

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

30 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.

- 12th ~ School BEGINS
- 14th ~ Farmer's Market
- 16th ~ Nat'l Airborne Day
- 19th ~ Chamber Luncheon
- 20th ~ Bluegrass Festival
- 21st ~ Bluegrass Festival
- 21st ~ Farmer's Market
- 21st ~ Nat'l Senior Citizens Day
- 28th ~ Farmer's Market

August Meeting Calendar

- 2nd ~ TEAM Blanchard [8am]
- 2nd ~ BETA [6 pm]
- 2nd ~ BPS School Board [6 pm]
- 12th ~ Planning Commission [6pm]
- 17th ~ BOA [6 pm]
- 24th ~ Traffic Court [2pm]
- 24th ~ City Council [6 pm]
- 24th ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

August Special Events

- 4th ~ U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- 6th ~ Sales Tax Holiday
- 7th ~ Sales Tax Holiday
- 7th ~ Farmer's Market
- 7th ~ Purple Heart Day
- 8th ~ Sales Tax Holiday

Bluegrass Festival

Plans are underway for the City's annual 2021 Bluegrass Festival 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.

BMIA Action

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:

- Discussed utility rates adjustment and authorized a rate study to be conducted by Municipal Finance Services;
- Approved Newcastle Agreement with shorter term and negotiate lower rate per thousand;
- Approved Mandatory Service Connection Waiver;
- Discussed American Rescue Plan Act;
- Approved Consent Agenda; and
- Held Executive Session.

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

Chamber Luncheon

The August Chamber Luncheon will be held Thursday, August 19th at 12 Noon, Chamber Building, 115 N. Main Street. The Luncheon is sponsored by Spencer's and catered by Dominos Pizza. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00.

Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 27th at 6pm and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Adopted Ordinance No. 742 for bonding requirements;

- Adopted Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 742;
- Adopted Resolution No. 2021-30 approving McClain County area of Blanchard 9-1-1 Telephone Fee Rate;
- Adopted Resolution No. 2021-31 approving Grady County area of Blanchard 9-1-1 Telephone Fee Rate;
- Adopted Resolution No. 2021-32 authorizing 2-stop signs on Fox Run Lane;
- Adopted Resolution No. 2021-33 approving the McClain County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Adopted Resolution No. 2021-34 authorizing certain signage on Lions Court;
- Approved request from Councilman Kemper for website re-design and management;
- Approved debt write-off due to death;
- Approved Consent Agenda; and
- Held Executive Session.

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



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 fourteen (14) 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.

Livability

Blanchard's Livability is ranked #8 as one of the best places to live in Oklahoma in 2021. Blanchard is ranked #560 in

the USA. It ranks better than 98% of areas.

Key Findings:

- Blanchard has a Livability Score of 88/100, which is considered exceptional;
- Blanchard crime rates are 73% lower than the Oklahoma average;
- Cost of living in Blanchard is 9% higher than the Oklahoma average;
- Blanchard real estate prices are 46% higher than the Oklahoma average; and
- Rental prices in Blanchard are equal to the Oklahoma average.

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**.

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 BETA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority will hold their regular meeting on Monday, August 2nd at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Economic Development Activities;
 - .. Industrial Prospects;
 - .. Commercial Prospects;
 - .. Farmer's Market status;
 - .. Incubator Program status;
- Consent Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 4th.

Police Blotter

The following arrests were made by the Blanchard PD:

- 7/22/21 ~ McCAULEY, Bryan arrested on the following charges:
 - Domestic Assault & Battery resulting in great bodily harm;
 - Obstructing officer;
 - Plan, attempt, conspire to perform act of violence;
 - By means of any threat or violence, attempt to deter or prevent any executive officer from performing any duty.

Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

The City of Blanchard was recognized as a Purple Heart City in September 2019.

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!

The speed limit is 25 mph ... fines are double for speeding within such school zones.

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:

(August 2 - 6)

Monday ~ Chicken Patty, Pasta Salad, Salad, Bun, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Sausage Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Blackeyed Peas, Cabbage, Potato, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chicken Salad, 3-Bean Salad, Jello Salad, Crackers, 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