

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

8 APRIL 2022

VOLUMN 118, ISSUE 2

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

- 11th ~ Traffic Court (2pm)
- 14th ~ Planning Commission (6pm)
- 19th ~ BOA (6pm)
- 21st ~ Juvenile/Code Court (4pm)
- 26th ~ BMIA (6pm)
- 26th ~ City Council (6pm)

BETA Action

The Blanchard Economic Trust Authority met in regular session on Monday, April 4th and

discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **Discussed** Economic Development;
- **Update** on ICSC Conference attendance;
- **Discussed** the Farmers Market; and
- **Approved** Consent Agenda.

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

Bid Award

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.

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/BMIA Action

The Blanchard City Council and the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority met in concurrent special session on Monday, April 4th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action re:

- **Awarded** bid to Orr Construction subject to additional CDBG funding; and
- Discussed in executive session the purchase and/or appraisal of real estate.

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

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 17th**.



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.



looking for city
employment

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).

4. **Dispatcher** (Full-time with Benefits).
5. **Volunteer Firefighters** (Pension Only).
6. **City Planner** (Full-time with Benefits).
7. **Utility (water/sewer) Laborers** (Full-time with Benefits).
8. **Park Laborers** (Seasonal)

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.

May Daze Festival

Mark your calendar for the 'unofficial' start to summer in Blanchard. The Chamber's 28th Annual May Daze Festival begins on **Friday, May 14th, Saturday, May 15th and Sunday, May 16th.**

Promotional (non-profit) booths are available at no cost to Chamber members. Your business may also volunteer for a shift in the Chamber booth if you would like to promote your business at the festival, but

can't commit to a booth for the whole weekend.

Call the Chamber office at 485-8787 to reserve your space!

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **April 1st** that NO oil or gas wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City.

OKC Water Rates

The Oklahoma City Council is considering a recommendation from the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust (OCWUT) to adjust annual water, wastewater, and solid waste rates. If approved, the new rates will take effect June 1, 2022. These rate increase will range from 2.45% in 2022 to 2.71% in 2026 for low volume users up to 2,000 gallons per month. Heavy users will experience higher rate increase beginning with over 6% increase in 2022.

The funds would ensure adequate water supply through 2060, replace aging infrastructure for drinking water and wastewater, improve system reliability and resiliency, and build reserves to help fund residential debris pick up after storms.

Utilities staff presented the rate adjustment proposal to City Council on March 29th after conducting a cost-of-

service study with an outside consultant. A public hearing is scheduled for April 12th, and a vote is set for April 26th.

If approved, these new water rates ONLY will affect Blanchard residents, since we receive 100% of our water from the City of OKC.

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.

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!

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of April was more than nine percent

(9.82%) than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$7,775,535.00 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	285,172.32	5.12
Aug '21	342,497.79	20.77
Sep '21	235,561.39	-17.32
Oct '21	323,921.58	14.22
Nov '21	287,938.29	0.31
Dec '21	350,605.48	33.82
Jan '22	312,172.64	11.53
Feb '22	344,353.16	28.88
Mar '22	286,941.57	-0.60
Apr '22	311,021.4	23.01
May '22		
Jun '22		
Totals	3,080,185.62	11.56

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



SENIORS

- 11th ~ Stroganoff, Carrots, Peas, Dessert;

- 12th ~ Chicken Strips, Mashed Potatoes, Green

Beans, Dessert;

- 13th ~ Pizza, Salad, Vegetable, Dessert;

- 14th ~ Blackeyed Peas, Potatoes, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert;

- 15th ~ Fish, Coleslaw, Black Beans, 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, 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

- 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.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of April was more than twelve percent (12.39%) less than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,072,420.50 retail sales for Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '21	82,173.33	-12.03
Aug '21	97,410.72	24.96
Sep '21	88,542.03	13.13
Oct '21	84,860.61	-0.72
Nov '21	92,540.91	25.20
Dec '21	97,188.31	18.03
Jan '22	127,864.59	55.28
Feb '22	133,267.93	7.25
Mar '22	81,911.22	-35.47
Apr '22	82,896.82	1.19
May '22		
Jun '22		
Totals	968,656.47	4.42