

Blanchard E-News

VOLUMN 94 ISSUE 4

24 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/>.

Clarification

The City issued a new Emergency Proclamation on Thursday that took effect today that needs clarification.

The Proclamation basically covers three (3) principal areas of concern:

1. It gives general guidance to the general population;
2. Guidance on businesses to reopen under Phase I on Friday, April 24th; and

3. City-owned properties and operations.

There appears to be confusion regarding the general guidance to the general populace. The Proclamation reads in part "It is vital that ALL residents of the City of Blanchard maintain SAFE PRACTICES TO AVOID CONTRACTING COVID-19." The word "vital" means "essential" NOT mandatory.

The City does not NOR will it MANDATE these guidelines to individuals. It is up to the individual to adhere to these guidelines to personally stay safe and healthy. It is up to local businesses to implement whatever restrictions and/or procedures and enforcement necessary to open and stay open during this unprecedented period in our lifetime unless mandated by the State of Oklahoma and/or the Federal Government.

The entirety of the Emergency Proclamation can be found on the City's Facebook page to read.



To Brenda (DeeDee) Baird completing her 34th year with the City of Blanchard.

DeeDee currently serves as the City Clerk.

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](#)

[Guidelines for Reopening the Economy](#)

The Governor presented a plan for how the Oklahoma economy can reopen in phases, including restaurants and bars. The City of Blanchard elected to align their Emergency Proclamation with these guidelines. The next Proclamation issuance is expected on or before May 15th, if all goes well.

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**.

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is now accepting applications for a part-time employee to operate the Citizen Collection Center, Monday - Friday from 3:30pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 8am to 12 Noon. Pay is \$10.05 per hour.

Applications will be taken until filled and can be found on the city's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 extended to **Tuesday, April 28th** at 2 p.m.

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

Events Calendar

MAY

Tuesday ~ May 5th:

National Teacher Appreciation Day

Thursday ~ May 7th:

National Day of Prayer

Sunday ~ May 10th:

MOTHER'S DAY

Monday ~ May 11th:

BHS High School Graduation

Saturday ~ May 16th:

Armed Forces Day

Monday ~ May 25th:

MEMORIAL DAY

Meeting Calendar

APRIL

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 April:

4.02 ~ WOLF, Karrie arrested for conceal stolen/burglary in the 2nd Degree;

4.02 ~ WEST, Steven arrested for conceal stolen/burglary 2nd Degree and Felony Possession of a firearm;

4.08 ~ DUNAN, Jayme arrested for DUI, TOC/DUS/ Failure to put child in child constraint;

4.08 ~ TYLER, Jackson arrested on local warrants;

4.12 ~ HARRIS, Frank arrested on Felony Warrant in McClain County.

Senior Dining Program



SENIORS

ONLY to our citizens.

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center is CLOSED to the general public but we prepare meals for home delivery

LUNCH MENU

(April 27th ~ May 1st)

Monday ~ Tuna Casserole, Carrots, Peas, Dessert;

Tuesday ~ Taco Salad, Beans, Fruit, Chips, Dessert;

Wednesday ~ Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll, Dessert;

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

Friday ~ Ribbette, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Bun, 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.

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 by the City 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.

Virtual Meetings

The City Council and the Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on Tuesday, April 28th beginning at 6:00 p.m.



City Meeting:

✓ Suspension of rules regarding public comments and public participation;

✓ Acceptance of Matt Alexander's resignation effective April 1, 2020 from Ward 3 Council Seat; and declaring a vacancy;

✓ Nomination and appointment of a new Councilman to serve until April 2021. We have received two (2) applications from:

- Albert Ryans
- Steven VanCamp

✓ Administer the Oath of Office by City Attorney;

✓ Reappointment/Certification of Mike Box to serve a new term on the Pioneer Library Board representing Blanchard;

✓ Renewal of Agreement with Pioneer Library Board of Trustees;

✓ Resolution calling for an Election on Tuesday, November 3rd to levy and assess a hotel/motel tax in Blanchard;

✓ Bid award for the construction of the new fire station;

✓ Resolution authorizing certain officer of the City to sign checks, etc.

✓ Resolution amending the OMAG Agreement;

- ✓ Renew the Reservation Agreement with the Blanchard Senior Citizens;
- ✓ Authorization to bid for concrete road repairs NOT to exceed \$300,000;
- ✓ Public Storm Shelters;
- ✓ Application of new federal laws (Paid Sick Leave and Extended Family Medical Leave) to police, fire and public works employees; and
- ✓ Consent Agenda.

BMIA Meeting:

- ✓ Accept and award the hay proposals;
- ✓ Resolution acceptance of water line with appurtenances serving Hidden View Estates; and
- ✓ Consent Agenda.

The meetings will be held virtual by teleconferencing or videoconferencing.

Please join us by either OPTION:

Teleconference dial in number:

+1-214-459-3653

Access Code:

963 344 019

OR

Videoconference using the link or Meeting # below. Password must be entered.

<https://cityofblanchard.webex.com/cityofblanchard/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea429895e921dd4f447f11f1a2f1d244b>

www.webex.com

Meeting #: 963 344 019

Password: Council



The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 p.m. to conduct a Public Hearing on an application to re-zone property from the S-1 District to the R-E District filed by Richard and Kathleen Henderson for property located in Grady County.