



E~Mail Newsletter

Blanchard Together ... Today & Tomorrow

14 February 2025

Volume 153, Number 2

Meeting Dates

February 17th

6pm - Tourism

February 18th

6pm - BOA

February 27th

6pm - Planning Comm

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11th and discussed and took appropriate action on the following items:

- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2025-02 with respect to P3 financing; and
- **DISCUSSED** the Initial Lead Service Line Inventory.
- **TABLED** the CDBG funded improvements.
- **DISCUSSED** the water and sewer rate increase by the City of OKC and affect on Blanchard.
- **PRESENTATION** a preliminary layout and format of a potential promotional video.
- **DISCUSSED** the request by Vice Chairman Kemper for streaming of meetings.
- **APPROVED** the Consent Agenda.

The next meeting of the Authority will be **Tuesday, March 11th**.

Bond Election

The Blanchard Board of Education has called a special election for the first Tuesday in April.

Please exercise your constitutional right to VOTE!

TUESDAY, APRIL 1st

Carbon-Monoxide Warning



Due to extreme cold and power outages, please be aware of the hazards of the following types of heating:

- ♦ Never use gas grills, propane grills, charcoal grills

*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
2008 N. Council Avenue
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

Special Events

FEBRUARY

17th ~ President's Day

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page or the City's website regarding City sponsored events.

in a house, garage or enclosed area;

♦ All gas fire heaters **MUST** be vented to the outside to remove carbon monoxide from an enclosed area; and

♦ Please read and follow all manufacturer instructions for any heater. Also, be careful with your heaters, fireplaces and candles.

Home and apartment fires are more common during the winter because of improperly used heating equipment, fireplaces and candles. Be sure anything that can burn is at least three (3) feet away from fireplaces or space heaters. Fireplaces should be inspected by a professional every year and cleaned when necessary, and make sure fires are fully extinguished before you go to bed.

It's important your home has working smoke alarms and your family knows how to escape a fire safely.



City Council Action

The City Council of the City of Blanchard held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11th and discussed and took appropriate action on the following items:

- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2025-05 with respect to P3 financing.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2025-06 with respect to \$500,000 funding with the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Fund.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2025-07 with respect to approving an Agreement with Choosing Charity LLC for grant writing.
- **DISCUSSED** the request by Vice Mayor Kemper for streaming of meetings.
- **APPROVED** request by Parks Director to purchase equipment from state contract.
- **DISCUSSED** Phase II of Section Road improvements.
- **DISCUSSED** Phase I of Local Street Improvements.
- **DISCUSSED** improvements to the Central Business District.
- **APPROVED** the Consent Agenda.
- **HELD** Executive Session:
 - **APPROVED** contract with new City Manager.

The next meeting of the Authority will be **Tuesday, March 11th**.



After Hours

For Public Works/Streets 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.

Code Enforcement

Help beautify Blanchard! It is a violation of the Municipal Code of any of the following:

- * Allow the accumulation of trash and/or debris and our junk on your property.
- * Allow tall weeds or grass (including edges along the street and sidewalk) to exceed 12-inches or higher.
- * Accumulation of inoperable and/or junk vehicles and parts on your property.
- * Parking of trailers, boats, and RVs in alleyways or in front of the building line.
- * Allowing tree limbs over hang the street with less than 8-foot clearance.
- * Failure to trim trees, grass and weeds in alleys or between sidewalk and pavement.
- * Leaving grass in the street after mowing.
- * Watering lawn every day or out of odd/even sequence.

Any questions, please contact Mike Henning, Code Enforcement Officer at City Hall, 405.485.9392 or file a complaint on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Heart Health Month

February is Heart Health Month! Are you at risk for diabetes? If so, you may also be at risk for heart disease. The American Heart Association says 65 percent of people with diabetes die from some form of heart disease or stroke. Do you have diabetes? Some symptoms of diabetes to look for include frequent urination, frequent hunger and thirst, blurry vision, feeling very tired, bruises and cuts that heal very slowly, unexplained weight loss, and numbness/tingling in the hands and feet. You may take the diabetes risk test at www.diabetes.org/are-you-at-risk/ by answering some basic health questions and your risk for diabetes will be calculated.

For more information about diabetes prevention and education, you may contact the American Diabetes Association.

Municipal Election

The City of Blanchard will hold a municipal election, for Ward Three on **Tuesday, April 1st**.

- Branden Allee.
- Justin Lowe.

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.

Please exercise your constitutional right to VOTE!

TUESDAY, APRIL 1st

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that no new oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard since **Friday, February 7th**.

Presidents' Day

Monday, 17th of February, will be observed as Presidents' Day. In the United States, Presidents Day is always celebrated on the third Monday of February. Trash service is unaffected. City Offices are open for business.

Prayer at the Flagpole

The American Legion Commander welcomes all Veterans and citizens to "Pray at the Flagpole" every Monday morning.

Prayers have been inside the Post due to some of the citizens' inability to stand for long periods of time. The Post is located next door South of the Senior Citizens Center at 103 South Main. After prayer at 8:45am, the Post has a social with coffee and donuts.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of February are more than seven (7.21%) percent higher than a year ago and three (3.01%) percent higher/lower than last month' collections. Sale Taxes are based on five (5%) of \$10,228,612.00 retail sales inside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '24	463,695.31	-0.21
Aug '24	436,602.79	-26.77
Sep '24	467,405.68	0.69
Oct '24	802,992.20	47.72
Nov '24	409,282.81	-18.09
Dec '24	444,564.25	2.08
Jan '25	496,026.08	3.98
Feb '25	511,430.60	7.21
Mar '25	-0-	-0-
Apr '25	-0-	-0-
May '25	-0-	-0-

7. Locally owned 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.

Jun '25	-0-	-0-
Totals	4,031,999.82	1.87

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 Holidays).

MENU (Feb 17 ~ 21)

February 6th ~ Spaghetti, Salad, Corn, Dessert

February 7th ~ Chili Pie, Salad, Veggie, Chips, Dessert

February 8th ~ Cook Choice

February 9th ~ Hobo Beans, Pickle & Onions, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert

February 10th ~ Chicken Patty, Bun, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, 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, 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.



Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of February are more than eight (8.22%) percent more than a year ago and more than nineteen (19.25) percent more than last month's collection. Use Taxes are based on five (5%) of \$4,958,362 retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '24	244,287.42	74.04
Aug '24	194,373.75	46.68
Sep '24	146,014.75	-9.76
Oct '24	145,552.67	-13.78
Nov '24	125,275.59	-21.30
Dec '24	207,719.42	39.92
Jan '25	200,185.89	-12.61
Feb '25	247,918.09	8.22
Mar '25	-0-	-0-
Apr '25	-0-	-0-
May '25	-0-	-0-
Jun '25	-0-	-0-
Totals	1,511,327.58	10.37

Veterans Memorial

There are more than 500 individual bricks still available for purchase and to be show-cased at this incredible Memorial. Individual bricks are \$125 apiece or 3 bricks for \$300. An Order Form can be found on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

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.