



E~Mail Newsletter

Blanchard Together ... Today & Tomorrow

1 November 2024

Volume 150, Number 1

Meeting Dates

November 4th
8am ~ TEAM Blanchard
November 5th
6pm ~ BOA
November 11th
8:30am ~ CBD
November 12th
6pm ~ BMIA
6pm ~ City Council
November 14th
6pm ~ Planning Commission
November 18th
6pm ~ Tourism

*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

Academy of Blanchard

A charter school plans to open in Blanchard in August 2025. They are holding community events to provide information and answer questions for interested families.

There was an Associated Press release in September announcing the Blanchard site approval. The next upcoming event will be advertised.

Ballot Questions

Voters will consider the following two (2) state questions on the upcoming General Election Ballot on **Tuesday, November 5th**. They are as follows:

STATE QUESTION NO. 833:

This measure adds a new section 9E to Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. This new section will permit the creation of public infrastructure districts to provide support, organization, operation, and maintenance of services. To create such a district, proponents for creating the district must file a petition with the municipality. The petition must include the signatures of one-hundred (100) percent of all surface property owners falling within the District's proposed boundaries. The municipality possesses the right to impose limitations on the district's powers prior to approving the district. Once approved, the district will be governed by a board of trustees.

Through the board, the district may issue bonds to pay for all or part of all public improvements implemented by and for the public infrastructure district. The district will be limited to issuing bonds issued for such improvements not exceeding ten

Special Events

NOVEMBER

3rd ~ Daylite Saving Time Ends

5th ~ Election Day

11th ~ Veterans Day

11th ~ Moment of Silence

15th ~ Nat'l Recycling Day

28th ~ Thanksgiving Day

29th ~ Thanksgiving After

DECEMBER

7th ~ Pearl Harbor Day

14th ~ Christmas on Main

14th ~ Christmas Lited Parade

21st ~ Winter Begins

24th ~ Christmas Eve

25th ~ Christmas Day

31st ~ New Year's Eve

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

(10) mills. For repayment of the bonds, the district, acting through its board of trustees, will levy and assess a special assessment on all property benefiting from the improvements in the district. Section 9E also authorizes the Legislature to enact laws necessary for the implementation of public infrastructure districts.

STATE QUESTION NO. 834:

This measure amends Section 1 of Article 3 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It clarifies that only citizens of the United States are qualified to vote in this state.

Blanchard News

LOCAL NEWSPAPER SOLD! The Blanchard News was sold to the publishers of the Mustang Times, Minco Times and Tuttle Times. They will publish the weekly newspaper beginning the week of November 4th. Online services will be added. The new publishing deadline is Monday for the Thursday publication.

City Manager

The City of Blanchard is seeking a professional who has a track record of successfully dealing with community issues of similar size to Blanchard or larger. Candidates should have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and be able to develop strong, positive relationships with both long-time residents and newcomers to the community.

The current city manager is retiring on June 30, 2025, after 13 years of service with the city of Blanchard. The starting salary and benefits are highly competitive and negotiable depending upon the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. The city has an excellent benefit package including health insurance, retirement system and 9 paid holidays, vacation and sick leave.

A City Manager Profile with more detail will be available to download on the city's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. The city is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please send your Letter of Interest and resume to payroll@cityofblanchard.org or mail before December 1, 2024 to:

HR Director

City of Blanchard

2008 N. Council Avenue or P.O. Box 480

Blanchard, OK 73010

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.

Daylite Saving Time

FALL BACK SUNDAY, November 3rd, when Daylight Saving Time ends at **2 a.m.** Clocks will “fall back” one-hour.

Credit for Daylite Saving Time belongs to Benjamin Franklin, who first suggested the idea in 1784. The idea was revised in 1907, when William Willett, an Englishman, proposed a similar system in the pamphlet ‘The Waste of Daylight’. The Germans were the first to officially adopt the light-extending system in 1915 as a fuel-saving measure during World War 1.

The British switched one year later, and the United States followed in 1918, when Congress passed the Standard Time Act, which established our time zones. This experiment lasted only until 1920, when the law was repealed due to opposition from dairy farmers [cows don’t pay attention to clocks]. During World War II, Daylight Saving Time was imposed once again [this time year around] to save fuel.

REMEMBER! When you change the clocks, change your batteries in your smoke and CO² detectors.



Holiday Closing

City offices will be closed on **Monday, November 11th**, for the observance of Veteran’s 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 be as usual.

Offices will reopen on **Tuesday, November 12th**, at **8am**.

Holiday Schedule

Veterans Day, observed **November 11th** ~ City Offices **Closed**

Thanksgiving Day, **November 28th** ~ City Offices **Closed**

Day After Thanksgiving, **November 29th** ~ City Offices **Closed**

Trash service will **NOT** run on Thanksgiving (**Thursday, November 28th**) and Christmas Day (**Wednesday, December 25th**).

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.

Moment of Silence

In 2016, the President of the United States, signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The Proclamation calls for the American citizens everywhere to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day, **Monday, November 11th** at **1:11** p.m. Central Standard Time.

Over a century ago, America was fighting a war to liberate Europe. However, the U.S. involvement was relatively short in time compared to other countries ... but the sacrifices were enormous. A total of 116,516 Americans paid the ultimate price. Another 200,000 were wounded.

The Armistice signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 was signed during the First World War between the Allies and Germany - also known as the Armistice of Compiegne after the location in which it was signed - and the agreement ended the fighting on the Western Front.

National Recycling Day

Friday, November 15th is National Recycling Day. Only 31% of items that customers put in their recycling cart cannot be recycled and must be sent to a landfill. Reduce contamination in recycling carts with these tips:

- Do empty, clean and dry jars and bottles;
- Don't bag recyclables. Put all items loose in your cart. Plastic
 - Bags are considered contamination and delay the recycling process;
- Don't use your recycling cart for household, yard waste or construction trash.



Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that no new oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard since **Friday, October 25th**.

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.

Oklahoma Heritage Week

The signing of the Statehood Proclamation on November 16, 1907, was the most significant action in the history of the State of Oklahoma. The week of November 10th through the 16th has been declared 'OKLAHOMA HERITAGE WEEK' in the State of Oklahoma.

All pause during on our as well as our Blanchard and privilege role in the



Oklahomans should this time and reflect Oklahoma heritage, national heritage. has the obligation to play an important observance of this

great week! So the Blanchard City Council issued a proclamation declaring the week of November 10th thru the 16th to be 'Oklahoma Heritage Week' in Blanchard and encourages all citizens, families, clubs, churches, business organizations and schools in Blanchard to give personal attention to all special Statehood Day observances, to fly the State Flag and the National Colors, to participate in and help sponsor programs, projects, and activities emphasizing the heritage of our great State.

Parade Marshal

The Blanchard American Legion and VFW posts have chosen Kenneth L. Loyd, Jr. of Blanchard to be the Grand Marshal of the annual Veterans Day Parade on **Saturday, November 9th**.

Kenneth was chosen for his dedication over his many years of faithful work with the Tony K. Burris VFW Post 3601 and the American Legion Post 261 of Blanchard.

Kenneth joined the Navy in June of 1968 and after completing boot camp in San Diego, he returned home to marry the love of his life. After his leave, he returned to the Navy and was assigned to the USS James E. Kyes, a Gearing-class destroyer of the U.S. Navy, named for Commander James E. Kyes (1906-1943).

In January of 1969 he was sent to 3 WESPAC (Western Pacific) which was off the coast of Vietnam doing shore artillery.

After serving four years he was honorably discharged. Kenneth was out of the Navy for 3 years and was recalled due



to the recession and ended up serving his country for eight (8) more years. He was part of eight commands. He served faithfully with many officer positions for Tony K. Burris VFW for many years. Ken is also a member of the American Legion Bond-Holden Post 261.

Kenneth has two sons and four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Park Events

11/09/24 ~ Veterans Day Parade

12/14/24 ~ Christmas Parade of Lights

12/14/24 ~ Christmas on Main

Police Blotter

NO arrests reported.

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.

Proclamations

The Blanchard City Council issued three (3) proclamations at their regular meeting on October 8th. They proclaimed:

- The week of:

November 10th through the 16th as ‘Oklahoma Heritage’ Week; and

- The Month of November as:
‘American Legion Appreciation’ Month; and
‘National American Indian Heritage’ Month.
-

Quick Facts

Blanchard is rated the Best Places in McClain County to:

- **Raise a Family** #6 of 23
- **Buy a House** #7 of 27
- **Best Public Schools** #8 of 24
- **Best Places to Live** #9 of 24

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:

(November 4th – November 8th)

Monday ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potato, Vegetable, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Taco Burger, Beans, Chips, Bun, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Macaroni & Cheese, Bun, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Chili Beans, Salad, Corn, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Fish, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, 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.

Tall Weeds & Grass



The City is committed to adopted regulations concerning the abatement of tall grass, weeds and trash.

The Blanchard Municipal Code concerning public nuisances and property enhancement requires that owners or responsible persons of property located within the municipal city limits are prohibited from allowing debris, junk, waste or trash to accumulate, or weeds or tall grass over twelve (12") inches in height, dead trees, bushes, and shrubs to grow or stand upon the premises. This regulation is based upon the Oklahoma State Law Title 11, Section 22-111 which sets forth the procedure and definitions for the cleaning and mowing of property. Property that abuts against public property (ie: alleys, streets, etc.) are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of mowing of tall weeds and grass, trees, etc.)

For more information, contact the Code Enforcement Officer at 405.485.9392 or file an anonymous complaint on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Thank You

Chris Wittenbach, Blanchard Parks Director, wants to send out a massive "THANK YOU" to all those that came out to support the community on Thursday nite, at the annual PumpkinFest to

make it a safe and successful event for the kids. They are as follows: Blanchard Vo-Ag; Restore Christian Church; Reign Photography; the Ludvick Family; Good Old Days Merchantile; Dutton Rent All; VFW Aux.; Munoz Academy; Blanchard Drug & Gift; Tom's Coffee; Hotwox; Legacy Bank; Blanchard Church of Christ; Central Family Dentistry; Character Crashers; Local Merchants; Rethread Consignment; Cathy's Cottage; Choice Reality; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; MMP Food Truck; Southern Ste. Salon; Khan's Clothes; Beacon Church; Pioneer Telephone; Sonic of Blanchard; Knippelmier Chevrolet; McClain/Grady EMS; Blanchard Fire Department; Blanchard Police Department; Blanchard Park's Department.

You helped to provide a safe fun place for families to enjoy Halloween. I'm proud to work, serve and live in the best city in the state with the most supportive people, said Chris.

2024 Election Date

November 5th ~ General Election

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE! POLLS
ARE OPEN FROM 7am - 7pm.



Veterans Day

Originally Armistice Day, commemorating the signing of the agreement that ended World War I at 11:00am, on November 11, 1918, this federal holiday was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 by Congress. At that time, it became a day to honor all the men and women who have served in the armed forces of the United States. Each year, special ceremonies are held around the nation honoring our veterans. Please consider spending some time on-line learning more about our nation's true HEROES [the American Veteran] who have served our country in time of peace and war.



City Hall offices will be closed for observance of Veterans Day on **Monday, November 11th**. Offices will reopen on **Tuesday, November 12**, at 8am.

Veterans Day Parade



Plans are under way for the annual Blanchard Veterans Day Parade to be held on **Saturday, November 9th**.

The Parade Marshal will be announced at a later date.

Parade Entry Forms will be available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

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.

Voter Laws

The November Election is rapidly approaching, therefore the McClain County Election Board officials are reminding voters of Election Day laws.

- Persons Allowed Inside Election Enclosure
- Illegal Voting
- Electioneering
- Printed Material
- Photographs and Disclosure of Vote
- Election Interference
- Intoxication
- Reporting Potential Crimes.

For more information or to report a potential violation of election law, contact the McClain County Election Board at 405.527.3121 or mcclaincounty@elections.ok.gov.

Water Rationing

The City of Blanchard reminds citizens that the City receives 100% of our water from the City of Oklahoma City. As a result, we maintain a year-round, mandatory odd/even lawn watering

schedule to facilitate the conservation of its ground water supply from OKC.

Addresses ending in an even number such as the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, and 30th may water on even-numbered days of the month.

If your address ends in an odd number, then you can legally water on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, and 31st of each month.

The City also encourages citizens to water before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. throughout the year.

Please call City Hall or email us complaints of possible violations anonymously 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.





TO VOTE!

Tuesday (November 5th)

Polls are open from 7am to 7pm.

IF YOU CAN READ THIS



THANK A VETERAN