

AAA

The AAA has been incredibly busy this year learning new ways to meet the needs of their clients and to continue out programs throughout interesting circumstances. ASCOG is a partner to the Masonic Charity Foundation. For the 2021 year, they currently still have funding available.

To qualify for a grant, clients must be residents of an eight-county provider service area consisting of Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens and Tillman counties and be 55 years of age or older. They assist Older Oklahomans with appliances, dental, durable medical equipment, emergency medications, food insecurity, home repairs, vision assistance and much more.

For more information on the Masonic Grant Program please contact Kelsey Pollock by phone at 580-736-7037, by email @ poll_ke@ascog.org or Kristina Manriquez, AAA Director by phone at 580-736-7976 or by email at manr_kr@ascog.org.

Please visit their website for applications and information www.ascog.org.

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.

Animal Cruelty Prevention Month



Preventing animal cruelty starts with responsible pet ownership. 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.

April Meeting Calendar

5th ~ BETA [6pm]

5th ~ BPS Board of Education [6pm]

8th ~ Planning Commission [6:30pm]

15th ~ Code/Juvenile Court [4pm]

20th ~ Board of Adjustment [6pm]

27th ~ Traffic Court [2pm]

27th ~ City Council [6 pm]

27th ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

April Special Events

3rd ~ City-wide Easter Egg Hunt

4th ~ Easter

22nd ~ Earth Day

BETA Agenda

The Governing Body (Board of Trustees) of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority (BETA) will hold their April regular meeting on Monday, April 5th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and vote on the following items:

- Site and plan review of proposed building On Lot 3 of Crystal Lake Industrial Park.
- Economic Development.
- Farmers Market.
- Incubator Facility.
- Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Monday, June 7th**.

Blanchard Idol



Blanchard Idol
May Daze
 Saturday May 15th
 Main Stage
 Round 1 starts 5:00pm

\$500 in Cash and Prizes

- > **Rounds:** Each Contestant will be Given 1 song to perform in the opening rounds. (top 2 of each round will advance to finals)
- > **Qualifying:** Upon Qualifying for the Finals you are welcome to choose a second song to perform for the Judges.
- > **Blanchard Idol** is open to all ages and is a singing competition only. All Music genres are welcome. From Country to Hip-Hop.
- > **Solos & Duets** are welcome to compete (**NO Bands**)
- > **What to Sing:** You are allowed to sing any song (Clean) and must provide your own background music prior to the performance. Flash drive or CD. You may also use your own instrument or sing acapella. **Sign up Day: 4:00 at City Hall or email to: PO Box 480 Blanchard, Ok. 73010**

Contestants Under 14 Years of Age: If you will be under 14 years of age your parent and/or legal

City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt

The annual City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Blanchard's Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will return this year after COVID-19 precautions canceled the event 1-year ago.

The City-Wide Hunt is set for Saturday, April 3rd, at the Old BHS Football Field at 11 A.M.

The Easter Egg hunters will be divided by age groups, with special prize eggs to be found in each group's area. Hot dogs will also be served.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is **FREE OF CHARGE** and will be a mask-optional Event.

A special thanks from PHBC to the Blanchard Schools and Superintendent Brady Barnes for use of the old football field for one more year.

EASTER



Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. According to the Gospel of John in the New Testament,

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen. Christians worldwide have celebrated Easter for centuries.

However, the roots of the Easter holiday's traditions and activities can be traced back to pagan celebrations. The name Easter is believed to come from *Eostara*, the goddess of rebirth. In early times the Feast of Eostara celebrated earth's resurrection and rebirth. Strict Puritans would have nothing to do with Easter - it was merely a human institution - in the past. Charles I, king of England, declared the day as scriptural as Sunday in 1647 but Parliament contradicted him in print and abolished it with other church festivals.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. Easter is therefore delayed one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which lessens the likelihood of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. Eastern Orthodox churches in many countries such as Greece still figure their Easter date based on the Julian calendar.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are both fertility symbols, holdovers from the feast of Eostara. Other symbolic parallels include the pagan joy in the rising sun of spring, which coincides with Christians' joy in the rising Son of God, and the lighting of candles in churches, which corresponds to the pagan bonfires. The symbol of the cross and images of Jesus Christ, through paintings or statues, are remembered on Easter Day.

Easter will be **Sunday, April 4th**.

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.

IRS Tax Deadline

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. The IRS will be providing formal guidance in the coming days.

Individual taxpayers can also postpone federal income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual taxpayers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. Penalties, interest and additions to tax will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17.

Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need

additional time to file beyond the May 17 deadline can request a filing extension until Oct. 15 by filing [Form 4868](#) through their tax professional, tax software or using the [Free File](#) link on IRS.gov. Filing Form 4868 gives taxpayers until October 15 to file their 2020 tax return but does not grant an extension of time to pay taxes due. Taxpayers should pay their federal income tax due by May 17, 2021, to avoid interest and penalties.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds associated with e-filed returns are issued within 21 days.

May Daze Festival



Mark your calendar for the 'unofficial' start to summer in

Blanchard. The Chamber's 27th Annual May Daze Festival begins on **Friday, May 14th**, **Saturday, May 15th** and **Sunday, May 16th**.

Promotional (non-profit) booths are available at no cost to Chamber members. Your business may also volunteer for a shift in the Chamber booth if you would like to promote your business at the festival, but can't commit to a booth for the whole weekend.

Call the Chamber office at 485-8787 to reserve your space!

Municipal Election

Blanchard voters will choose among 5 candidates at the **April 6th** Municipal Election for the Council seats representing Wards 1 and 4 for new four (4) year terms.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **March 26th** that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City of Blanchard, either in McClain or Grady Counties.

PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will hold their April regular meeting on Thursday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and vote on the following items:

- Postponement to May 13th a Conditional Use Permit for medical marijuana Processing Facility - 1103 S. County Line Avenue.
- Public Hearing to rezone approx. 10 acres from S-1 District to A-1 District.
- Resolution making recommendation to The City Council on Zoning Reclassification.
- Lot Split of 1-acres from 78 acres of unplatted property on N. MacArthur Ave approx. one-half mile south of 85th Street
- 2035 Comprehensive Plan update.
- Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, May 13th**.

Police Blotter

Blanchard jail activity:

3/27/21 - RICH, Rhyann arrested on DUID.

3/28/21 - TRENT, James arrested for PUBLIC INTOX.

3/29/21 - KIKER, Colten arrested on Outstanding local WARRANTS.

3/29/21 - POOL, Troy arrested on Outstanding McClain County WARRANTS.

4/01/21 - RUEPENA, Isaiah arrested on Outstanding California WARRANTS.

Purple Up! Day

Help Celebrate Military Kids on Purple Up!



Day. April marks the nation's "Month of the Military Child," a time to honor our community youth impacted by deployment. It is no secret

that our military children face many challenges before, during and after deployment of their loved ones. Parental separation, increased responsibilities at home, and frequent moves, are just a few areas that military kids must navigate like a complicated obstacle course. However, if given enough support to get through these tough times, our military children can come through with great resilience and confidence, ever ready to face other life changing events. These kids are an inspiration and a source of pride, and it is fitting that we celebrate their spirits and commitments to our country.

In celebration, you're invited to join in showing your support by being part of "Purple Up! For Military Kids"

Day. Everyone is encouraged to wear something purple on **Thursday, April 15th**. This will be a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. (Did you know: Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.) The hope is everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes. Be creative ... the goal is for military youth to witness a sea of "purple" on that day in order to visually witness the support of their community!

Real ID

Oklahoma has recently begun distributing licenses which will satisfy the REAL ID standards for Oklahoma residents. In October all persons boarding commercial planes or entering federal facilities, including military bases, will be required to present a REAL ID compliant card. If you already hold a



passport or military ID then your identification will meet these standards. State residents are not required to obtain an Oklahoma REAL ID. However, if you plan to fly, even on domestic airlines, federal law requires that you must possess a REAL ID compliant license. The state has provided a resource for educating residents on the implementation of REAL IDs. You may access this resource on the following website <https://www.realid.ok.gov>. If you

have questions regarding your need to obtain a REAL ID or if you are wondering how to obtain a REAL ID, please visit the state's REAL ID website.

Seasonal Seedling Sale

The Oklahoma Forestry Services is having an end of season seedling sales.

On **Thursday, April 8th** and **Friday, April 9th** from **8am to 4pm**, a variety of tree species including hardwoods and pines, bareroot and container seedlings will be available to purchase.

Shipping is NOT available – pick up only! 20 -50% off seedlings. Some BOGO specials and discounted bundles available. The Forestry Service is located at 830 NE 12th Avenue in Goldsby, Oklahoma. Phone number is 405-288-2385.

Senior Nutrition

The dining area of the Blanchard Senior Nutrition Site is OPEN.

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.

LUNCH MENU

(April 5 - April 9)

Monday ~ Taco Salad, Beans, Corn Chips, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Beef Stroganoff, Sweet Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Chicken Pasta Salad, Beets, Crackers, Dessert.

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

Friday ~ Salmon Patty, Black-eyed Peas, Cabbage, Cornbread, Dessert.

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.



Lions Park **Fridays @ 7pm**

JUNE	Band	Genre
June 4 th	Killin' Time Band	Classic Country
June 11 th	Middle of No where Band	Classic Rock
June 18 th	Edgar Crus	Classic Guitar
June 25 th	Mystery Date	80's & 90's Mix

Tax Payment Deadline

Oklahomans now have until **June 15, 2021** to pay their 2020 individual and business income taxes, and their first quarter 2021 estimated income tax payments. As a result of the recent disaster declaration issued by FEMA, the IRS announced the tax deadline extension for all individuals who reside or own a business in all of Oklahoma's 77 counties to provide relief for those affected by February's historic winter storms. Following the announcement from the IRS, the Oklahoma Tax Commission ordered the payment deadline extension to provide further relief to Oklahoma taxpayers. The Oklahoma Tax Commissioners elected to adjust the payment deadline extension from

April 15 to June 15 for all individuals that reside or own a business in Oklahoma.

Due dates for other tax types, including sales and withholding, remain the same. For more information, visit the Oklahoma Tax Commission website.

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and local economy rely upon 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), facilities (city hall, etc.), projects (water & sewer and street improvements), programs (4th of July Celebration) and services (senior citizens nutrition).

Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting public 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!

Third Safest City

The City of Blanchard was ranked as the Third Safest City in Oklahoma for 2021. Elgin is No. 1 and Lone Grove is No. 2. This ranking is based on the crime stats that the Blanchard Police Department reports monthly to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI)



who in turn report these statistics to the FBI. Visit the following link to see the full article at the website of <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-oklahoma/>.

U.S. Submarine Force Day

The submarine force was established on April 11, 1900, when the United States Navy bought the submersible Holland VI from John Holland.

Since that historic day, submarines have been used with fortitude and creativity to sustain their superiority beneath the sea, and have become an indispensable asset that patrols and protects worldwide today.

Submarines and their underwater warfighting companions have commanded and operated by courageous men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service of their country.

Oklahoma has recognized the significance of the US submarine force and their crew for their defense of our most cherished freedoms.

April 11, 2021, has been proclaimed as United States Submarine Force Day.



To Vote Tuesday, April 6th. Polls open from 7am to 7pm.