

After-Hours Incidents

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 [below](http://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts) at <http://blanchardok.pt7.civic-cms.com/.../pa.../emergency-alerts>.

Blanchard's Bluegrass Festival

Plans for the City's 10th annual Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for **Friday, August 21st** from 6pm to 10pm and **Saturday, August 22nd** from 3pm to 10pm.

- Activities will include:
- * Friday Gospel Night;
 - * Saturday is traditional Bluegrass;
 - * Food;
 - * Vendors;
 - * Featuring live music by:
The Horn Family
H&W Bluegrass Express
Genetic Connection

Honey Creek Pass
Southbound Mule
Pearlgrace & Co
Graystone Bluegrass Revival
The Russell Clan; and
* FREE Entry.



The City is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following position as a Part-Time Cook at the Senior Citizens Center for a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours per week at \$10.06 per hour plus benefits.

Position is open until filled, but the first review of applicants will occur on or before August 1, 2020.

An application can be downloaded from the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us. Please return to City Hall, 122 North Main, Blanchard, OK 73010 or mail to City Hall, P.O. Box 480, Blanchard, OK 73010.

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interim Studies

Both the Oklahoma Speaker of the House Charles McCall and Oklahoma Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat approved respective interim studies submitted by Representative David Perryman, Representative Brad Boles, Representative Cynthia Roe and Representative Sherrie Conley and Senator Paul Scott.

The House interim study will "examine options for cities and towns to secure funding to construct/repair/maintain roads and bridges that are impacted by the Energy Industry."

Senator Scott's interim study will focus on "Roads and Bridges: to determine funding for maintaining and improving city and county roads."

Currently, cities and towns in Oklahoma receive zero dollars from the Oklahoma Gross Production Tax proceeds.

These studies will start August 4th and be completed on or before October 29th.

Mandatory Water Restrictions

Due to an increase in water usage, Blanchard citizens are experiencing low water pressure and/or NO water at all.

Blanchard and Central Oklahoma is in a dry to moderate drought due to the extreme lack of rain in June. The City is experiencing a massive increase in water usage (over 31,000,000 gallons

purchased from OKC). This increase has had a negative impact on our system's water pressure.

Therefore, a mandatory odd/even watering (Stage 1) has been implemented and will stay in effect until further notice.

Meeting Calendar

July 28th ~ Traffic Court

July 28th ~ City Council

July 28th ~ BMIA

National Airborne Day

August 16th is a day designated by the United States Congress to honor the nation's airborne units of the armed forces. It was created in 2001 by President George W. Bush. August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the



innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many

others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 82nd Airborne Division, "America's Guard of Honor," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.

28th following the City Council meeting beginning at 6:00p.m. to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following items:

- Water Improvements;
- Sewer Improvements;
- Real Estate Contract Extension;
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Consent Agenda.

The complete Agenda with backup can be viewed on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th, 2020 at 6pm or immediately following the City Council meeting.

On the Council Agenda



The Blanchard City Council will hold their July monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00p.m. to discuss, consider and take

appropriate action on the following items:

- FYE2021 Contract Renewals;
- City Attorney Agreement;
- DEQ Applications;
- Social Media Policy Resolution;
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA);
- Fire Station Change Order No.1;
- Consent Agenda; and
- Executive Session.

On the BMIA Agenda



The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Improvement Authority will hold their July monthly meeting on Tuesday, July

The complete Agenda with backup can be viewed on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th, 2020 at 6pm.

Permits Required

Residents may experience an increase in door-to-door sales associates. If you do encounter a solicitor at your door, they are required to have a permit from the City of Blanchard. These permits are required because they allow the City to perform background checks on applicants, which then allows the City to approve or deny the permit request. Not only are solicitors required to carry the permit on them at all times, they are also restricted to go door-to-door from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Residents who wish to have no interaction with solicitors are asked to display "No Solicitation Allowed" or "No Peddlers Allowed" sign that can be easily visible. If you suspect that a person in your neighborhood is soliciting without a permit, please call the Blanchard Police Department at 405.485.9391.

Pet Care

IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOU, IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR PET!

Keep your pets safe and cool in the summer by remembering that if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Bring pets inside when it's hot, and provide them with plenty of shade and fresh water when they're outside. Walk your pets at cooler times of the day and never leave an animal in a car. Contact Animal Control at 405-485-9392 if you see an animal in distress.

Police Blotter

Jail activity:

7.19 ~ AUSMUS, Joshua arrested on Outstanding Warrants;

7.19 ~ HENDERSON, Rhonda arrested on Outstanding Warrants;

7.23 ~ SOUTHWORTH, Seth arrested on attempted Burglary, and Loss of Burglary Tools.

Primary Run-off Election



Exercise Your Constitutional Right! PLEASE VOTE! on Tuesday, August 25th. The state of Oklahoma will conduct its primary

run-off election for candidates seeking to represent their respective parties in the General Election which will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Road Repairs

City crews will remove concrete on Main Street just north of 10th Street beginning Friday, July 31st, in order for the contractor (Precision Contracting) to repour on Tuesday, August 4th.

That portion of Main Street will be ready to be reopened and drivable on the 6th.

Please make arrangements to avoid this area while construction begins as that portion of Main Street from 10th Street north to Summerfield which will be closed to thru traffic.

Other repairs of concrete streets will be planned accordingly without shutting down thru lanes.

Saltwater Injection Well

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on a proposed saltwater injection well to be located between US-62 and MacArthur off of 55th Street NE.

The Hearing will be held at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission @ 8:30 am on **Wednesday, July 29th** (1st Floor, Jim Thorpe Building).

The Notice was published in the Blanchard News on Thursday, June 18th & Thursday, June 25th. It provides instructions on filing written protests.

School Begins



The first day of school for Blanchard begins on **Thursday, August 13, 2020.**

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY thru **SCHOOL ZONES** and **IN** and **AROUND SCHOOLS.**

Senior Nutrition

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center is still delivering lunches to area seniors (60 years & older) who are currently on the Center's delivery list and to any other area seniors in need. If you are a senior adult in need who is not already on the delivery list (currently about 50 residents), can call the Center at 485.9260 to be added to the list.

The Center will remain closed until the Pandemic is declared over and all restrictions for vulnerable populations are lifted. Even after restrictions are lifted, new policies for keeping everyone healthy will stay in effect. However, curbside pickup and home delivery will still be provided until then.

LUNCH MENU

(July 27th ~ July 31st)

Monday ~ Enchiladas, Beans, Salad, Chips, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Tetrizzini, Carrots, Peas, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Pork-n-Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Sliced Bread, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Beef Stew, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Ribbette, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Bun, 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 still delivering lunches daily.

Shop Local!

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.*

Splash Pad

The City's splash pad located at Lions Park is closed indefinitely due to water issues.

Tall Grass & Weeds

The City of Blanchard is committed to maintaining clean and attractive residential neighborhoods. To help accomplish this goal, the City of Blanchard has adopted regulations concerning the abatement of tall grass, weeds and trash.

The City of Blanchard Municipal Code concerning public nuisances and property enhancement requires that owners or responsible persons of property located within the municipal city limits are

prohibited from allowing debris, junk, waste or trash to accumulate, or weeds or tall grass over twelve (12") inches in height, dead trees, bushes, and shrubs to grow or stand upon the premises. This regulation is based upon the Oklahoma State Law Title 11, Section 22-111 which sets forth the procedure and definitions for the cleaning and mowing of property.

2020 Election Dates



August 25th ~
Primary Runoff
Election
November 3rd ~
General Election

2020 SALES TAX HOLIDAY



Oklahoma's annual sales tax holiday will begin at **12:01 am on Friday, August 7, 2020** and end at **Twelve Midnight on Sunday, August 9, 2020**. Certain clothing and shoe purchases are exempt from sales tax for this time period only. Qualified items are exempt from state, city, county and local municipal sales taxes.

Retailers are required to participate and may not collect state and local sales

or use tax on most footwear and clothing that are sold for less than \$100 during the holiday.

For more information and answers to common questions on the sales tax holiday, as well as a listing of sales tax exempt items, please refer to the Oklahoma Tax Commission website at www.tax.ok.gov.



Have you filled out your 2020 Census? It's happening now! Do your part to make sure Blanchard is counted. If you misplaced your mailer, you can still complete the questionnaire at my2020census.gov or call (800)330.2020 any time between 6a.m. and 1a.m. It's important to include everyone who was living in your house on April 1, even if they are or were only temporarily living with you. The Census is the once-in-a-decade count of every living person in America. It counts everyone, regardless of citizenship and the government is required by law to protect your personal information.

Experts estimate each person who isn't counted in the census costs our community about \$1,675 in local federal funding per person every year for ten (10) years. This means if only half of the

citizens of Blanchard responded, then we stand to lose \$64,236,250 over the 10 year period.

Please visit my.2020census.gov.

Water Solutions

The City of Blanchard is studying three (3) possible options to add a new water supply to serve Blanchard:

1. Winter Creek Water Supply;
2. Rush Springs Aquifer; and
3. Second line from OKC via City of Newcastle.

In the meantime, the City is under a mandatory odd/even outside watering schedule until further notice.

OKC requires Blanchard to follow an odd/even outdoor watering restriction as part of our agreement in purchasing water from the City of Oklahoma City.