

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

1 APRIL 2022

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After Hours

For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, waterline breaks, sewer backups, sewer line breaks, lift station alarms, manhole overflowing, low-water pressure, no water, potholes, road repairs, signs missing or down, roadway flooding, debris in road, street lite out, 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. The month of April is Animal Cruelty Prevention Month. 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 Meetings

- 4th ~ BETA (6pm)
- 4th ~ BPS Board of Education (6pm)
- 4th ~ Special City Council/BMIA (7:30pm)
- 11th ~ Traffic Court (2pm)
- 14th ~ Planning Commission (6pm)
- 19th ~ BOA (6pm)
- 21st ~ Juvenile/Code Court (4pm)
- 26th ~ BMIA (6pm)
- 26th ~ City Council (6pm)

Bid Opening

The City received four (4) sealed bids today from contractors bidding on the old Town Water Project:

Orr Construction	\$1,034,704.00
Patriot Construction	\$1,212,567.28
Southwest Waterworks	\$1,391,755.00
Krapff Reynolds	\$1,893,859.00

The City Council/BMIA Board of Trustees will be meeting in Concurrent Special Session on Monday, April 4th beginning at 7:30pm to consider an award of contract to the apparent low bidder SUBJECT to obtaining additional CDBG funding.

Burn Ban

NO burn bans in effect!

Carly's Kids Corner

Hey kids! This site is loaded with awesome games and activities that help you learn more about trees and why they're so important to our world.

There are plenty of fun and educational resources to keep the kiddo's busy while school is prematurely out.

Please visit <https://www.arboday.org/kids/>.

City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt

The annual City-Wide Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Blanchard's Pleasant Hill Baptist Church will return this year on Saturday, April 19th.

The Hunt will be held at the old Blanchard High School Football Field at 11 A.M.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is FREE OF CHARGE.

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



Easter Sunday

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 which is **Sunday, April 17th**.



Fair Housing Month



APRIL is 'Fair Housing Month'. 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.

Farmers Market

The 2022 Blanchard Farmers Market opens tomorrow (**Saturday, April 2nd**) with six (6) vendors on opening day! The Market will run thru October 2nd.

Please visit our website under **RESIDENTS** and make application to participate.



The City of Blanchard is looking for qualified

people to fill the following positions:

1. **Police Officers** (Full-time with Benefits).
2. **Reserve Officers** (No benefits).
3. **Volunteer Firefighters** (Pension Only).
4. **City Planner** (Full-time with Benefits).
5. **Utility (water/sewer) Laborers** (Full-time with Benefits).

Benefits for full-time employment include but not limited to:

- Health, Dental and Vision paid for

by the City for the employee;

- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Plan;
- Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System (OPPRS) - Police Officers Only;
- 10 paid Vacation days per year;
- 10 paid Sick days per year;
- 9 paid Holidays per year;
- No cost Life Insurance paid by the City;
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by the City.

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For more information, please contact the Human Resource Officer at 405-485-9392 or download an application at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **March 25th** that NO oil or gas wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City.

On the BETA Agenda

The Blanchard Economic Trust Authority will meet in regular session on Monday, April 4th at 6pm, Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street to discuss, consider and take appropriate action:

- Economic Development
- ICSC Conference
- Farmers Market
- Consent Agenda

Their next meeting will be **Monday, June 6th**.

On the City/BMIA Agenda

The Blanchard City Council and the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority will meet in concurrent special session on Monday, April 4th at 7:30pm, Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street to discuss, consider and take appropriate action:

- Bid Award subject to additional CDBG funding.
- Execution for the purchase and/or appraisal of real estate.

Their next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 26th.

Park Events

The upcoming 2022 events are:

- ***May 5th** • Cinco de Mayo
- ***Fridays in June** • Movies and Concerts in the Park
- ***July 2nd** • Independence Day Celebration
- ***August 19th & 20th** • Bluegrass Festival
- ***September 24th** • Mufflers on Main
- ***October 22nd** • Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- ***October 31st** • Pumpkinfest
- ***November 12th** • Veterans Day Parade
- ***December 10th** • Christmas Events & Parade of Lites
- ***March - October** • Pop Up Parties (food truck & live music)

Details of each event will be posted on the City's Facebook page and the City's website.

Police Blotter

Blanchard Jail Activity:

3/25/22 ~ HENSON, Angela arrested for Public Intoxication and transported to Grady County Jail.

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 **Wednesday, April 20th**. 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!

Top 20 Safest Cities



The City of Blanchard was ranked as the Twelfth Safest City in Oklahoma for 2022. 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/>.

School Board Election

A run-off election for the Blanchard School Board will be held on **Tuesday, April 5th**. Voters will select one of the 2 top candidates for Office No. 2 serving a new 5-year term on the Board: Kristi Mitchell or Justin Smith.

Please exercise your constitutional right to **VOTE! Tuesday, April 5th, 7 am - 7 pm.**

School Bond Election

A Special Election on **Tuesday, April 5th**, 7 am – 7 pm to decide on the following School Bonds: **Proposition No. 1:**

✓ to construct, equip, furnish and/or acquire athletic facilities improvements to include, but not limited to, football/soccer fieldhouse, baseball and softball fields, and associated facilities: \$31,045,000.00;

✓ to renovate, repair, remodel and/or acquire improvements to existing school sites: \$3,000,000.00;

✓ to acquire and install technology upgrades: \$1,000,000.00. TOTAL: \$35,045,000.00.

Proposition No. 2:

✓ to acquire vehicle(s) for pupil transportation from the proceeds of bonds maturing within five (5) years from their date: TOTAL: \$1,000,000.00.

PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO **VOTE!**

Senior Dining



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, Monday thru Friday:** **MENU**

- **4th ~ 8th Chef's Choice.**

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, call (405) 485-9260.

Shelter Registration

The Blanchard Emergency Management wants to remind everyone that severe storm season is fast approaching. We express how important it is for everyone to register their home's storm shelters and safe rooms. The City of Blanchard storm shelter registry provides emergency services with information that allows them to locate citizens after a tornado or other natural disaster. Registration helps ensure that people in shelters affected by the storm are able to get help quickly with the potential of shelters' exits being blocked due to debris or structural damage. Registration is doubly important with the possibility of shelters flooding due to broken water lines or simply rain waters entering the shelter and drowning people trapped inside. Registration forms include your address, list of persons who would normally be present at the home and could potentially be in the shelter, the location of the shelter/safe room on the property, and contact information for yourself and an emergency contact. If you have previously registered and some part of your information has changed, feel free to submit an updated form. If you have a question as to if your shelter is registered

please contact the Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Charlie Largent at the Blanchard Fire Department at 405.485.3939.

Registration forms available at Blanchard City Hall. Please return all registrations to City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

Special Events

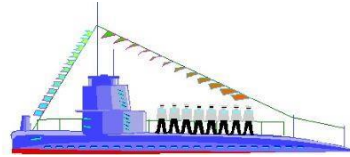
- April 5th ~ Election Day
- 10th ~ Palm Sunday
- 11th ~ U.S. Submarine Force Day
- 15th ~ Good Friday
- 16th ~ Passover Begins
- 16th ~ City-wide Easter Egg Hunt
- 17th ~ Easter
- 18th ~ Tax Day
- 20th ~ Purple Up Day
- 22nd ~ Oklahoma Day
- 23rd ~ Passover Ends
- 27th ~ Administrative Professionals Day
- 29th ~ Arbor Day

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and local economy relies on 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, 911 services), public facilities, projects, programs and services. Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting community 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 our community.

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, 2022, has been proclaimed as United States Submarine Force Day.



To Vote
Tuesday, April
5th. Polls
open from
7am to 7pm.