

Blanchard E-News

VOLUMN 95 ISSUE 1

1 MAY 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>

Armed Forces Day

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.

The single day celebration stemmed for the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. **Saturday, May 16th** will be Armed Forces Day in the United States.

Bid Notice

The City of Blanchard is now taking sealed bids for the construction of

bathrooms to be located to serve the Crystal Lake Walking Trail.

The Notice and Bid Packet is located on the City's website under Parks and on the City's Facebook page.

Bids are due on **May 20th**.

Board Action

The Board of Trustees held their first virtual meeting on Tuesday (April 28th), and discussed, considered and took the following actions:

- ✓ Accepted and awarded the hay lease agreement to Jeromy Huddleston for \$20 per acre;
- ✓ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-02 accepting the water line with appurtenances serving Hidden View Estates; and
- ✓ Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 26th**.

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/>.



to Albert Ryans. Albert was appointed to the City Council serving as Ward 3 councilman to complete an unexpired term until April 2021.

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!

Council Action



The City Council and the Board of Trustees held their first virtual meeting on Tuesday (April 28th).

- ✓ Suspended the rules regarding public comments and public participation for this meeting only;
- ✓ Accepted Matt Alexander's resignation effective April 1, 2020 from Ward 3 Council Seat; and declared a council seat vacancy;
- ✓ Appointed Albert Ryans as new Councilman serving Ward 3 until April 2021.
- ✓ Administered the Oath of Office to Albert Ryans by City Attorney;
- ✓ Re-appointed and Certified the appointment of Mike Box to serve a new term on the Pioneer Library Board representing Blanchard;
- ✓ Renewed the Agreement with Pioneer Library Board of Trustees;
- ✓ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-03 calling for an Election on Tuesday, November 3rd to levy and assess a hotel/motel tax in Blanchard;
- ✓ Awarded bid for the construction of the new fire station to TCS Construction in the contract amount of \$926,900.00;
- ✓ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-05 authorizing certain officers of the City to sign checks, etc.
- ✓ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-06 amending the OMAG Agreement;
- ✓ Renewed the Reservation Agreement with the Blanchard Senior Citizens;

✓ Authorized City Manager to bid concrete road repairs NOT to exceed \$300,000;

✓ Discussed Public Storm Shelters;

✓ Applied new federal laws (Paid Sick Leave and Extended Family Medical Leave) to police, fire and public works employees; and

✓ Approved Consent Agenda.

COVID-19 Update

PROCLAMATION ~ Guidelines for Reopening the Economy

The Mayor just issued a new Proclamation that covers the guidelines and type of businesses that can open for business effective on Friday, May 1st. The City of Blanchard is following the Governor's 3-Phase Plan for how Blanchard's economy can reopen in phases, including restaurants. We elected to align our Emergency Proclamation with these guidelines. The next Proclamation issuance is expected on or before May 14th, if all goes well.

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

Curbside Bulky Waste

Waste Connections has temporarily suspended the Residential Bulk & Brush services, with limited 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 June 1, 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**.



The City of Blanchard is 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.

Events Calendar

MAY

Tuesday ~ May 5th:

National Teacher Appreciation Day

Thursday ~ May 7th:

National Day of Prayer

Friday ~ May 8th:

Military Spouses Day

Monday ~ May 11th:

BHS High School Graduation

Saturday ~ May 16th:

Armed Forces Day

Monday ~ May 25th:

MEMORIAL DAY

Fire Station Bids

The City received fifteen bids ranging from \$926,900 to \$1,189,000. The City Council awarded the bid to TCS Construction LLC of Norman for submitting the lowest and best bid.

The new fire station will be located at 55th Street NE and Ward Acres Road.

The new station will be constructed on a 5 acre city-owned tract.

Graduation



Blanchard High School

Drive-Thru Graduation for the
Graduating Class of 2020

May 11th 10:00am

Facebook Live – City of Blanchard Page
Radio Broadcast - Tune to FM 103.9

We are
LION STRONG

**OFFICES CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAY**

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 25th** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391.

Trash services will run as usual.

Meeting Calendar

MAY

14th ~ Planning Commission (Virtual)

19th ~ BOA (Virtual)

21st ~ Traffic Court

26th ~ City Council (Virtual)

26th ~ BMIA (Virtual)

Memorial Day

The custom of honoring our ancestors by cleaning cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics.

After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor our military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decorations of soldier's graves were held in cities and towns thru-out the nation.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and for many years, states observed the holiday on different dates. However, by federal law, Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday in May which will be **Monday, May 25th**.

Military Spouses Day

Military Spouses Day is a day to recognize and honor the real backbone of the military ... the spouses of our soldiers. This day recognizes the contributions made by military spouses to the spirit and the wellbeing of soldiers and military communities. Where would our military moral be without their spouses behind them? The observance is **Thursday, May 7th**.

Mother's Day



Sunday, May 10th will be Mother's Day. Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration. The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances. On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence. The day is now characterized by gift giving, sending greeting cards and flowers, and giving mother a "day off" by taking the family out to eat. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is observed annually on the first Thursday in **May (May 7th)**. This day of observance, designated by the United States Congress, asks people

"to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The modern law formalizing the annual National Day of Prayer observance was enacted in 1952 and each year since, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

Before 1952, there have been a few other individual National Days of Prayer in United States history:

- July 20, 1775 - The Continental Congress issued a proclamation recommending "a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer" be observed.
- In 1795 - George Washington proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.
- May 9, 1798 - John Adams declared this day as "a day of solemn humility, fasting, and prayer."
- March 1863 - On March 3, Abraham Lincoln signed a Congressional resolution, during the Civil War, which called for April 30, 1863, as a day of fasting and prayer.

For more information on National Day of Prayer visit the website nationaldayofprayer.org.

National Teacher Appreciation Day

In 1944, an Arkansas teacher named Mattye Whyte Woodridge began a campaign to establish a national day that would honor teachers. Woodridge wrote

letters to politicians, education leaders, and eventually the first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1953, Mrs. Roosevelt convinced Congress to proclaim the first National Teacher Day. This year, it will be **Tuesday, May 5th**.

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:

4/26 ~ FELIX, David arrested for DUI;

4/27 ~ BEVILL, Angela arrested for Domestic Violence, Assault, and Threats.

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

(May 4th ~ May 8th)

Monday ~ Sausage and Gravy, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Crackers, Dessert;

Tuesday ~ Spaghetti, Green Beans, Corn, Dessert;

Wednesday ~ Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Roll, Dessert;

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

Friday ~ Fish, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Cornbread, 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.



United States
**Census
2020**

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.



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.