



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.

Alert System

Sign up for the City's NEW Emergency Alert System by going to the City's website <http://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts> below at

AYCE Breakfast



The Blanchard Masonic Lodge will host several All You Can Eat (AYCE) Breakfast from 7am - 11am for the remainder of

the year on Saturdays at the Methodist Church Activity Center:

Saturday, November 21st ~ Blanchard Junior High Cheerleaders.

Saturday, December ~ TBA

The cost is only \$6 and ALL proceeds benefit certain youth organizations in Blanchard, Bridge Creek and Dibble.

THANK YOU for supporting our youth!

Ballot Questions



Voters will consider the following two (2) state questions on the upcoming General Election Ballot. They are as follows:

STATE QUESTION NO. 805:
This measure seeks to add a new Article II-A to the Oklahoma Constitution. This new Article excepts and does not apply to persons who have ever been convicted of a violent felony. It would prohibit the use of a former felony conviction to increase the statutorily allowable base range of punishment for a person subsequently convicted of a felony. Individuals who are currently incarcerated for felony sentences that were enhanced based on one or more former felony convictions, and whose

sentences are greater than the maximum sentence that may currently be imposed for such felonies, may seek sentence modification in court. The new Article sets forth a detailed process for such sentence modification, including but not limited to requirements for a hearing, appointment of counsel for indigent petitioners, and notification of victims, and requires that the court impose a modified sentence no greater than the current maximum sentence which may be imposed on a person convicted of the same felony with no former felony convictions, and which results in no greater time served in prison than under the original sentence. It establishes an appeal procedure, provides an effective date, and contains a severability clause.

STATE QUESTION NO. 814:

This measure seeks to amend Article 10, Section 40 of the Oklahoma Constitution (Section 40), which directs proceeds from the State's settlements with or judgments against tobacco companies. Currently, Section 40 directs 75% of proceeds to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund (TSET Fund), where earnings may only be used for tobacco prevention programs, cancer research, and other such programs to maintain or improve the health of Oklahomans. Meanwhile, the remaining 25% of proceeds are directed to a separate fund for the Legislature

(Legislative Fund). The Legislature can also direct some of that 25% to the Attorney General.

This measure amends Section 40 to reduce the percentage of proceeds that go into the TSET Fund from 75% to 25%. As a result, the remaining 75% will go to the Legislative Fund and the Legislature may continue to direct a portion to the Attorney General. The measure would also restrict the use of the Legislative Fund. Section 40 currently states only that the Legislative Fund is subject to legislative appropriation. If this measure passes, money from the Legislative Fund must be used to get federal matching funds for Oklahoma's Medicaid Program.

Please exercise your constitutional right to vote! **Tuesday, November 3rd**. More information on all State Questions can be found on the Secretary of State's website.

BMIA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority canceled their regular session for Tuesday, October 27th due to the ice storm and held a Special Meeting on **Thursday, October 29th** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following regular session agenda items:

- ◇ Resolution No. 2020-05 selecting Option No. 4 for oil and gas royalties;
- ◇ Approved reimbursement request in the amount of \$2,325 for payments on electric service for Oasis Ranch lift station;
- ◇ Authorized water testing for old town water pressure issues;
- ◇ Discussed household hazardous waste and e-waste collection events; and
- ◇ Approved Consent Agenda.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 10, 2020**.

Citizen Collection Center

The Collection Center is temporarily closed pending new site approval from ODEQ for storm debris collections, staging and burning.

The site will reopen for disposal of household waste **ONLY!** once we receive DEQ's approval.

City Council Action

The City Council of the City of Blanchard along with the BMIA Board of Trustees canceled their regular session meeting (October 27th) due to the winter storm and held a **Special Meeting on Thursday, October 29th** to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following regular meeting agenda items:

- ◇ Tabled the Public Hearing to December 8th meeting at the request of the Petitioner re: public comments on a Notice of Determination of Sufficiency of Petition of Detachment of Territory from the municipal limits;
- ◇ Tabled Ordinance on the Petition of Detachment of Territory to the December 8th meeting at the request of the Petitioner;
- ◇ Tabled the Emergency Clause to the December 8th meeting at the request of Petitioner;
- ◇ Held Public Hearing re: rezoning of property from A-1 to R-E;
- ◇ Adopted Zoning Ordinance No. 726 for rezoning;
- ◇ Adopted Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. 726;
- ◇ Held Public Hearing on a Medical Marijuana Conditional Use Permit for 1383 S. State Highway 76;
- ◇ Approved Resolution No. 2020-20 for Conditional Use Permit;
- ◇ Approved Resolution No. 2020-21 authorizing OMAG to distribute escrow account funds to Blanchard;
- ◇ Approved Resolution No. 2020-22 for street lighting at SW 14th Street and SH-76 south;
- ◇ Approved Resolution No. 2020-23 for Mayor's nominations and appointment of department heads to serve on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee;

- ◇ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-24 amending the FYE2021 Budget to include revenues/expenditures for the newly established Emergency Management Department;
- ◇ Adopted Resolution No. 2020-25 selecting the City's Option No. 4 regarding oil and gas royalties;
- ◇ Issued four (4) Proclamations pertaining to:
 - Proclaiming Wednesday, November 11th as "Veterans Day" in Blanchard;
 - Proclaiming the week of November 10th - 16th as "Oklahoma Heritage Week" in Blanchard;
 - Proclaiming the month of November as "American Legion Appreciation Month" in Blanchard;
 - Proclaiming the month of November as "American Indian Heritage Month" in Blanchard;
- ◇ Approved agreement for Engineering Services with Glenn Sullivan & Associates for 1-mile improvement of NE 10th Street from US-62 to SH-76;
- ◇ Approved Change Order No. 2 to add \$9,433.39 for quick disconnect of vehicle exhaust in new fire station;
- ◇ Approved City Attorney to proceed with the creation of a joint public trust with regional cities and towns for water resources;
- ◇ Set Saturday, October 31st from 6pm to 9pm for Halloween Trick or Treat;

- ◇ Approved Special Event Permit for the Blanchard Touchdown Club;
- ◇ Approved Consent Agenda; and
- ◇ Held Executive Session.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 10, 2020.**

Daylite Saving Time



FALL BACK
SUNDAY,
November 1st,
when Daylight
Saving Time ends
at **2 a.m.** Clocks

will "fall back" one-hour.

Credit for Daylite Saving Time belongs to Benjamin Franklin, who first suggested the idea in 1784. The idea was revised in 1907, when William Willett, an Englishman, proposed a similar system in the pamphlet 'The Waste of Daylight'. The Germans were the first to officially adopt the light-extending system in 1915 as a fuel-saving measure during World War 1.

The British switched one year later, and the United States followed in 1918, when Congress passed the Standard Time Act, which established our time zones. This experiment lasted only until 1920, when the law was repealed due to opposition from dairy farmers [cows don't pay attention to clocks]. During World War II, Daylight Saving Time was

imposed once again [this time year around] to save fuel.

REMEMBER! When you change the clocks, change your batteries in your smoke and CO² detectors.

Free Breakfast & Lunch

The Blanchard Public School has announced that the USDA is allowing the school district to feed breakfast and lunch to children 1-18 years of age, for FREE! This will last until December 31, 2020, or until funds run out.

They are working on getting everyone's accounts credited for the meals they have charged. If your child still has a balance on their account, please continue to pay this off, as the USDA will not pay for past charges.

If you would like to receive a meal, please contact Jamie Romine, jromine@blanchard.k12.ok.us or by phone 405-485-3391 ext 270, please leave a message stating how many you request to pick up.

Groundbreaking

The Blanchard Veterans Committee will be holding a Groundbreaking Ceremony on the site of the future Veterans Memorial on **Saturday, November 7th at 9am.**

The event is open to the public and the site is located at 305 E Veterans Memorial Highway.

To date, the Committee has raised over \$64,000 for the Memorial.

Please visit the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us/community to learn more on the Memorial.

Halloween



'Trick or Treat' nite in Blanchard will be **Saturday, October 31st** from **6 pm to 9 pm.**

Please drive with caution and watch out for little ghosts and

goblins!

For Halloween safety tips for your kids, pets, etc. please go to www.halloween-safety.com.

Holiday Closings

City offices will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11th** in observance of Veterans Day; and **Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th** in observance of Thanksgiving.

Hotel-Motel Tax

A question FOR or AGAINST a proposed hotel-motel tax for Blanchard will be on the General Election Ballot on **Tuesday, November 3rd**.

DO CITIES IN NEIGHBORING STATES COLLECT A LODGING TAX? IF SO, HOW MUCH?

Albuquerque, NM ~ 6%

Amarillo, TX ~ 7%

Dallas, TX ~ 7%

Denver, CO ~ 10.75%

Fort Worth, TX ~ 9%

Houston, TX ~ 7%

Kansas City, MO ~ 7.2%

Wichita, KS ~ 6%

For more information, see IRS Publication 535, Business Expenses, or consult a professional tax preparer regarding exemptions.

If approved on the upcoming ballot, collections will begin on January 1, 2021, at Midnite and will be used exclusively for the purpose of encouraging, promoting, and fostering tourism for the City of Blanchard.

The City is recruiting hotels and motels to locate in Blanchard. Part of the pro forma calculations is the amount of lodging tax charged in a community. This determines the feasibility of a hotel-motel, rates and the number of rooms.

Meeting Calendar

November 2nd ~ BPS School Board

November 5th ~ Special Council

November 10th ~ City Council

November 10th ~ BMIA

NOTICES OF CONTINUANCE

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission continued the application for an administrative authorization to drill and complete the Goose 1-4, as a Commercial Saltwater Disposal Well (55th & Rockwell) requested by Wildcat SWD 1 LLC from **October 23rd to November 23rd at 8:30 a.m.**, Corporation Commission, Jim Thorpe Office Building, First Floor, 2101 N Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma Heritage Week



The signing of the Statehood

Proclamation on November 16, 1907, was the most significant action in the history of the State of Oklahoma. The week of November 15th through 21st has been declared 'OKLAHOMA HERITAGE WEEK' in the State of Oklahoma.

All Oklahomans should pause during this time and reflect on our Oklahoma heritage, as well as our national heritage.

Blanchard has the obligation and privilege to play an important role in the observance of this great week!

The Blanchard City Council issued a proclamation declaring the week of November 15th thru the 21st to be 'Oklahoma Heritage Week' in Blanchard and encourages all citizens, families, clubs, churches, business organizations and schools in Blanchard to give personal attention to all special Statehood Day observances, to fly the State Flag and the National Colors, to participate in and help sponsor programs, projects, and activities emphasizing the heritage of our great State.

§ November 11th as 'Veterans Day' all in Blanchard, USA.

§ The week of November 15th through the 21st as 'Oklahoma Heritage' week;

§ The month of November as 'National American Indian Heritage' month;

§ The month of November as 'American Legion Appreciation' month.

PumpkinFest



Are you ready for a real
SPOOKY GOOD TIME?

The City's annual event will be held on **Saturday, October 31st** from 6pm to

9pm on Main Street.

Activities include:

- Costume Contest (Ages 0-10) (11-18) & (19-over)
- Pet Costume Contest (all pets must be on a leash)
- Free Candy & Refreshments
- Games and Trunk or Treats
- Safe Candy Walk & Music

For more information, please contact Chris Wittenbach at 248.6521 or parks@cityofblanchard.us.

Police Blotter

Jail Activity Report for:

10/24 ~ PRICE-KILBRIDE, Alexander arrested on Domestic A&B by Strangulation;

10/26 ~ WHITMORE, Kenna arrested on Warrants;

10/26 ~ GLOCK, Douglas arrested on A&B, Obstruction, Resisting Arrest.

Proclamations

The City Council issued four (4) proclamations at their special meeting on October 29th. They proclaimed in Blanchard:

Senior Citizens Notice

Curbside pickup and home deliveries will continue for the Blanchard Senior Citizens Center. The dining area will reopen with a limited occupancy of 12, so

RESERVATION ONLY. However, diners will follow safety protocols of social distancing and wearing masks when appropriate. All other activities (exercise, bingo, dominos, etc.) are still on hold until further notice.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge in the City's daily nutrition program. 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 between 8am to Noon the day prior to reserving your meal, if you would like to be considered for a home delivered meal the next day. Please be advised, the home delivery will begin the next business day.

Shop Local

Christmas season is rapidly approaching. Here's what happens when you "shop local."

1. More of your money will be kept in the Blanchard economy: For every \$100 you spend at a locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in Blanchard. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community.*

2. You embrace what makes Blanchard unique: You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So

why would you want your community to look that way?

3. You create local jobs: Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4. You help the environment: Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. You nurture community: Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. You conserve your tax dollars: Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify the community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong in Blanchard!

7. You create more choice: Locally owned businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for their own individual markets.

8. You take advantage of their expertise: You are their friends and

neighbors, and locally owned businesses have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of it?

9. You invested in entrepreneurship:
Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. You made Blanchard a destination:
The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!

**Source: Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.*

Special Events

October:

31st ~ Pumpkin' Fest

31st ~ Halloween

November:

1st ~ Daylite Saving Time Ends

3rd ~ Election Day

7th ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony

7th ~ Veterans Day Parade

11th ~ Veterans Day

15th ~ America Recycles Day

21st ~ AYCE Breakfast

26th ~ Thanksgiving Day

27th ~ Thanksgiving Day After

Storm Debris Removal

The City appreciates everyone's patience during this natural disaster that has plagued forty-seven (47) counties in Oklahoma.

The Governor has issued a Disaster Declaration for the storm for these 47 counties which include McClain and Grady Counties.

A request has been submitted to FEMA for a federal declaration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA has notified the State they will conduct virtual PA Preliminary Damage Assessments instead of using in-person teams. This means they are relying on cities, towns and counties to do the on-ground assessments. Once FEMA provides the details of how this process will work we will share them with you.

If the federal declaration is approved, the City is required to follow FEMA guidelines to include the following:

- Preliminary Damage Assessments;
- Estimating Damage;
- DEQ Permits;
- Contracting (we must follow the most restrictive requirements;
- Damage Inventory; and
- Donated Resources;

To date, the City is removing storm debris from roadways covering 34 square miles for safe travel. With the assistance of the Oklahoma Department

of Environmental Quality, we have filed an application for staging, disposal and burning of trees, limbs and other vegetative plants damaged by the ice storm on city owned property.

We met with and will join in with McClain County for the coordination and administration of the storm damages.

While awaiting the approvals from DEQ and FEMA, we will be working on the above outlined requirements.

More information will be in the November utility bills.

Utility Bills

The City's utility bills will be mailed late due to the ice storm.

The State of Oklahoma's Central Printing located on NE 36th Street was closed this week due to no electricity. They plan on printing and mailing the Blanchard Utility Bills starting on Monday. We apologize for any inconvenience!

Veterans Day Parade



Plans are under way for the annual Veterans Day Parade. So grab a flag and come to the Historic Downtown Blanchard to honor

those who have served or serves our country.

One of the best Veteran's parade in Oklahoma is sponsored by the Blanchard Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Blanchard American Legion and the City of Blanchard.

This year's Parade will be **Saturday, November 7th at 10:30am**. The Parade Marshal is Walter Crews (a Korean War Naval veteran).

Parade Entry Forms are available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Veterans Day

Known as Armistice Day, commemorating the signing of the agreement that ended World War I at 11:00am, on November 11, 1918, this federal holiday was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 by Congress. At that time, it became a day to honor all the men and women who have served in the armed forces of the United States. Each year, special ceremonies are held around the nation honoring our Veterans. Please consider spending some time on-line learning more about our nation's true HEROES [the American Veteran] who have served our country!



2020 General Election
Tuesday (November 3rd)



The Precinct Polls are open from **7am to 7pm.**