

# Blanchard E-News

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## Alert System

Sign up for the City's NEW Emergency Alert System by going to the City's website below at:

<https://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts>

## Armed Forces Day

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.

The single day celebration stemmed for the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** will be Armed Forces Day in the United States.

## Bid Notice

The City of Blanchard is now taking sealed bids for the following projects:

- **Park Bathroom Construction** located to serve the Crystal Lake Walking Trail. Bids are due on **May 20<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Concrete Paving Repairs** for various concrete streets. Bids are due on **June 10<sup>th</sup>**.

The Notices and Bid Packets are located on the City's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## 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.arborday.org/kids/>.

## Coronavirus Precautions

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cough into your elbow and dispose of tissues in a waste basket
- Keep surfaces in your home clean -

Alcohol is a good disinfectant

- Supply of food staples and necessary medications - 30-day supply



- ☑ Household supplies
- ☑ Know the website for your local health department, visit for information
- ☑ Plan for a support system in case older family members fall ill
- ☑ STAY HOME if you have the symptoms
- ☑ WEAR a mask when in public!

## *Curbside Bulky Waste*

Waste Connections has temporarily suspended the Residential Bulk & Brush services, with limited Residential Trash services to collection of only contents within carts. Bags and bundles that are placed outside of carts will be excluded from collection during this time, in order to minimize the risk of exposure through manual collection or "pickup by hand". The change to go "cart only" on Residential Routes will be in effect through June 1, 2020.

Waste Connections understand that limiting collection services to cart contents only warrants some discretion among residents for what they dispose of and when. Household trash, bags from kitchens and restrooms, should remain a top priority for those waste streams that go into the carts. That's to say, if there is only enough room in the cart remaining for one bag from the kitchen or one bag of yard trimmings, residents are urged to use the space for the bag from the kitchen for health and sanitation purposes.

Now is also a good time to educate customers to bag and tie their household trash, a commonly overlooked best practice. Household trash that is

not properly bagged and tied is susceptible to spills and further increases the risk of exposure for Waste Connections personnel to potentially infectious waste.

They appreciate your understanding as they take precautions to protect the health and well-being of their employees, their customers, and their communities. Please trust that they recognize their essential role in maintaining health and sanitation in our communities. Supporting our municipal partners remains one of their highest priorities, right after the safety of their people, and they hope that is evident in their phased approach to plans for continuity of their operations.

However, the City's Citizens Collection Center is open Monday thru Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Visit the City's website at <https://www.cityofblanchard.us/public-utilities/files/transfer-site-dos-donts> or Facebook regarding what's acceptable and not acceptable and the policies of operations within DEQ guidelines.

## *Elections*



ALL Elections in McClain County are rescheduled for **Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**.

## EMPLOYMENT Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is accepting applications for:

- part-time employee to operate the Citizen Collection Center, **Monday - Friday** from **3:30pm to 6pm** and **Saturdays** from **8am to 12 Noon**; and
- full-time Utility Billing Clerk from **Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm**.

Applications will be taken until filled and can be found on the city's website at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Events Calendar

### MAY

**Saturday ~ May 16<sup>th</sup>:**

Armed Forces Day

**Monday ~ May 25<sup>th</sup>:**

MEMORIAL DAY

## Facebook Page

The City's Facebook Page is still down and access has been blocked.

## House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are

unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

## May Daze Festival

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual May Daze Festival will be **Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, June**



**13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.**

General vendor booths and non-profit booths are

available. Please call the Chamber office at 485.8787 for more information.

# Meeting Calendar

## MAY

19<sup>th</sup> ~ BOA (Canceled)

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Traffic Court

26<sup>th</sup> ~ City Council (Virtual)

26<sup>th</sup> ~ BMIA (Virtual)

## Memorial Day

The custom of honoring our ancestors by cleaning 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 holiday on different dates. However, by federal law, Memorial Day is now celebrated on the last Monday in May which will be **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

City offices will be closed **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 services will run as usual.

## Oil 'n Gas Complaints

With the increase of oil and gas drilling activities in and around Blanchard, comes an increase in complaints of trucks, noise and odor.

All drilling activities complaints are to be reported directly to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission at 580-255-0103 (Duncan Field Ofc) or <http://www.occeweb.com/AspxForms/OGComplaintForm.aspx>.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled in November 2018 in Case No. 117,303, Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association (Petitioner) v. The Kingfisher County Commissioners, (Respondents), that clarified "Further, a legal challenge to the reasonableness of a rule or regulation imposed by a municipality, county or other political subdivision concerning road use, traffic, noise and odors incidental to oil and gas operations within their boundaries shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, 52 O.S. Supp. 2015, §137.1."

Trucking complaints (speeding, signs,

Etc.) are to be filed with the Blanchard Police Department at 405-485-9392.

## *Oil 'n Gas Permits*

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) reported NO permits for oil and gas drilling were issued within the City limits of Blanchard this week.

The OCC is the only state agency that issues permits for oil and gas drilling.

## *Police Blotter*

Jail activity for April:

5/10 ~ PLUMLEY, Michael arrested for DUI.

## *Proclamation*

A new Emergency Proclamation to implement Phase 2 approved and signed by the Mayor with an effective today (Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>).

This Proclamation allows the following businesses to reopen in Blanchard:

- Bars, Taverns, Nightclubs and Other Drinking Establishments primarily serving alcoholic beverages can open using CDC recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols and following the Oklahoma Department of Commerce guidelines.

- Festivals, Fairs, and other Outdoor Gatherings, if they adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols and following the Oklahoma Department of Commerce guidelines.

- Organized games, competitions, and tournaments may resume. This also includes tumbling/cheer/gymnastics facilities, dance studios, ice/roller skating rinks, and swimming schools.

- Larger weddings may resume with appropriate social distancing guidelines in place. Individuals should consult with the wedding venues to ensure appropriate social distancing and the maximum number of guests. They could offer seating with 6-foot distance between family groups and/or alternating rows or pews. Wedding ceremony venues should follow guidance for places of worship. Wedding reception venues should follow guidance for restaurants.

- Larger funerals may resume with appropriate social distancing guidelines in place. Individuals should consult with the venues to ensure appropriate social distancing and the maximum number of guests. They could offer seating with 6-foot distance between family groups and/or alternating rows or pews. Funeral service venues should follow guidance for places of worship. Funeral reception venues should follow guidance for restaurants.

- Homeowners Associations. It is up to the individual HOAs to determine when they want to organize HOA events. They should follow social distancing guidelines for any events organized.

- Community Pools. It is up to the neighborhoods to determine when they wish to reopen community pools. They should follow sanitation and social distancing best practices.

- Common Areas. It is up to the individual apartment community to determine how they wish to use the

common areas. They should follow sanitation and social distancing best practices.

- Garage sales may resume, during Phase 2 of the OURS plan. Groups are limited to 50 people, should be outdoors, and allow for social distancing.

- In-person auctions may resume, during Phase 2 of the OURS plan. Groups are limited to 50 people, should be outdoors, and allow for social distancing.

- These businesses shall post the CDC-recommendations and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce guidelines for their customers to read.

The complete Proclamation is available online at [www.cityofblanchard.us](http://www.cityofblanchard.us).

## Senior Dining Program



SENIORS

ONLY to our citizens.

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center is CLOSED to the general public but we prepare meals for home delivery

### LUNCH MENU

(May 18<sup>th</sup> ~ May 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Monday** ~ Beef Enchilada, Salad, Beans, Chips, Dessert.

**Tuesday** ~ BBQ Meatballs, Parsley Potatoes, Vegetables, Roll, Dessert.

**Wednesday** ~ Chicken Tetrizzini, Sweet Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Roll, Dessert.

**Thursday** ~ Black-eyed Peas, Cabbage, Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.

**Friday** ~ Chef Salad, Beets, 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. Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal.

Please call 485-9260, if you would like to be considered for a home delivered meal. Please be advised, the home delivery will begin the next business day. The Center is currently delivering approximately fifty (50) lunches daily.

## Shelter In-Place



The season of unstable, severe weather is upon us. Until the National Emergency is lifted statewide and nationally, the Blanchard School facilities will NOT be opened by the City during severe weather. FEMA recommends that families create a plan to shelter in-place at home.

## Shelter Registration



The Blanchard Emergency Management would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that severe storm season is fast approaching. We want to 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 the Blanchard City Hall, 122 North Main Street, Blanchard, OK 73010.

### *Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!*

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and local economy rely 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), parks and infrastructure. 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 your community.

## *Trash Service*

The City contracts with Waste Connections for solid waste collection and disposal of residential trash. For a smooth operation, the following rules should be adhered to:

- ✓ Carts need to be set out by 7am;
- ✓ Carts need to be by the road, at the edge of the driveways, not in the driveway;
- ✓ If you have multiple carts they need to be 3 feet apart;
- ✓ Carts need to be 5 to 7 feet from mailbox, cars, etc;
- ✓ If carts are placed with wheels toward the house they are less likely to blow over;
- ✓ No bungee cords, straps, or rope to be placed on your cart, if it is windy, you can place a rock or brick on the lid to keep it closed;
- ✓ No limbs or trees or hazardous materials in either polycart.



# United States Census 2020

## 2020 CENSUS - BE COUNTED!

Let's help get Blanchard and Oklahoma rockin' on the 2020 Census. By clicking this link and filling out the 2020 Census that will help Blanchard in so many ways. New streets, new roads, water lines, sewer lines, building/building renovations, it will also help the schools, fire department, police department, medical clinics, it will also help influence future funding for pell grants, health care, housing, transportation, and other important education and community services.

It's just a click away...all it takes is just a few minutes.

By not getting everyone counted means less money or no money for Blanchard and the state.

Let's help make OKLAHOMA - and your communities and districts ROCK in the 2020 Census, so LET'S GET COUNTED!

Your participation in the census, and a full and accurate count, is very important. First, the census is the basis for equal political representation under the Constitution. Second, State and Federal tax dollars are allotted based on the number of people counted in the census.

We need more responses, please help us get the word out for how important filling out the 2020 Census.

BE COUNTED! It's easy! It's safe! It's important! For the first time ever, the Census Bureau accept responses

on-line, but you can still respond by phone or mail.

The response rate as of Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>:

- National is 58.5%
- Oklahoma is 52.4%
- McClain County is 56.3%
- Blanchard is 60.6%.



The Blanchard Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on Thursday, **May 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30** p.m. to solicit general comments on the approval or denial of an application to re-zone property from the S-1 District to the R-E District filed by Richard and Kathleen Henderson for property located on Morgan Road in Grady County.

After hearing no opposition to the proposed zoning, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval to the City Council.

However, the Zoning Case will not be heard by the City Council until the June meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the earliest.