



BASIC/Blanchard Community Center Newsletter

Website: blanchardidaho.net **Facebook:** Blanchard Community Center
January 2024



“Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.”

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Annual Membership Drive is underway; thank you for the timely responses! Individual membership dues are still \$20, couples or family annual dues are \$30. You don't even need a postage stamp to respond, we have a locked Letter Drop box on the outside of the Center's entrance for your convenience. Once your enrollment form is entered in our records and dues deposited, a membership card will be issued with your name and the expiration date of 1-1-2025. If you would like a membership enrollment form, blank copies are available in the Newsletter/Bulletin box at the front of the building.

There are also a few at the Post Office on the Bulletin Board.

SAVE THE DATE

Jan. 9 (Tuesday) BASIC/Community Center Membership meeting 6:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Feb. 10 (Saturday) **Mardi Gras Dinner Party!!** Family Friendly, 5:00-9:00 Food, Music, DJ- Destry Hergert, Prizes! ***Watch for flyers.***

Feb. 12 (Monday) Valentine Country Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Open to all, *donations gratefully accepted*

Feb. 13 (Tuesday) BASIC/Community Center Membership meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!



More interesting facts about Mardi Gras are on the next page.

Plan on attending this delicious and fun event!



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**** A LITTLE MORE ABOUT “MARDI GRAS”**

- *Mardi Gras* is actually French for “Fat Tuesday.” It marks the last day of “Carnival” season – which is characterized by the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the fasting of the Lenten season begins the next day, Ash Wednesday.
- Mardi Gras has its roots in pagan spring holidays like Saturnalia. Once Christianity came to Rome, religious leaders tried to blend pagan traditions with Christian traditions for an easier transition. Despite the tons of parties, decadence, and debauchery that is modern day Mardi Gras with no scriptural ties, the event marks the time after Advent and before Lent.
- It’s hard not to notice that during Mardi Gras everything is decked out in the colors purple, green and gold. They actually mean something! Purple stands for justice. Green stands for faith. Gold stands for power. In 1872 they became the season’s official colors.
- You’ll hear ‘*laissez les bon temps rouler*’ (pronounced *lay-say le bon tom roo-lay*) over and over again at Mardi Gras celebrations. It means “let the good times roll” in Cajun French.
- King Cake takes its name from the Bible’s three kings. And the plastic baby, buried in the cake, stands for baby Jesus. It celebrates Epiphany, a Christian holiday that reflects on the kings visiting Jesus. It is good fortune to find the little plastic baby in your piece of cake!
- Mardi Gras isn’t just a New Orleans thing. Carnival is celebrated throughout the Gulf Coast and internationally in Brazil, Germany, Italy, Colombia, Trinidad, Mexico, and more.
- Pope Gregory XIII made Mardi Gras an official Christian holiday in 1582, but it didn’t make its way to New Orleans until the 17th century.
- It’s illegal to ride on a parade float without wearing a mask. This was a law put in place to break down social barriers and allow everyone participating to associate with whomever they want.

Sources: Wikipedia & Pucker Mob, Author: Dalton Primeaux

CAN’T GO?

This year you will have an opportunity to pre-purchase tickets so that you can pick up the delicious dinner “to go”. Last year’s typical Mardi Gras dinner got rave reviews and this year’s won’t disappoint.

DID YOU KNOW?

The current population of Blanchard, Idaho is **421** based on projections of the latest US Census estimates. As of the 2010 census, its population was **261**.