

Blanchard E-News

VOLUMN 94 ISSUE 3

17 APRIL 2020

Alert System

Sign up for the City's NEW Emergency Alert System by going to the City's Facebook Page 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.

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/>.

Coronavirus Precautions

Wash your hands frequently

Cough into your elbow and dispose of tissues in a waste basket

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
- ✓ STAY HOME if you have the symptoms
- ✓ WEAR a mask when in public!

COVID-19 Update: April 17

Resources

Following the issuance of guidance from the Federal Reserve and U.S. Department of the Treasury, six CARES Act relief resources have been updated:

- * [FAQ](#)
- * [Paycheck Protection Program fact sheet](#)
- * [Exchange Stabilization Fund fact sheet](#)
- * [Relief for Airports and Tourism fact sheet](#)
- * [Payroll Tax Relief fact sheet](#)
- * [Unemployment Assistance fact sheet](#)
- * [Economic Injury Disaster Loans fact sheet](#)

National Guidelines for Reopening the Economy

Yesterday, the President presented a plan for how the economy can reopen in phases, including restaurants and bars. You can view the guidelines for reopening [here](#). We will keep you

posted as these developments rapidly evolve.

Curbside Bulky Waste

Effective **Monday, April 6th, 2020**, the temporary suspension of Residential Bulk & Brush services, began 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 through April 30, 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 <https://www.cityofblanchard.us/public-utilities/files/transfer-site-dos-donts> or Facebook regarding what's acceptable and not acceptable and the policies of operations within DEQ guidelines.

Elections

ALL 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.



Fire Station Bids

The Bid Opening for the construction of a new fire station has been moved to **Tuesday, April 28th** at 2 p.m.

A recommendation for award to the lower bidder is anticipated at the City Council meeting that same nite at 6pm.

Events Calendar

APRIL

22nd ~ Earth Day

22nd ~ Oklahoma (Land Run) Day

29th ~ Administrative Professional Day

Meeting Calendar

APRIL

21st ~ BOA [**Cancelled**]

23rd ~ Juvenile/Code Court [**Cancelled**]

28th ~ Traffic Court [**Cancelled**]

28th ~ City Council

28th ~ BMIA

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

Jail activity for this week. NO update provided by Department.

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.

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 In-Place



The season of unstable, severe weather is upon us. Until the National Emergency is lifted

statewide and nationally, the Blanchard School facilities will NOT be opened during severe weather. FEMA recommends that families create a plan to shelter in-place at home.

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.

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), parks and infrastructure. 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:

- ✓ Carts 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!

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.

We need more responses, please help us get the word out for how important filling out the 2020 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.