

Blanchard E-News

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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 to the City of Blanchard to be investigated by calling 485-9392.

April Fools' Day

Wednesday, April 1st or All Fools' Day, a holiday of uncertain origin, is known for practical joking and celebrated on the first of adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1564, the as New Year's Day by cultures as varied as the Hindu. The holiday is considered to be related the Vernal Equinox, which occurs on March 20th. The English gave April Fools' Day its first widespread celebration during the 18th century.



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Calendar

Events

MARCH

- 28th ~ AYCE Breakfast [Canceled]
- 29th ~ National Vietnam War Veterans Day

APRIL

- 1st ~ April Fools Day
- 12th ~ Easter Sunday
- 22nd ~ Earth Day
- 22nd ~ Oklahoma Day
- 29th ~ Administrative Professionals Day

Meetings

APRIL

- 6th ~ BETA [Canceled]
- 9th ~ Planning Comm [Canceled]
- 21st ~ BOA [Canceled]
- 23rd ~ Juvenile Court [Canceled]
- 28th ~ Traffic Court [Canceled]
- 28th ~ City Council
- 28th ~ BMIA

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (a City public trust) met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24th, immediately following the City Council meeting and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Acknowledged receipt of Construction Permit No. WL000044200119 for the construction of 1,526 L.F. of 8-inch potable waterline, 792 L.F. of 12-inch potable waterline, and all appurtenances to serve the Old Town Area; and
- Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00p.m.**

Carly's Kids Corner

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

Child Care Guidelines

Effective immediately, child care providers are requested to implement the following guidance, consistent with new requirements in accordance with federal guidance and Governor Kevin Stitt recent disaster declaration:

---Prohibit any person except the following from accessing an operation: operation staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, state child care licensing staff, and Department of Human Services' Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation; and parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the operation.

---Require pickup and drop-off of children outside of the operation, unless it's determined that there is a need for the parent to enter an operation.

---Before allowing entry into the operation, screen all individuals listed above, including taking the temperature of each person upon arrival at the operation each day, and deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:

A temperature of 100.4°F or above.

Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever.

In the previous fourteen (14) days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness.

In the previous fourteen (14) days has travelled internationally to countries with widespread, sustained community transmission. For updated information on affected countries, visit the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).

Provide each child with individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.

Updated Oklahoma resources and information: www.coronavirus.health.ok.gov.

City Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

Tabled Resolution 2020-03 calling for an election on Tuesday, November 3rd on Ordinance No. 718 levying and assessing a 5% hotel/motel tax;

Approved Letter of Support for Delta Public Transit of \$18,000 annually;

Adopted Resolution No. 2020-04 approving the installation of a street lite at the intersection of Paulk Drive and 10th Street NW;

Accepted Matt Alexander's resignation as Vice Mayor;

Nominated/Appointed Steven Misenheimer as the new Vice Mayor to serve until April 2021;

Postponed the call for a special meeting in April; and

Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 28th at 6:00p.m.**

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;
- ✓ Plan for a support system in case older family members fall ill; and
- ✓ **STAY HOME** if you have the symptoms.



Easter Sunday

Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. According to the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen. Christians worldwide have celebrated Easter for centuries.



However, the roots of the Easter holiday's traditions and activities can be traced back to pagan celebrations. The name Easter is believed to come from *Eostara*, the goddess of rebirth. In early times the Feast of *Eostara* celebrated earth's resurrection and rebirth. Strict Puritans would have nothing to do with Easter - it was merely a human institution - in the past. Charles I, king of England, declared the day as scriptural as Sunday in 1647 but Parliament contradicted him in print and abolished it with other church festivals.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. Easter is therefore delayed one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which lessens the likelihood of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. Eastern Orthodox churches in many countries such as Greece still figure their Easter date based on the Julian calendar.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are both fertility symbols, holdovers from the feast of Eostara. Other symbolic parallels include the pagan joy in the rising sun of spring, which coincides with Christians' joy in the rising Son of God, and the lighting of candles in churches, which corresponds to the pagan bonfires. The symbol of the cross and images of Jesus Christ, through paintings or statues, are remembered on Easter Day. Easter is **Sunday, April 12th**.

Fair Housing Month



April is 'Fair Housing Month' in Blanchard. 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

Office of the City Clerk.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Two (2) years ago, President Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing a National Vietnam War Veterans Day that will be observed every **March 29th** in perpetuity.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. - known as "The Wall" - will again, and always, have a significant role in our nation's

honoring of Vietnam War veterans on **March 29th**. The Wall is an arresting reminder to more than five (5) million annual visitors of the service and sacrifice of more than 58,000 Americans. There is something haunting, cleansing and healing about this hallowed site, and we encourage every American to experience it.

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.

Police Blotter

NO jail activity for this week.



SBA Loan Info

Blanchard Businesses Now Eligible to Apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans

Blanchard businesses affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are now eligible to apply for the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan. The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to Oklahoma small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19.

Businesses can find the form and eligibility information at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>

The funding for the loans will be provided by the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act that was recently signed by President Trump.

To qualify for the program, the state must submit documentation of business losses for at least five (5) businesses per county.

If approved, an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance declaration will make disaster loans of up to \$2 million available to small businesses and private, nonprofit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by COVID-19.

According to the SBA, these loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the impact of COVID-19. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available

elsewhere and 2.75% for nonprofits. Businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible for this program.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has developed a list of frequently asked questions available at <https://www.okcommerce.gov/sba-loan-application-and-faqs/>

Commerce also has staff available to assist small businesses with filling out the forms. Companies needing assistance with the application forms and economic development organizations providing assistance to businesses in their communities should contact Ray Little at ray.little@okcommerce.gov or 405-815-5227.

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 is CLOSED to the general public but we will still prepare meals for home delivery ONLY to our citizens. 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.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

(March 30 - April 3)

Monday ~ Spaghetti, Corn, Salad, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Smoke Sausage, Cabbage, Black-eyed Peas, Corn Muffins, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Vegetable, Bun, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes, Hominy, Roll, Dessert.

Please call 485-9260, if you would like to be considered for a home delivered meal. Please be advised, the home delivery will begin the next business day.

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.

Sprinkler Checkup

Conserve water and lower your utility bill by checking your yard sprinkler system for any damage from the winter freezing weather.

- Turn on your sprinkler system and walk thru each zone;
 - Flag any broken pipes or heads for immediate repair;
 - Make sure sprinkler heads isn't spraying water on hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks or the street.
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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.

Transfer Site

Citizen Collection Center and Operations

The City of Blanchard operates a collection site for the benefit of citizens of the City of Blanchard and nearby rural areas with Blanchard addresses, to dispose of household waste and limited other items. The following policies are current to ensure that the site is maintained in accordance with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, and with the City's contract with Waste Connections of Oklahoma, Incorporated.

Permits for the Citizen Collection Center are available 'free of charge' for any residence with a Blanchard address. The cost for bulky waste curbside collection is included in their bill for solid waste service. For rural residents outside the city limits, a standard monthly charge of \$13.75 is charged with a Blanchard address and trash service thru Waste Connections. Permits are available at the Blanchard City Hall. Permits are non-transferable.

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday: 3:30 pm to 6.00 pm

Saturday: 8 am to 12 pm

Operator Responsibilities

The operator of the Citizen Collection Center has the authority and discretion to accept or reject waste to be disposed of at the site for the following circumstances:

- The materials are not acceptable, per these policies
- Adequate space is not available for the materials to be deposited
- Adequate space may not remain for other household trash to be accepted before the receptacles are replaced by Waste Connections

Households which rely solely upon the Citizen Collection Center have priority to the space within the receptacles over those who are served by curbside trash

service. The operator has the sole discretion to determine whether items may be disposed, and that decision is final.

Accepted Waste Materials

Any materials to be accepted shall be placed by the individual wishing to dispose of the materials into the appropriate receptacles provided. Loose materials will not be picked up.

The Citizen Collection Center will accept the following materials:

- Household waste-bagged
- Carpet cut into strips no greater than four (4) feet in any direction
- Furniture
- Cardboard boxes – broken down
- Mattresses
- Fencing, metal, or other like materials- panels no more than four (4) feet by six (6) feet
- All non-contracted remodeling waste must be bagged.
- Other waste no larger than what will fit in a yard garbage bag
- Bags of Leaves

Unacceptable Waste Materials

Under NO circumstances will the City of Blanchard accept any of the following materials:

- Appliances containing Freon
- Automotive frames or parts; including, but not limited to:
 - » Batteries
 - » Brake fluid
 - » Crankcases
 - » Engine cleaners
 - » Motor oils
 - » Tires and rims
 - » Transmissions
 - » Chemicals; including, but not limited to:
- Pool chemicals
- Pesticides
- Rust remover
- Commercial waste of any description
- Construction, reconstruction, demolition, and repair waste; including, but not limited to:
 - » Bricks, dirt, and rocks
 - » Roofing materials
 - » Sheetrock
- Explosives
- Fertilizer
- Fiberglass
- Hospital or medical waste

- Hazardous liquids; including, but not limited to:
 - » Acids and caustics
 - » Antifreeze
 - » Degreasers
 - Lubricants
 - » Oils
 - » Poisons
 - » Sewage and liquid waste
 - » Gasoline, kerosene, and other fuels
 - Nuclear material
 - Propane tanks
 - Yard waste; including, but not limited to:
 - » Branches and limbs larger than 4-inches in diameter)
 - » Leaves (unless bagged)
 - » Trees (greater than 4-inches in diameter)
 - » Grass clippings (unless bagged)
 - Any load larger than the size of a standard pickup truck bed. The operator has the sole discretion to determine the acceptable load size, and to refuse service of loads larger than the acceptable level.
 - No waste from any commercial business shall be accepted at the Citizen Collection Center for any reason.
-

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.
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Trees

Trees are a primary cause of outages and blinks which can disrupt your service from PSO or OEC, so it's important to plant them a safe distance from power lines and buildings. Plant the right tree in the right place and help keep everyone's lights on.

RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE! Short, flowering trees don't clash with overhead utility lines. Large deciduous trees on the southeast, southwest, and west provide cooling shade in the summer but don't obstruct the warming winter sunlight. An evergreen windbreak to the north blocks cold winds in winter.



For more information, please visit www.arboday.org.

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.

Veterans Memorial

The Blanchard City Council voted to proceed with a project focusing on and honoring Blanchard's Native Sons who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms we enjoy today. Also, the project will recognize **ALL** men and women who served their country in and out of uniform.

A Committee was appointed by the Mayor



to plan this Memorial on property being acquired from ODOT located on US-62.

Nine (9) young men from Blanchard were Killed in Action or Died of Wounds during military conflicts in the 20th Century. Four (4) died in World War I; two (2) died in World War II; one (1) died in Korea; and two (2) died in Vietnam.

Exact detailed plans and drawings of the Memorial by Prairie Rock Architect (PRA) will be unveiled in the coming months.

Water Sense

BE A LEAK DETECTIVE FOR FIX A LEAK!

Did you know that easy-to-fix water leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of treated water wasted in U.S. homes? Leaks in the average household waste more than 10,000 gallons of treated potable water each year.

- Check for silent toilet leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank;
- Run thru each sprinkler zone and look for leaks or breaks caused by winter damage;
- Replace old sprinkler controllers with WaterSense® models that use less water.

Take the 10-minute leak detect challenge at www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak.
