

Blanchard E-News

VOLUMN 94 ISSUE 1

3 APRIL 2020

Alert System

You can go to the City's Facebook page and sign up for Blanchard's NEW Emergency Alert System or click the link below:

<https://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts>

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.

Calendar

Events

APRIL

- 12th ~ Easter Sunday
- 22nd ~ Earth Day

Meetings

APRIL

- 6th ~ BETA [Canceled]
- 9th ~ Planning Comm [Canceled]

22nd ~ Oklahoma Day

29th ~ Administrative Professionals Day

21st ~ BOA [Canceled]

23rd ~ Juvenile Court [Canceled]

28th ~ Traffic Court [Canceled]

28th ~ City Council

28th ~ BMIA

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.arborday.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.

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

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.



Curbside Bulky Waste

Effective **Monday, April 6th, 2020**, the temporary suspension of Residential Bulk & Brush services, along with limiting Residential Trash services to collection of only contents within carts. Bags and bundles that are placed outside of carts will be excluded from collection during this time, in order to minimize the risk of exposure through manual collection or "pickup by hand". The change to go "cart only" on Residential Routes will be in effect for the ensuing weeks, through April, 2020.

Waste Connections understand that limiting collection services to cart contents only warrants some discretion among residents for what they dispose of and when. Household trash, bags from kitchens and restrooms, should remain a top priority for those waste streams that go into the carts. That's to say, if there is only enough room in the cart remaining for one bag from the kitchen or one bag of yard trimmings, residents are urged to use the space for the bag from the kitchen for health and sanitation purposes.

Now is also a good time to educate customers to bag and tie their household trash, a commonly overlooked best practice. Household trash that is not properly bagged and tied is susceptible to spills and further increases the risk of exposure for Waste Connections personnel to potentially infectious waste.

They appreciate your understanding as they take precautions to protect the health and well-being of their employees, their customers, and their communities. Please trust that they recognize their essential role in maintaining health and sanitation in our communities. Supporting our municipal partners remains one of their

highest priorities, right after the safety of their people, and they hope that is evident in their phased approach to plans for continuity of their operations.

However, the City's Citizens Collection Center is open Monday thru Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Visit the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us or Facebook regarding what's acceptable and not acceptable and the policies of operations within DEQ guidelines.

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**.

Elections

ALL April 7th Elections in McClain County are rescheduled for **Tuesday, June 30th**.

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.

Invitation to Bid

Sealed bids addressed to the Owner will be received at the Place of Bid until the Time of Bid on the Bid Date and then will be opened and read publicly the same date and hour.

PROJECT: Fire Station #2
OWNER: City of Blanchard
122 North Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010

BID DATE: Thursday April 23rd, 2020 (4-23-2020)

TIME OF BID: 2:00 PM CDT

PLACE OF BID: City Clerk's Office, Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main, Blanchard, OK 73010

Any bids received after the stated Time of Bid will be returned to the Bidder unopened.

Bidding Requirements and Documents, including Drawings, Specifications and Addenda may be obtained at the office of Prairie Rock Architecture, PLLC, or by mail. A deposit sum of \$150.00, which may be in the form of a check written on the bidder's business account made payable to the Architect, will be required for each set of Contract Documents. Digital versions of Documents are available on CD for a nonrefundable deposit of \$25.00.

Bidders may obtain a maximum of two (2) sets of Drawings and Specifications by deposit and additional sets by paying printing costs (\$3.00/sheet for Drawings - \$0.15/page for Specifications). Deposits will be refunded to Bidders who submit a bona fide Bid at the time and place designated herein and who return the Bidding Documents to the Architect in good condition within ten (10) days from the bid date. The full and complete replacement cost of missing, damaged or unreturned Bidding Documents will be deducted from the Bidders deposit. The full replacement cost for complete sets of Bidding Documents will be deducted from the deposits of Bidders who do not submit a bona fide Bid and do not return the Bidding Documents to the office of the Architect in good condition within five (5) days from the date they received them or no later than seven (7) days prior to bid date. Bidding Documents shall be returned to the Architect's Office postage paid. The Architect will not accept delivery of Bidding Documents returned C.O.D., freight collect or other similar methods. Subcontractors and Suppliers may obtain full or partial sets of Bidding Requirements and Documents directly from the Architect by paying the

printing costs specified above. All Bidding Requirements and Documents remain property of the Architect.

The Bidding Documents are on file at the Architect's office and are available and open for inspection by Bidders and Sub bidders by appointment during normal business hours.

In submitting a bid it is agreed that the Bid may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after Bid Date.

A Bid Security in the form of a cashier's check, or certified check, or acceptable bidder's surety bond, made payable to the Owner, in an amount that is not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid proposal submitted, including all Alternates, shall accompany each Bid as a guarantee that: (1) the Bidder will not modify, withdraw or cancel the proposal for thirty (30) days after the bid date; and (2) the bidder, if awarded the contract, will promptly enter into a contract and execute such bonds and furnish such insurance certificates as may be required. Should the Bidder fail to honor these two (2) guarantee for any reason, the Owner shall total his damages and shall deduct the amount of such damages from the Bidder's Bid Security, should the damages total less than the amount of the Bid Security, the difference shall be returned to the Bidder. However, all damages in excess of the Bid Security shall be borne by the Owner. Damages may include, but shall not be limited to, reasonable compensation for the Owner's additional time spent, additional Architect's fees, costs to the Owner for delays in completion of the Work based upon the Bidders proposed Contract Time and the Contract Time as Awarded including, but not limited to, interest expense and lost revenue, the difference between the Bidder's proposed Contract Sum and the Contract Sum as awarded and costs to re bid the Project should such action become necessary. Such bid securities will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after execution of the Contract.

For information concerning any part of the proposed work, contact the Architect: Prairie Rock Architecture PLLC (PRA), P.O. Box 2618, Blanchard, OK 73010. Telephone (405) 255-8202. Additional bidding instructions are included in the Bidding Requirements bound into the Contract Documents.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive formalities and irregularities.

Purple Up! Day



PURPLE UP!
for military kids

Help Celebrate Military Kids on Purple Up! Day. April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor our community youth impacted by deployment. It is no secret that our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate like a complicated obstacle course. However, if given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, every

ready to face other life changing events. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our county.

In celebration, you're invited to join in showing your support by being part of "Purple Up! For Military Kids" Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple on *Wednesday, April 15, 2020*. This will be a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. (Did you know: Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.) The hope is everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative ... the goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community!

Request for Proposals

Proposals are being accepted for cutting and baling vegetation growing on properties owned by the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority (BMIA). Proposals must be all inclusive; properties are located at the Northwest corner of Tyler Avenue and 280th Street (consisting of approximately 43 .5 acres), and the Blanchard Waste Water Treatment property (approximately 58.5 acres) on 7th Street SE. Bidders shall provide their own equipment for cutting and baling the properties; will be required to sign a written agreement with the BMIA and shall comply with any requirement of City Code regarding Hay Harvesting. The written agreement is available at City Hall. Interested parties shall contact Chris Wittenbach, Parks Director at 405-485-9392 to make arrangements to visit the sites prior to submitting a proposal.

All proposals shall be marked "Haying Proposals" and must be received by the City Clerk at 122 North Main Street - Blanchard, OK 73010 on or before 10:00 a.m. on April 24, 2020. The City of Blanchard reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

POSTED AT CITY HALL AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE ON APRIL 1, 2020

PUBLISHED IN THE BLANCHARD NEWS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020.

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 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

(April 6 - April 10)

Monday ~ Goulash, Salad, Fruit, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Chicken Dumplings, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Spinach, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Sliced Ham, Sweet Potato, Broccoli, 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. The Center is currently delivering approximately fifty (50) lunches daily.

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.

DID YOU KNOW: One broken sprinkler head can waste 25,000 gallons of water in just six (6) months.

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

The City of Blanchard operates a Citizen Collection Center for the benefit of citizens of the City of Blanchard and nearby rural areas with a Blanchard address, in order 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 city residence with a Blanchard address. The cost for bulky waste curbside collection is included your bill for solid waste services. 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.

The hours of operation is **Monday** through **Friday** from **3:30 pm** to **6:00 pm** and **Saturdays** from **8:00 am** to **12 Noon**. Please visit the City's website at <https://www.cityofblanchard.us/public-utilities/webforms/transfer-station> or the City's Facebook to read the Operator's Responsibilities, the acceptable Waste Materials and the unacceptable Waste Materials.

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 7:00 am;
- ✓ 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 three (3) feet apart;
- ✓ Carts need to be five (5) to seven (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!

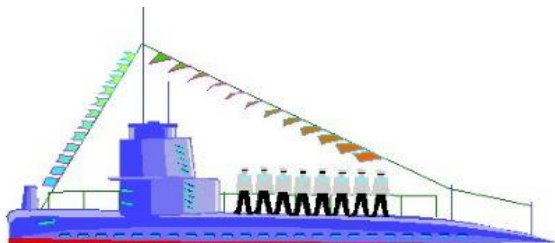


The 2020 Census is rapidly approaching. Your participation in the census, and a full and accurate count, is very important to our local community.

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.

U.S. Submarine Force Day



The submarine force was established on April 11, 1900, when the United States Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, submarines have been used with fortitude and

creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea, and have become an indispensable asset that patrols and protects worldwide today.

Submarines and their underwater warfighting companions have commanded and operated by courageous men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service of their country.

Oklahoma has recognized the significance of the US submarine force and their crew for their defense of our most cherished freedoms.

On **Friday, April 17, 2020**, has been proclaimed as United States Submarine Force Day.

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.
