



BASIC/Blanchard Community Center Newsletter

Website: blanchardidaho.net **Facebook:** Blanchard Community Center
January 2023

“BACK TO BASIC”s

2023 RENEWAL and NEW MEMBER CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

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 1-1-2024. If you would like a membership enrollment form, blank copies are available in the Newsletter/Bulletin box at the front of the building as well as inside. There are also a few at the Post Office on the Bulletin Board.

FREE MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY

During the current inflationary situation with gas, food, and shelter, folks may have to make difficult choices when prioritizing expenditures. Providing assistance to our Blanchard neighbors gives a blessing and an opportunity for us, your Community Center, to serve! While our hearts are big, our resources are not, so we are providing this free Grocery Pantry to our Blanchard residents only. If you are a resident of Blanchard, we want to help with whatever available groceries we can. Please have some sort of proof of your residency so we can help!

SAVE THE DATE!



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(All events are held at the Community Center unless otherwise noted)

- Jan. 9** Country Breakfast brought back by popular demand! One Monday a month in the chill of wintertime. Enjoy a hot breakfast, warm welcoming fellowship, and open to all. 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. *Donations gratefully accepted.*
- Jan. 10** BASIC/Community Center Membership meeting 6:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!
- Jan. 17 & 24** Blanchard Stitchers meet from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. every 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Fun fellowship and always welcoming!
- Jan. 20** Free Monthly Grocery Pantry for Blanchard residents from 11:00 - 1:00. Occurs on the **3rd Friday** of each month at the Center.
- Jan. 21** Grange Pie Auction 2:00 p.m.
- Feb. 4** Valentine's/Winter Card Making Class from 1:00-4:00 Reservations must be received by *Jan. 27* for another fun class. Contact: Holly Stewart at 425-328-6369 or email her at hollystewart@comcast.net.



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Feb. 13 Valentine Country Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Open to all, *donations gratefully accepted*

Feb. 14 BASIC/Community Center Membership meeting, 6:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!

Feb. 17 Free Monthly Grocery Pantry for Blanchard residents from 11:00 - 1:00.

Feb. 21 ** Mardi Gras Dinner Party!! (*Learn more about Mardi Gras below*) Family Friendly, 5:00-9:00 Food, Music, DJ, Prizes! **Watch for flyers about the event.**

Feb. 21 & 28 Blanchard Stitches 10:00-2:00 Pack a lunch.

Mar. 13 St. Patty's Day themed breakfast 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Open to all, *donations gratefully accepted*

Mar. 14 BASIC/Community Center Membership meeting, 6:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome!

Mar. 17 Free Monthly Grocery Pantry for Blanchard residents from 11:00 - 1:00.

Mar. 21 & 28 Blanchard Stitches 10:00-2:00 Pack a lunch.

If you have suggestions/ideas for programs or events, please send them to our email address at: BASICIDAHO@GMAIL.COM or drop a note in the locked letter box at the front of the Community Center.

**** 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 the Christian faith. 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!



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- 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



Even the Trees are decorated!

