

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

13 AUGUST 2021

VOLUMN 110, ISSUE 2

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

- 17th ~ BOA [6 pm] Canceled
- 24th ~ Traffic Court [2pm]
- 24th ~ City Council [6 pm]
- 24th ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

August Special Events

- 14th ~ Farmer's Market
- 15th ~ Community Prayer Event
- 16th ~ Nat'l Airborne Day
- 19th ~ Chamber Luncheon
- 20th ~ Bluegrass Festival
- 21^{ast} ~ Bluegrass Festival
- 21st ~ Farmer's Market
- 21st ~ Nat'l Senior Citizens Day
- 28th ~ Farmer's Market

Bluegrass Festival

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.

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.

City Council Action

The Blanchard City Council met in special session on **Tuesday, August 10th** and discussed, considers and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Adopted COVID-19 policies for city employees ONLY;
- Authorize the development of a new website and maintenance; and
- Held Executive Session:
 - ...Approved RFP for city-owned property development; and approved a contract with a developer to locate in Blanchard.

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

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 position(s):

☑ Street Maintenance Laborer

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 a total of eighteen (18) vendors who have signed up and may 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.

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 **August 6th** that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City of Blanchard.

PC Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission met in regular session on Thursday, August 12th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- Held 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.
- Approved Resolution recommending approval to the City Council regarding the rezoning request as submitted by the applicant.

- Discussed the 2035 Comprehensive Plan progress.

- Approved Consent Agenda.

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

Police Blotter

No arrests were made by the Blanchard PD.

Request for Proposals

The City Council of the City of Blanchard is requesting proposals from well qualified developers and/or development teams who have the capacity and expertise to develop city-owned property comprising of four (4) lots approximately 25 x 140' each for a total of 14,000 square feet MOL with 2-story style buildings with residential uses on top and commercial sales tax generating components on the bottom. This parcel "for sale" comprises Lots 1 -4 of Block 87, Original Plat of the Town of Blanchard located at the northwest corner of Main Street and 2nd Street SW within the Central Business District. The City encourages teams who have experience with masterplans and these type of developments that employ creative design elements.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) can be downloaded from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us homepage. For

more information, please contact the City Manager at 405.485.9392.

Proposals are due by 5:00 O'clock P.M., Monday, September 27, 2021.

Sales Tax Collections

The Sales Tax Collections for the month of August report at \$342,497.79 was up by more than 20% (20.93%) over the monthly budgeted amount. The retail sales generated in Blanchard in June was \$8,600,702.25.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	285,497.79	5.12
Aug '21	342,497.79	20.77
Sep '21	-0-	-0-
Oct '21	-0-	-0-
Nov '21	-0-	-0-
Dec '21	-0-	-0-
Jan '22	-0-	-0-
Feb '22	-0-	-0-
Mar '22	-0-	-0-
Apr '22	-0-	-0-
May '22	-0-	-0-
Jun '22	-0-	-0-
Totals	627,995.58	13.12

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 16 - 20)

Monday ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Smoked Sausage and Cabbage, Blackeyed Peas, Cornbread, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Roll, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Navy Beans, Tomato Spoon Relish, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Chef Salad, Fruit, 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

Use Tax Collections

The Use Tax Collections for the month of August reported at \$97,410.72. This month collections are above the monthly budgeted projections by 2.95%. The generated and delivered use tax in Blanchard this month was based on \$2,446,208 retail sales in June.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	82,222.22	-12.03
Aug '21	97,410.72	24.96
Sep '21	-0-	-0-
Oct '21	-0-	-0-
Nov '21	-0-	-0-
Dec '21	-0-	-0-
Jan '22	-0-	-0-
Feb '22	-0-	-0-
Mar '22	-0-	-0-
Apr '22	-0-	-0-
May '22	-0-	-0-
Jun '22	-0-	-0-
Totals	179,632.94	4.80