard, Oklahoma.**

- **Approved Consent Agenda.**

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be on Thursday, May 9th.

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

NO ARRESTS REPORTED.

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 ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Loaded Potato, Salad, Bread, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Chef's Choice.

Friday ~ Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Bun, Dessert.

The Senior Nutrition **MENU** for the week of **April 29th** thru **May 3rd** is published in the Thursday edition of the Blanchard News on **April 25th**.

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.

Thank You!

The City takes this opportunity to give a big “THANK YOU” to members of EOC and Pioneer for teaming up together to clean out the flower beds on Main Street and plant new flowers and plants.

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.

Tourism Action

The Tourism Board held their April meeting on Monday, April 22nd. The Board did not have a quorum to conduct business.

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.