



## *After Hours*

For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, sewer backups, low-water pressure, no water, etc.) please call 405.485.9391. The City's Central Dispatch is manned 24-7 and will contact the on-call personnel regarding the incident.

## *Alert System*

Sign up for the City's NEW Emergency Alert System by going to the City's website [below](http://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts) at <http://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts>.

## *Annual Fall Bazaar*

The women of the First United Methodist Church of Blanchard are pleased to announce their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bazaar to be held on **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

There will be all kinds of goodies to shop for ranging from homemade items, gift items, clothing, jewelry, accessories, and homemade baked goods and more. Lunch will be provided for \$5. The Bazaar will run from **9am to 4pm**.

Please call the FUMC at 485-3579 or the Bazaar Chairwoman Patsy Wehrer at 405-823-4396 for more information.

## *Autumnal Equinox*

Fall begins **Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **8:31p.m.**



**CST.** The Autumnal Equinox is defined as the point at which the

Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from north to south. The celestial equator is the circle in the celestial sphere halfway between the celestial poles. Another definition of fall is nites of below-freezing temperatures combined with day of temperatures below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The word equinox means "equal nite"; nite and day are the same length of time. The equinoxes are times when the Sun's apparent motion undergoes the most rapid change. Around the time of the equinoxes, variations in the position on the horizon when the Sun rises and sets can be noticed from one day to the next by alert observers.

## Chamber Luncheon

The Blanchard Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce they'll restart the monthly luncheons. **Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** is the next luncheon but limited to 25 guests for social distancing. Please RSVP with the Chamber ASAP!

The September luncheon will be catered by Dakotas sponsored by Legacy Bank.

## Citizenship Day

Formerly called Constitution Day, Citizenship Day will be observed on Thursday, **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. However, **September 17<sup>th</sup>** marks the anniversary of the date in 1787 when the final draft of the Constitution of the United States was



signed by delegates to the Constitutional Convention after months of wrangling. The framers had been arguing constantly as they met in secret, but they had leaked reports to the press indicating that all was well. The Federalists [as they were called] argued thru June and most of July and reached an agreement on July 16. After deciding to leave out a bill of rights - because everyone was worn-out and they thought there was no need for such a list - the framers completed the final draft on September

17 and made it ready for submission to the states for ratification.

## Constitution Week

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined event that is annually observed in the United States on **September 17**. This event commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become US citizens.

The Mayor will proclaim the week of September 13 - 19 for observance of National Constitution Week.

## Citizen Collection Center

The Center is operating under new hours as follows:

- Sunday CLOSED
- Monday ~ 3pm to 7pm
- Tuesday ~ 8am to 10am  
3pm to 7pm
- Wednesday ~ 3pm to 7pm
- Thursday ~ 8am to 10am  
3pm to 7pm
- Friday ~ 3pm to 7pm
- Saturday ~ 7am to 12Noon

These temporary hours will remain in effect until **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please visit the City's website at

[www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us) to see what is accepted and what is not.

## *Code Enforcement*

Help beautify Blanchard! The City of Blanchard issues citations that are heard in Municipal Court monthly for violations of any of the following:

- \* Trash and/or debris on your property.
- \* Tall weeds or grass (including edging along the street and sidewalk).
- \* Inoperable and/or junk vehicles.
- \* Trailers and autos in alleyways.
- \* Tree limbs over hanging the street with less than 8 foot clearance.
- \* Failure to trim trees, grass and weeds in alleys.
- \* Leaving grass in the street after mowing.

## *Deannexation Petition*

The owner of approximately 57.66 acres has filed a petition with the Blanchard City Clerk seeking detachment of his property from the municipal limits of Blanchard.

The property is located in a part of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section 35-T8N-R5W and a part of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section 2-T7W-R5W of the Indian Meridian, all in Grady County.

The property is an undeveloped tract of land adjoining Four Lakes Addition.

Currently, Grady County does not have zoning regulations or code enforcement.

The Petition may be heard by the City Council at the October meeting.



The City is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- \* Full-Time CLEET Certified Police Officer or obtain CLEET Certification within one-year of hire; must be 21 years of age or older.
- \* Full-Time Street Maintenance Laborer.

An application can be downloaded from the City's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us). Please return to City Hall, 122 North Main, Blanchard, OK 73010 or mail to City Hall, P.O. Box 480, Blanchard, OK 73010.

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## *Hazardous Waste*

Plans are underway for the approval by the BMIA Board of Trustees to schedule a Hazardous Waste Collection event in October. Details are being worked out

with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and will be presented to the Trust on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Board's formal approval.

Items that will be accepted will include tires, batteries, oil, paints, old electronics, etc.

After Council approval, final information will be sent to all citizens in the October utility billing.

## Health Testing

The Health Department located on North Main Street in Blanchard provides COVID testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 10am and every other Fridays.

## Hotel-Motel Tax

A question for or against a proposed hotel-motel tax for Blanchard will be on the General Election on **Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**WILL ANY FUNDS COLLECTED BE AUDITED?**

All funds collected as a result of successful passage of Proposition 1 will be part of the City of Blanchard's annual audit that is required by the State of Oklahoma.

**HOW MUCH IS THE PROPOSED HOTEL-MOTEL TAX?**

The proposed tax is five (5%) of the lodging fee from hotels, motels, ABNB and RV Parks.

The City is recruiting hotels and motels to locate in Blanchard. Part of the pro forma calculations is the amount of lodging tax charged in a community. This determines the feasibility of a hotel-motel, rates and the number of rooms.

## Meeting Calendar

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ BOA [**Canceled**]

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Code/Juvenile Court

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Traffic Court

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ City Council

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ BMIA

## Mufflers On Main

The City's annual car and truck show will be held on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** from **10am to 2pm**, on Main Street. There will be live music and food vendors.

Some of the best classic cars & trucks in the area, with over 40 trophies awarded and \$500 awarded to the Grand Champion, Join as we take a look into the past and the future!

For  
more



information, contact Chris Wittenbach at 485-9392 or [parks@cityofblanchard.us](mailto:parks@cityofblanchard.us).

permit, please call the Blanchard Police Department at 405.485.9391.

## Oklahoma State Fair Police Blotter

The Great State Fair of Oklahoma has been canceled this year (2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Jail activity:

9.4 ~ PEREZ, Richard arrested on Domestic.

9.7 ~ BIAS, Candice arrested on DUID.

9.7 ~ RUDICHUK, Gregory arrested on a Local Warrant.

## Permits Required

Residents may experience an increase in door-to-door sales associates. If you do encounter a solicitor at your door, they are required to have a permit from the City of Blanchard. These permits are required because they allow the City to perform background checks on applicants, which then allows the City to approve or deny the permit request. Not only are solicitors required to carry the permit on them at all times, they are also restricted to go door-to-door from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Residents who wish to have no interaction with solicitors are asked to display "No Solicitation Allowed" or "No Peddlers Allowed" sign that can be easily visible. If you suspect that a person in your neighborhood is soliciting without a

## Public Hearing



The Blanchard City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the

Planning Commission's recommendation to approve an application to rezone property from the A-1, Agricultural District to C-5, Automotive & Commercial Recreation District and the approval of an application for "Conditional Use Permit" allowing a wrecking service business to be located at 7801 N. Council Avenue (Hwy 76 and H.E. Bailey Spur on Tuesday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **6:00** p.m.

## Sales Tax Report

The City's September's collection of municipal sales tax was more than 24.32% higher than the budgeted amount

based on July retail sales of \$7,122,402.25. It is less than 1% higher than last month's collections in August:

Month	Collections	Prior Year Δ
Jul 2020	\$271,270.01	13.70%
Aug 2020	\$283,592.81	26.22%
Sep 2020	\$284,896.09	19.41%
Oct 2020	-0-	0%
Nov 2020	-0-	0%
Dec 2020	-0-	0%
Jan 2021	-0-	0%
Feb 2021	-0-	0%
Mar 2021	-0-	0%
April 2021	-0-	0%
May 2021	-0-	0%
June 2021	-0-	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$839,758.91</b>	<b>19.78%</b>

## Senior Citizens Notice

The Blanchard Senior Citizens has scheduled a meeting for Thursday **September 17<sup>th</sup>** at **10:30a.m.** The meeting will be located at the Nutrition Center, 101 S. Main to discuss current status of the Center and future plans for reopening.

Area seniors (60 years & older) are encouraged to attend. They will observe safe practices of social distancing and

ask that you wear masks to protect yourself and others.

However, if you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge in the City's daily nutrition program. 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 still delivering lunches daily.

## September Events

13<sup>th</sup> ~ National Grandparents Day

17<sup>th</sup> ~ Chamber Luncheon

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Fall Begins

26<sup>th</sup> ~ Main Street Car Show

## Shop Local

Here's what happens when you "shop local."

1. More of your money will be kept in the Blanchard economy: For every \$100 you spend at a locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in Blanchard. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community.\*

2. You embrace what makes Blanchard unique: You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?

3. You create local jobs: Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4. You help the environment: Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. You nurture community: Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. You conserve your tax dollars: Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify the community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong in Blanchard!

7. You create more choice: Locally owned businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products

because they buy for their own individual markets.

8. You take advantage of their expertise: You are their friends and neighbors, and locally owned businesses have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of it?

9. You invested in entrepreneurship: Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. You made Blanchard a destination: The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!

*\*Source: Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.*

## *Solicitation For Bids*

Sealed Proposals will be received by the City Clerk, at Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010, or mail to P.O. Box 480, Blanchard, OK 73010, NLT 2:00 p.m., CDST, 16 September 2020, for the following project to include the removal and replacement of approximately 39 square feet of roofing with felt on the Blanchard Municipal Courthouse located at 300 North Main Street.

At which time said bids will be received for furnishing all labor and materials to accomplish the removal and disposal of all existing roofing materials to deck and furnish and install new roofing on the building.

Bid documents are available at Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, Oklahoma 73010; or download at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

Bids received more than ninety-six (96) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, before the time set for opening said bids, as well as bids received after the time set for opening bids, will not be considered and will be returned unopened.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the above-mentioned address during regular business hours on **Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 2:00 p.m.**

A recommendation will be transmitted to the City Council for their consideration and to take appropriate action at their regular meeting on **Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, at 6:00 p.m., 122 North Main Street, Blanchard.**

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The time period within which a contract will be executed following the Notice to Award to the successful bidder is ten (10) days. Completion of said project will be sixty

(60) days after execution of contract.

## *Tall Grass & Weeds*

The City of Blanchard is committed to maintaining clean and attractive residential neighborhoods. To help accomplish this goal, the City of Blanchard has adopted regulations concerning the abatement of tall grass, weeds and trash.

The City of Blanchard Municipal Code concerning public nuisances and property enhancement requires that owners or responsible persons of property located within the municipal city limits are prohibited from allowing debris, junk, waste or trash to accumulate, or weeds or tall grass over twelve (12") inches in height, dead trees, bushes, and shrubs to grow or stand upon the premises. This regulation is based upon the Oklahoma State Law Title 11, Section 22-111 which sets forth the procedure and definitions for the cleaning and mowing of property.

## *2020 Election*



**November 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ General Election**



## Use Tax Report

The City's September's collection of municipal use tax was more than 21.75% lower than the budgeted amount based on July retail sales of \$1,956,627.75. However, it is less than 1% higher than last month's collections in August:

Month	Collections	Prior Year Δ
Jul 2020	\$93,410.49	-12.51%
Aug 2020	\$77,952.78	-30.94%
Sep 2020	\$78,265.11	-35.56%
Oct 2020	-0-	0%
Nov 2020	-0-	0%
Dec 2020	-0-	0%
Jan 2021	-0-	0%
Feb 2021	-0-	0%
Mar 2021	-0-	0%
April 2021	-0-	0%
May 2021	-0-	0%
June 2021	-0-	0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$249,628.38</b>	<b>-26.34%</b>

Therefore, we need your help!!! The 2020 Census response rate is drastically low! To date, only 67% of Blanchard citizens have responded. Many of you may have not replied due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Critical community services, such as the school district, police, fire and other related funding, will be drastically cut if we do not get a more accurate head count. At the current response rate, we stand to lose as much as over four million dollars annually for the next 10 years, if we do not get a more accurate census count.

However, you can still go online today at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). Click on the "RESPOND" button and simply follow the questions to complete the report electronically. The national deadline is scheduled for the end of this month (**September 30<sup>th</sup>**), so please complete this ASAP!

## Water Restrictions

Due to our water usage, the City of Blanchard is under mandatory odd/even watering (Stage 1) as required by Oklahoma City which is in effect until further notice.



This month is the last chance to be counted in the federal census!