

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

23 JULY 2021

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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.

Bluegrass Festival

Plans are underway for the City's annual 2021 Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for **Friday, August 20th** and **Saturday, August 21st**:

- ☐ Friday Night is Gospel Night
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Vendors
- ☐ FREE Entry

Visit the City's Facebook Page for more information.

BOA Action

The July meeting of the Blanchard Board of Adjustment will be held, **Tuesday, July 20th** beginning at 6pm.

The following items will be discussed, considered and take possible action re:

- Conducted a Public Hearing regarding a variance from Section 21-603 referring to a non-conforming structure:

Applicant: Elisa Taft

Address: 823 Rainbow Lane

Legal: See legal documents

Variance: To allow an enlargement to a non-conforming structure (i.e. replacing an existing manufactured housing unit with a newer and larger manufactured housing unit)

- Approved the Findings of Fact on the application as submitted.

- Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 17th**.



The City of Blanchard is now hiring for the following positions:

- ❑ Animal Control Officer
- ❑ Code Enforcement Officer
- ❑ Communications Officer (911 Dispatcher)
- ❑ Heavy Equipment Operator
- ❑ Street Maintenance Laborer
- ❑ Transfer Site Operator

The first review of all applications will begin next week. So if interested, applications are available on-line at www.cityofblanchard.us. Job descriptions are available upon request.

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Farmers Market



The Blanchard Farmers Market is open every **Saturday**, from **8am - Noon** until **October 2nd**. It

is located at 316 E. Veterans Memorial (in the former campground site adjacent to the Blanchard Trinity Holiness Church). The approximately twelve (12) vendors with their products will be on

hand with fresh fruit and vegetables, breads, etc. will be present.

Please support our local market!

Fight the Bite!

These insects kill more people in 1 day than sharks do in a century!



Individuals can reduce their risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases, such as the West Nile virus, by getting rid of standing water around houses and by using insect repellent. Here is a simple way to remember how to "Fight the Bite" using mosquito safety.

Just remember 3 D's and a P!

- DRAIN stagnant water;
- DRESS wear long sleeves and pants;
- DEET repel when you're outside;
- PREVENT reduce your exposure.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution for managing mosquitoes. Countless products on the market claim to be effective and easy to use but few have appreciable value in lessening the annoyance and incidence of bites. Unlike most insects found around homes, mosquitoes are pervasive outdoor pests and there are limits to what can be done to minimize their abundance, nonetheless, there are measures that can afford some relief.

Incubator Project

The City of Blanchard, the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority, the Mid-America Technology Center and ASCOG are exploring the possibility of creating an incubator program in Blanchard.

Business incubators nurture the development of entrepreneurial companies, helping them survive and grow during the startup period, when they are most vulnerable. These programs provide their client companies with business support services and resources tailored to young firms.

The most common goals of incubation programs are creating jobs in a community, enhancing a community's entrepreneurial climate, retaining businesses in a community, building or accelerating growth in a local industry, and diversifying local economies.

July Meeting Calendar

27th ~ Traffic Court [2pm]

27th ~ City Council [6 pm]

27th ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

July Special Events

24th ~ Farmer's Market

31st ~ Farmer's Market

Mitigation Plan

The McClain County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Comments can be addressed to the City Planner at cityplanner@cityofblanchard.us. The City Council will discuss, consider and take possible action for approval and then to be submitted to FEMA for their formal approval.

The Plan provides guidance to help citizens protect life and property from natural hazards. The plan identifies the hazards that are most likely to strike each jurisdiction, provides a profile and risk assessment of each hazard, identifies mitigation measures for each hazard, and presents an action plan for the implementation of the mitigation measures.

National Airborne Day



August 16th is a day designated by the United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne units of the armed forces. It was created in 2001 by President George W. Bush.

August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky

soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

OCC Hearing

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission hearing regarding the Wildcat Saltwater Disposal Well 1 LLC has been re-scheduled to be heard from Wednesday, July 28th to **Wednesday, September 29th** at **8:30 am**.

ODOT Projects

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has several major projects occurring across the OKC Metro that may directly or indirectly affect Blanchard residents commute and/or travel.

To see project details, follow the links below:

ONGOING PROJECTS:

- [I-35 Corridor Projects](#)
- [I-40 Corridor Projects](#)
- [I-235_I-44_interchange](#)
- [I-40 Del City bridges](#)
- [I-44 and SH-152 projects in southwest Oklahoma City](#)
- [I40 and Choctaw Road](#)

- I-35 and SH-74 South interchange in Goldsby

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- I-35 and Waterloo Road
- Crossroads Renewal 240

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since July 16th that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City of Blanchard.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Blanchard Board of Trustees will meet in regular session on Tuesday, July 27th beginning 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Utility rates adjustment;
- Newcastle Agreement;
- Mandatory Service Connection Waiver;
- American Rescue Plan Act;
- Consent Agenda; and
- Executive Session.

The complete Agenda Packet can be accessed on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 24th.

On the Council Agenda

The Blanchard City Council will meet in regular session on Tuesday, July 27th beginning 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Ordinance for bonding requirements;
- Emergency Clause;
- Resolution approving McClain County area of Blanchard 9-1-1 Telephone Fee Rate;
- Resolution approving Grady County area of Blanchard 9-1-1 Telephone Fee Rate;
- Resolution authorizing 2-stop signs on Fox Run Lane;
- Resolution approving the McClain County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Resolution authorizing certain signage on Lions Court;
- Request from Councilman Kemper for website re-design and management;
- Debt write-off due to death;
- Consent Agenda; and
- Executive Session.

The complete Agenda Packet can be accessed on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 24th.

Police Blotter

The following arrests were made by the Blanchard PD:

- 7/22/21 ~ McCAULEY, Bryan arrested on Domestic.

Sales Tax Holiday



Oklahoma's annual sales tax holiday will begin at 12:01 am on Friday, August 6, 2021 and end at twelve Midnight on

Sunday, August 8, 2021. Certain clothing and shoe purchases are exempt from sales tax for this time period only. Qualified items are exempt from state, city, county and local municipality sales taxes.

Retailers are required to participate and may not collect state and local sales or use tax on most footwear and clothing that are sold for less than \$100 during the holiday.

For more information and answers to common questions on the sales tax holiday, as well as a listing of sales tax exempt items, please refer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website at www.tax.ok.gov.

School Begins



The first day of classes for Blanchard Public Schools start Thursday, August

12, 2021. PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY THRU SCHOOL ZONES AND IN AND ROUND SCHOOLS!

Senior Dining Program

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center serves a fully balanced lunch (entrees, sides, desserts, tea and coffee) for all senior citizens five (5) days a week beginning at 11:30am.

MENU:

(July 26 - July 30)

Monday ~ Chicken Over Rice, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Ham and Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Fruit, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Enchilada Casserole, Salad Beans, Chip, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Spinach, Potato, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Sloppy Joe, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, 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 to insure the continuance in meeting the nutritional needs of our

elderly citizens. Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal. If you need a ride to the Center located at 101 S. Main Street, the City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus service. Rides are available by calling 1-866-THAT-BUS. For more information, please call (405) 485-9260.

Tall Grass & Weeds



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.

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 the City!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events are:

Friday, 8-20 ~ Bluegrass Festival

Saturday, 8-21 ~ Bluegrass Festival

Saturday, 9-25 ~ Mufflers on Main

Saturday, 10-30 ~ PumpkinFest

Saturday, 11-13 ~ Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, 12-11 ~ Christmas Parade of Lights