

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

6 AUGUST 2021

VOLUMN 110, ISSUE 1

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.

August Meeting Calendar

- 10th ~ Special City Council [6pm]
- 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

- 7th ~ Sales Tax Holiday
- 7th ~ Farmer's Market
- 7th ~ Purple Heart Day
- 8th ~ Sales Tax Holiday
- 12th ~ School BEGINS
- 14th ~ Farmer's Market
- 15th ~ Community Prayer Event
- 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

BETA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority held their regular meeting on Monday, August 2nd and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Discussed Economic Development Activities to include Industrial Prospects; Commercial Prospects; Farmer's Market status; and Incubator Program status.
- Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13th and October 4th.

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.

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.

Community Prayer Event

The Blanchard Area Ministerial Alliance has designated **Sunday, August 15th** as a day of "Unity and Prayer".

All members of the community are encouraged to come together at the Blanchard High School Football Stadium for this special gathering. Special music will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the service will be from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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

- ☐ Code Enforcement Officer (*new*)

- ☐ Communications Officer (911 Dispatcher)
- ☐ Street Maintenance Laborer
- ☐ Transfer Site Operator

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).

We have sixteen (16) vendors signed up and will be on hand with fresh fruit and vegetables, breads, and other products.

Please come out and 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.

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.

New Employees

WELCOME! To the new hires for the City of Blanchard. The new employees are:

- ▣ Marty Bratcher, Heavy Eqpt Operator
- ▣ Jennifer Smithee, Police Officer
- ▣ James Todd, Police Officer
- ▣ Liesl Welu, Animal Control Officer
- ▣ Andrew Wills, Police Officer

Notice

Due to a COVID spread in the Communications Center (Dispatch) and the Blanchard Police Department, the Emergency 911 system and phones are rolled to the City of Purcell Dispatch Center. The front door of both the Dispatch/Police Department and Fire Station will be locked in order to allow contamination processes to be adhered to.

If you have an emergency, please call 911. Non-emergency numbers are (405) 527-4600 or (405) 527-4200. Purcell Dispatch will be in direct contact with the Police/Fire personnel for all emergencies. If you have a water or sewer emergency please call the new numbers and Dispatch will be in touch with our on-call public works employees.

THANK YOU! For your patience and understanding. We expect our Emergency Operations will continue this way for the next 14 days (2-weeks) before we get back to normal.

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 30th** that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City of Blanchard.

On the Council Agenda

The Blanchard City Council will meet in special session on **Tuesday, August 10th**

at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- COVID-19 policies for city employees;
- New website design and maintenance; and
- Executive Session.

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

On the PC Agenda

The Blanchard Planning Commission will meet in regular session on Thursday, August 12th at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed Rezoning by:

Applicant:	Douglas & Pam Foster
Location:	702 Avery Dr.
Zoning:	S-1, Suburban District
Proposed Use:	R-E, Residential Estates
Legal:	See agenda backup.
- Discussion, consideration and possible action, including, but not limited to, the approval, denial, amendment, revision or conditional approval, in whole or in part of adopting Resolution No. 2021-___ recommending approval or denial to the City Council regarding the rezoning request as submitted by the applicant.
- Discussion, consideration and possible action, including, but not limited to, the approval, denial, amendment, revision or

conditional approval, in whole or in part of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan progress.

- Consent Agenda.

Their next regular meeting will be Thursday, September 9th.

Police Blotter

The following arrests were made by the Blanchard PD:

- 8/4/21 ~ VERMILLION, Todd arrested on Outstanding Municipal Warrants; a hold was place on him for warrants out of Marshall County; he was transported to McClain County for hold.
- 7/31/21 ~ ADKINS, Christopher arrested for DUI.
- 7/31/21 ~ SLOAN, Nathan arrested on Outstanding Warrants.
- 7/31/21 ~ WATTS, Tylor arrested on Domestic in Presence of a Minor.

Purple Heart Day

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7th 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.

Saltwater Disposal Well

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission approved and permitted the BLANCHARD SWD #2 (click on the Link to see the location) on August 2nd.

However, this well is located just outside the City limits therefore, we not notified of this application.

It is located in Section 7-T8N-R4W of the Indian Meridian, McClain County. The well will be operated by Phoenix Midstream LLC.

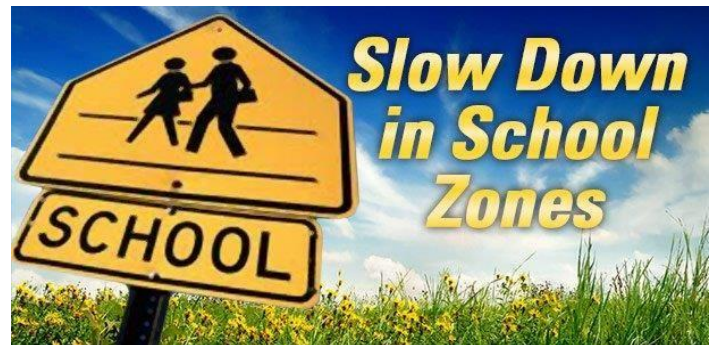
School Begins



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 9 - 13)

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 ~ Ham Salad, Tomato Soup, 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

Veterans Memorial

