



BASIC/Blanchard Community Center Newsletter

Website: blanchardidaho.net

Facebook: [Blanchard Community Center](#)

March 2023

MARDI GRAS

Even with snow, ice, and freezing temperatures, nothing hindered the successful Mardi Gras party. The Blanchard Community Center was alive with music, dancing, laughter, and good food on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at this celebration! The attendees represented all ages including over 30 folks from the former Out of the Woods cast and mentors. The night's menu included "gently seasoned" Cajun jambalaya (made with over 20 lbs of shrimp), rice and beans, chicken gumbo, homemade rolls with honey, and for dessert, King Cake, another tradition of Mardi Gras.

The talented DJ, Destry Hergert, played music that got everyone up dancing; prizes were awarded for best costumes and raffle prizes were drawn. Costume award winners were: 1st place for her shimmering red dress, purple hair and loads of "bling" was the talented and lovely, Gayle Williams; 2nd place went to Sophie Epps and 3rd place went to Wayne Cadd.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY AND A COMMUNITY CENTER?

A community is a group of people who share something in common. You can define a community by the shared attributes of the people in it and/or by the strength of the connections among them. You need a bunch of people who are alike in some way, who feel some sense of belonging or interpersonal connection.

Who are we, the residents of southwest Bonner County? Some are “old-timers” who may think the influx of people has changed our region forever. Some are “newcomers” hoping to find something different and, perhaps, better than what they left behind. Some are “the young folks” who may yearn for the hustle and bustle of larger city life. Some may be families with children who are in the dilemma of educating their children at home or sending them to public schools. Some may be retirees who are wondering when they found time to work.

In any case, we share living here in common and desiring to be part of something good. There are plenty of distractions for all, like making a living, making ends meet, facing the 4 seasons, special interests, hobbies, childcare, education, outdoor activities, etc.

So, how is a Community Center important? It is a place where people of all ages can gather for group activities, social support, public information, as well as foster feelings of community and civic pride. It is also a central location for shelter in a declared emergency.

We don't share everything in common, but we do share many things in common. Your Blanchard Community Center is trying to tap into various interests that may connect us to each other. Some of you have the specific talent to help outline or plan an event! That doesn't mean you are helping every day; it means you can help infuse new ideas for specific events. For example, how can you help with: Halloween Trunk 'r Treat this year, a Fall Chili Cook-Off, a summer Community Yard Sale in the parking lot, a BBQ Rib Cook-off competition, the summertime kids' craft sessions, a Scholarship luncheon celebrating our scholars? Or, for added fellowship in your life, how about joining in on some of the Country Breakfasts, the Blanchard Stitchers, the Craft Fairs, or for you hunters, the Gun Shows? Please consider contributing your time and talent for others with your common interests.

Check out our website for upcoming activities and events, <https://www.blanchardidaho.net/blanchard-activities>.

