

Blanchard E-News

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13 MARCH 2020



The Blanchard Masonic Lodge located at 10th (OK-76) and Main Street will be serving an AYCE breakfast from 7am-11am on **Saturday, March 28th**. The cost is only \$6.00. Proceeds will benefit the Blanchard High School Cheer.

For more information contact Kyla Moiton @ 405.760.6372. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Calendar

Events

MARCH

- 14th ~ St Patty's Day Parade
- 16th ~ Spring Break
- 17th ~ Spring Break
- 17th ~ St Patrick's Day
- 18th ~ Spring Break
- 19^h ~ Spring Break
- 19th ~ Spring Begins
- 20th ~ Spring Break
- 28th ~ AYCE Breakfast

Meetings

MARCH

- 17th ~ BOA (Canceled)
- 19th ~ Juvenile/Code Court
- 24th ~ Traffic Court
- 24th ~ City Council
- 24th ~ BMIA

Carbon-monoxide Warning

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



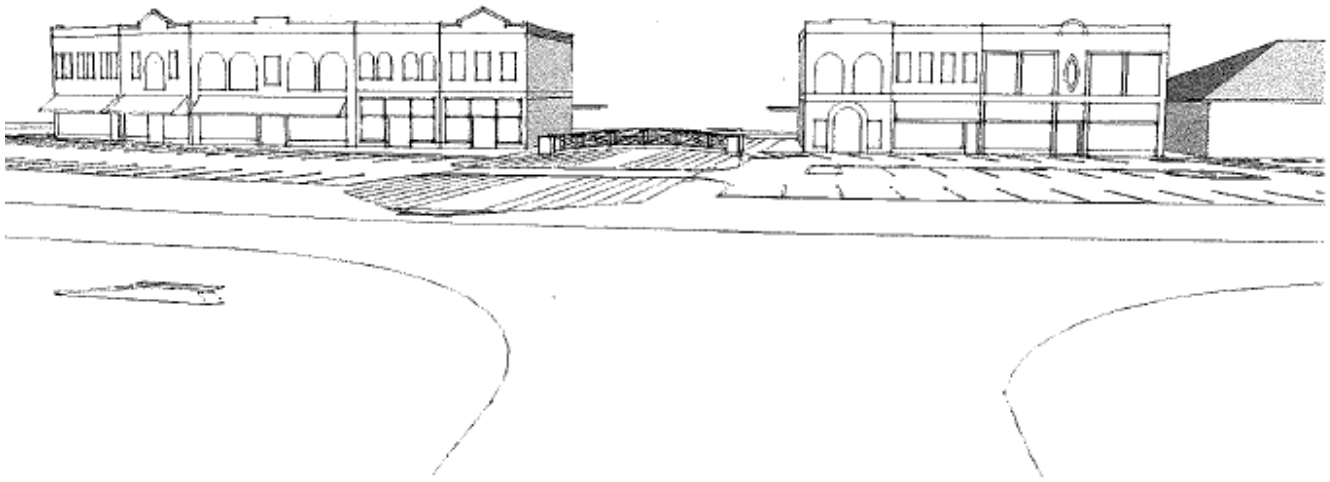
- ♦ **Never** use gas grills, propane grills, charcoal grills in a house, garage or enclosed area;
- ♦ All gas fire heaters **MUST** be vented to the outside to remove carbon monoxide from an enclosed area; and
- ♦ **Please** read and follow all manufacturer instructions for any heater.

A new event for this Spring! Cinco de Mayo will be held on **Tuesday, May 5th** in downtown Blanchard from **6pm-9pm**, with Latino sounds coming live from the band Sin-Ley. This event will host Taco Truck's, dancing and a beer cantina sponsored by Black Mesa Bottling Company.



Watch for more information on our Facebook and our new city website.

Coming Soon!



Kendall's Crossing is coming soon. This proposed development will be a Planned Unit Development (PUD) with commercial on the ground floor and residential on the second floor. The development will be located on the north side of Dakota's Restaurant at the southwest corner of 10th Street Northwest and OK-76 (old car wash was located).

Coronavirus Precautions

- Wash your hands frequently;
- Cough into your elbow and dispose of tissues in a wastebasket;
- Keep surfaces in your home clean - Alcohol is a good disinfectant;
- Supply of food staples and necessary medications - 30-day supply;
- Household supplies;
- Know the website for your local health department, visit for information;
- Get flu vaccines;
- Plan for a support system in case older family members fall ill; and
- **STAY HOME** if you have the symptoms.

Oil 'n Gas Complaints

With the increase of oil and gas drilling activities in and around Blanchard, comes an increase in complaints of trucks, noise and odor.

All drilling activities complaints are to be reported directly to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission at 580-255-0103 (Duncan Field Ofc) or <http://www.occeweb.com/AspxForms/OGComplaintForm.aspx>.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in November 2018 in Case No. 117,303, Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association (Petitioner) v. The Kingfisher County Commissioners, (Respondents), that clarified "Further, a legal challenge to the reasonableness of a rule or regulation imposed by a municipality, county or other political subdivision concerning road use, traffic, noise and odors incidental to oil and gas operations within their boundaries shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, 52 O.S. Supp. 2015, §137.1."

Trucking complaints (speeding, signs, etc) are to be filed with the Blanchard Police Department at 405-485-9392.

Oil 'n Gas Permits

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) reported NO permits for oil and gas drilling were issued within the City limits of Blanchard this week.

The OCC is the only state agency that issues permits for oil and gas drilling.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission met in regular session on Thursday, March 12th, and discussed, considered and took action on the following:

- » Denied an application for medical marijuana growing facility to be located on OK-76;
- » Discussed the 2035 Comprehensive Plan; and
- » Approved the Consent Agenda, as presented.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, April 9th** at 6:30p.m. A draft of the minutes will be posted on the City's website soon.

Police Blotter

Jail activity for this week:

3/7 ~ McCOMAS, Matthew arrested on outstanding Warrant;

3/12 ~ CLARK, Crystal arrested on outstanding Warrant.



Public Hearing



The Blanchard City Council will conduct a public hearing on the denial of an application from John Jondahl of 7204 N. Council Avenue for a "Conditional Use" on property zoned A-1, Agricultural District to allow a Medical Marijuana Growing Facility on the following described property, to wit: The S2 of the NW4 of the SW4 of the SW4 of Section 32-T9N-R4W of the Indian Meridian, McClain County, State of Oklahoma, according to the U.S. Government Survey, thereof.

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their hearing on Thursday, March 12th and the motion to recommend approval failed on a 2-1 vote.

Sales Tax Collections

The City's Sales Tax collections for March are more than thirteen (13.03%) percent less than the budgeted amount based on the January retail sales of \$5,769,518 but it is more than eight (8.7%) percent greater than last month's collections in February:

Month	Collections	Prior Yr Δ
Jul 2019	\$238,935.35	10.29%
Aug 2019	\$224,605.68	-30.30%
Sep 2019	\$330,518.23	34.89%
Oct 2019	\$258,405.27	-4.75%
Nov 2019	\$233,016.24	-20.36%
Dec 2019	\$241,952.56	-34.78%
Jan 2020	\$217,431.55	-20.09%
Feb 2020	\$210,705.41	-19.12%
Mar 2020	\$230,780.72	2.59%
Apr 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
May 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
Jun 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
TOTALS	\$2,186,009.01	-11.71%

Senior Assistance

ASCOG gratefully received a check from the Masonic Charity Foundation for \$64,158 at the December meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC). The funds will be used in 2020 to assist those in need who are at least 55 years old residing in ASCOG's 8-county region (Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens, and Tillman). Typical types of assistance include

funding of up to \$800 for ADA approved ramps, dental work including dentures, hearing aids, wheelchairs, scooters, lift chairs, durable medical equipment, minor home repairs, failing home appliances, heaters, air-conditioners. Vision services including glasses, utility assistance, and emergency medications are also available but at lower maximums. Applicants must submit a completed 2020 Masonic Grant application along with an approved vendor's estimate to be considered. Applications will be emailed to all city and county clerks where they can print a copy upon request. Printed versions will be available at the Senior Centers. Applications are also available on ASCOG's website www.ascog.org. Those with email capabilities can request an application be directly emailed to them by emailing ward_ro@ascog.org. Applications are not mailed out. Money that would be spent on postage, envelopes, printing, and labor are reserved for actual assistance as listed above.

Senior Dining Program

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.



SENIORS

SENIOR CITIZEN'S MENU:

(March 16 ~ March 20)

Monday ~ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Hot Roll, Dessert;

Tuesday ~ Sausage Gravy, Eggs, Biscuits, Dessert;

Wednesday ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Hot Roll, Dessert;

Thursday ~ Chili Beans, Salad, Hominy, Cornbread, Dessert;

Friday ~ Ham & Potato Casserole, Corn, Fruit, Dessert.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested. 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 485-9260.

Shelter Registration

The Blanchard Emergency Management would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that severe storm season is fast approaching. We want to express how important it is for everyone to register their home's storm shelters and safe rooms. The City of Blanchard storm shelter registry provides emergency services with information that allows them to locate citizens after a tornado or other natural



disaster. Registration helps ensure that people in shelters affected by the storm are able to get help quickly with the potential of shelters' exits being blocked due to debris or structural damage. Registration is doubly important with the possibility of shelters flooding due to broken water lines or simply rain waters entering the shelter and drowning people trapped inside. Registration forms include your address, list of persons who would normally be present at the home and could potentially be in the shelter, the location of the shelter/safe room on the property, and contact information for yourself and an emergency contact. If you have previously registered and some part of your information has changed, feel free to submit an updated form. If you have a question as to if your shelter is registered please contact the Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Charlie Largent at the Blanchard Fire Department at 405.485.3939.

Registration forms available at Blanchard City Hall. Please return all registrations to the Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

Spring Break

The Blanchard Public School District will be on Spring Break next week beginning **Monday, March 16th** thru **Friday, March 20th**. NO Classes for students.



Spring Equinox

Spring begins **Thursday, March 19th** at **11:50p.m. CDT**. The word equinox is derived from the Latin words meaning "equal nite." The Vernal, or spring, equinox is the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from south to north, signaling the beginning of nature's renewal in the Northern Hemisphere.



St Patty's Day



If you're inclined toward legend, lore and festivities of the Saint and how the Irish honor him, then check out this St. Patrick's Day site at www.st-patricks-day.com, where you'll find everything from parades to recipes. In Dublin Ireland, the St. Patrick's Day Festival at www.stpatricksdays.ie is described as four (4) days of "madness and mayhem." St. Patrick's Day is **Tuesday, March 17th**.

St Patrick's Day Parade



The annual St Patrick's Day Parade will be held tomorrow, **Saturday, March 14th**. Parade lineup begins at 3:30pm at Legacy Bank and the parade kicks off at **4:30pm**. Events will feature the annual parade followed by live Irish music. If you would like to participate, please contact Chris Wittenbach @ 485.9392 or parks@cityofblanchard.us or visit www.cityofblanchard.us. **PLEASE TAKE ALL HEALTH PRECAUTIONS AS NECESSARY** and have a Great Time!

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and local economy rely 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 your community.

Trash Service

The City contracts with Waste Connections for solid waste collection and disposal of residential trash. For a smooth operation, the following rules should be adhered to:

- ✓ Cans need to be set out by 7am;
- ✓ Carts need to be by the road, at the edge of the driveways, not in the driveway;
- ✓ If you have multiple carts they need to be 3 feet apart;
- ✓ Carts need to be 5 to 7 feet from mailbox, cars, etc;
- ✓ If carts are placed with wheels toward the house they are less likely to blow over;
- ✓ No bungee cords, straps, or rope to be placed on your cart, if it is windy, you can place a rock or brick on the lid to keep it closed;
- ✓ No limbs or trees or hazardous materials in either polycart.

2020 Census - Be Counted!



The 2020 Census is rapidly approaching. Your participation in the census, and a full and accurate count, is very important to our local community.

First, the census is the basis for equal political representation under the Constitution.

Second, State and Federal tax dollars are allotted based on the number of people counted in the census. BE COUNTED! It's easy! It's safe! It's important! For the first time ever, the Census Bureau will accept responses on-line, but you can still respond by phone or mail.

You may be contacted by phone or in person, please remember that anyone with the Census will NOT ask for your social security number, banking information, money donations, or political parties. If anyone contacts you claiming to be with the Census and asks for any of this information, it is scam! You need to contact the police department immediately. DO NOT give out your personal/financial information.

Use Tax Collections

The City's Use Tax collections for March are more than sixty (60.48) percent less than the budgeted amount based on the January purchases of \$793,342.00 but it is more than two-hundred twenty-five (225.78%) percent less than last month's collections in February:

Month	Collections	Prior Yr Δ
Jul 2019	\$106,769.53	21.82%
Aug 2019	\$112,883.70	24.09%
Sep 2019	\$121,458.85	88.48%
Oct 2019	\$252,544.84	138.81%
Nov 2019	\$150,710.74	82.60%
Dec 2019	\$56,520.34	-74.29%
Jan 2020	\$64,144.18	9.96%
Feb 2020	\$103,380.43	32.52%
Mar 2020	\$31,733.69	-12.80%
Apr 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
May 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
Jun 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
TOTALS	\$1,000,146.30	21.38%