

Blanchard E-News

VOLUMN 95 ISSUE 2

8 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 and on the City's Facebook page.

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

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!

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**.

EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is accepting applications for:

- part-time employee to operate the Citizen Collection Center, **Monday - Friday** from **3:30pm to 6pm** and **Saturdays** from **8am to 12 Noon**; and
- full-time Utility Clerk from **Monday - Friday**, **8am to 5pm**.

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

Monday ~ May 11th:

BHS High School Graduation

Friday ~ May 15th:

National Peace Officer Memorial Day

Saturday ~ May 16th:

Armed Forces Day

Monday ~ May 25th:

MEMORIAL DAY

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

Please Note that the time has changed from 10a.m. to 1p.m.

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

May Daze Festival

The 27th annual May Daze Festival will be **Friday, June 12th, Saturday, June**



13th and Sunday, June 14th. General vendor booths and non-profit booths are

available. Please call the Chamber office at 485.8787 for more information.

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.**

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 Peace Officers' Memorial Day & Police Week



National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and Police Week **Sunday, May 10th—Saturday, May 16th**. Each year, our Nation recognizes **May 15th** as

Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15th falls as National Police Week for those who, through their courageous deeds, have either lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty. We remember and commemorate all police officers for their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, dedicated service to their communities, and their help to preserve the rights and security of all citizens.

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.

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.

Oklahoma Safest Cities

The City of Blanchard is again in the top 20 of the safest cities in Oklahoma. The latest FBI Report on Oklahoma Crime shows our rates are still below the national average. Based on data submitted by the Blanchard Police Department, Blanchard is ranked the 16th safest City in Oklahoma for 2020. The Report can be found at <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-oklahoma/>.

Police Blotter

Jail activity for April:

5/1 ~ GARST, Todd arrested for Resisting Arrest.

5/2 ~ RENFRO, Jennifer arrested for Possession of CDS and Obstruction.

5/4 ~ STREETMAN, Jason arrested for Outstanding Warrant.

5/7 ~ YORK BONDS, Kristi arrested for Assault & Battery.

Sales Tax Collections

The City's May Sales Tax collections are more than two (2.78%) percent less than the budgeted amount based on the March retail sales of \$6,818,155 but it is more than sixteen (16.29%) percent less than last month's collections in April:

Month	Collections	Prior Yr Δ
Jul 2019	\$238,935.35	10.29%
Aug 2019	\$224,605.68	-30.30%
Sep 2019	\$330,518.23	34.89%
Oct 2019	\$258,405.27	-4.75%
Nov 2019	\$233,016.24	-20.36%
Dec 2019	\$241,952.56	-34.78%
Jan 2020	\$217,431.55	-20.09%
Feb 2020	\$210,705.41	-19.12%
Mar 2020	\$230,780.72	2.59%
Apr 2020	\$228,306.16	-7.60%

May 2020	\$272,726.20	15.43%
Jun 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
TOTALS	\$2,687,041.37	-9.20%

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 11th ~ May 15th)

Monday ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Smoked Sausage and Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Cornbread Dressing, Sweet Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Roll, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Pinto Beans, Tomato Spoon Relish, Potato, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Sub Sandwich, Potato Salad, Pea Salad, 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.

Use Tax Collections

The City's May Use Tax collections are more than twenty (20.97) percent more than the budgeted amount based on the March purchases of \$2,428,340.25 and it is more than ten (10.98%) more than last month's collections in April:

Month	Collections	Prior Yr Δ
Jul 2019	\$106,769.53	21.82%
Aug 2019	\$112,883.70	24.09%
Sep 2019	\$121,458.85	88.48%
Oct 2019	\$252,544.84	138.81%
Nov 2019	\$150,710.74	82.60%
Dec 2019	\$ 56,520.34	-74.29%
Jan 2020	\$ 64,144.18	9.96%
Feb 2020	\$103,380.43	32.52%
Mar 2020	\$ 31,733.69	-12.80%
Apr 2020	\$ 86,464.86	49.55%
May 2020	\$ 97,133.61	79.94%
Jun 2020	\$-0-	0.00%
TOTALS	\$1,183,744.77	26.50%



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.