

BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

22 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

26th ~ BMIA (6pm)

26th ~ City Council (6pm)

Baccalaureate & Graduation



The BHS Baccalaureate will be Sunday, **May 8th**. Ceremonies begin at **6 p.m.** at the Blanchard First Baptist Church. The BHS graduation will be **Monday, May 9th**. Ceremonies begin at **7 p.m.** at the Blanchard H.S. Gym.

BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority's April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th and will discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- No Business Items
- Consent Agenda.

Their next scheduled meeting will be **Tuesday, May 24th**.

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/>.

Council Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will meet in regular session on Tuesday, April 26th to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following:

- Resolution dissolving the Road Ad Hoc Committee;
- Special Event Permit for Street Play on Monday, May 2nd;
- Agreement with the Blanchard Chamber of Commerce for May Daze; and

- Resolution amending Resolution No. 2016-14 revising the City's Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual, as recommended by OMAG;

- Resolution amending Resolution No. 2015-15 revising the City's Incentive and Education Policy for the Blanchard Fire Department;

- Action regarding salaries and benefits;
- Attendance policy for meetings;

- Resolution dissolving the Road Ad Hoc Committee;

- Consent Agenda.

Their next meeting will be **Monday, May 24th**.

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 is open for business! The Market will run thru **Saturday, October 2nd**.

Please visit our website at www.cityofblanchard.us under RESIDENTS and make application to participate.

Holiday Observance

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 30th** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911.

If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash service will run as usual.



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).

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.

Local Food Drive

The Blanchard Rural Letter Carriers are gearing up for the 30th annual Letter Carriers Food Drive.

The food drive will be held this year in May.

The food drive is sponsored and coordinated by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Rural carriers are not required to participate. It is absolutely wonderful that the Blanchard Rural Carriers are selflessly giving of their time and energy participating in this event. Please take the time to show your appreciation to your rural carrier.



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 20th and Saturday, May 21st.

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!

Memorial Day

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

cemeteries and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, are unclear.

In early rural America, this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics.

After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor our military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated, and ceremonies centering on the decorations of soldier's graves were held in cities and towns thru-out the nation.

No less than 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, and for many years, states observed

The custom of honoring our ancestors by cleaning

the holiday on different dates. However, by federal law, Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday in May which will be **Monday, May 30th**.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8th will be Mother's Day. Although the custom of setting aside a day to honor mothers has ancient roots, our observance of Mother's Day originated in 1907 with the efforts of a devoted daughter, Anna M. Jarvis of Philadelphia, who conceived the idea of an annual nationwide celebration. The public and the press quickly embraced the idea, and villages, towns, cities, and states soon began unofficial Mother's Day observances. On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May Mother's Day, and within a few years, the idea gained worldwide prominence. The day is now characterized by gift giving, sending greeting cards and flowers, and giving mother a "day off" by taking the family out to eat. In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **April 15th** that NO oil or gas wells were completed or permitted within the City limits of Blanchard.

Park Events

The upcoming 2022 events are:

- ***May 2nd** • Play Street
- ***May 5th** • Cinco de Mayo
- ***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

No arrests reported.

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

- **Monday** ~ Goulash, Carrots, Peas, Dessert
- **Tuesday** ~ Taco Salad, Beans, Rice, Chips, Dessert
- **Wednesday** ~ BBQ Meatball, Parsley Potatoes, Broccoli, Bread, Dessert

- **Thursday** ~ Blackeyed Peas, Cabbage, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert
- **Friday** ~ Ribbette, Coleslaw, Baked 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 Blanchard Fire Department at 405.485.3939.

Special Events

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.

Tornado Safety



In Oklahoma, tornadoes are most frequent in the spring and summer months. An average of 800 tornadoes are

reported each year, causing 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries per year. These storms are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 mph or greater. The following guidelines will assist in keeping you safe:

Tornado Watch - means a tornado is "possible". When the National Weather Service issues a warning, it is time to turn on a TV or radio, look out the window from time to time, and be more alert to what is happening outside.

Tornado Warning - means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Warning Signs - A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.

» If there is a tornado warning or watch posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger.

» A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.

- » Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- » A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, then turning into a roar as it comes closer.
- » Tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast.

Possible Shelters - Basements.

- » Interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor.
- » Small rooms - restrooms, closets, etc. Avoid rooms with wide span roof areas.
- » Get under a piece of sturdy furniture - heavy table, cubicle work surface, etc.
- » Stay away from exterior walls, windows, mirrors, items hanging overhead.
- » Do not stay in vehicles.
- » If no other shelter is available, lay down in a depression in the ground, such as a ditch.
- » Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Veterans Memorial

The Veterans Memorial construction will resume very soon! The construction has been delayed several times, due to the weather and the loss of one of our sub-contractors. Now we are excited that a local company, RBI Industries, has agreed to provide "in-kind" labor for the work needed to get the foundations installed. As soon as this is completed, we have the masonry workers scheduled to lay the foundation blocks for the Memorial wall, the four (4) Honor Pillars and the visitor's bench. We still plan to have

it ready for a dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 12th, immediately following the Veterans Parade. We will accomplish this extremely aggressive and an optimistic goal.

All funds for construction are being provided only through the individual honor bricks purchases along with the sponsorship donations from businesses and corporations. The City is only functioning as the legal guardian of these funds. Also, under IRS regulations, this allows all donations made to this project, to be fully tax deductible.

Remember, recognition is open to ALL veterans, regardless of where they are from, whether they are alive or deceased, where they live or when they might be interred. We also still have room for sponsorship panel donations to recognize your company or business permanently in the Sponsor's Pillar.

You can visit the City's website for more info at www.cityofblanchard.us. Please call City Hall at 405-485-9392 to get more information or to have someone contact you in order to get involved with this incredible project.

Thank you to everyone for your support!

PLAY STREET

Come PLAY in the Street!

Ages K- 6th Grade



Inflatables, Activity Booths, Music, and FREE Hot Dogs!

SPONSORED BY:
BLANCHARD COMMUNITY COALITION, THE CITY OF BLANCHARD
TSET, PIONEER, AND LEGACY BANK

Blanchard



BLANCHARD OKLAHOMA
Presents

FOOD TRUCK
Dancing
Cinco de Mayo
Downtown Blanchard
BOUNCEHOUSE FOR KIDS

BIG B'S BOTTLE
Liquor - Wine - Beer
820 W. Veterans Memorial Hwy
Blanchard, OK 73010

May 5th
6-9 pm

BEER CANTINA (MUST BE 21 TO DRINK)