



February 2023

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

A monthly newsletter from the Ada County Board of Commissioners

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the Ada County Board of Commissioners. We are happy to share with you information on significant news and events happening in Ada County.

Tom Dayley - Commissioner
Rod Beck - Board Chairman
Ryan Davidson - Commissioner



PUBLIC HEARING ON PETITION TO DISSOLVE THE MERIDIAN LIBRARY DISTRICT



March 20, 2023 - 6:00 PM
1st Floor Public Hearing Room
Ada County Courthouse
200 W. Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Watch LIVE

<https://www.youtube.com/@adacountyidaho7995/streams>

You can also send your comments to the Ada County Board of Commissioners:

bocc1@adacounty.id.gov

Be sure to check the Ada County home page for additional information on the public hearing including the amount of time each person will be given to testify and what prompted the group Concerned Citizens of Meridian to file the petition.

www.adacounty.id.gov/

ADA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE TOUR WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

By Nick Kochergin, Ada County Communications

To lead at the highest level, elected officials in Ada County need a comprehensive understanding of how all county departments and offices function together to support the residents who live in our communities.



Ada County Commissioner Tom Dayley and Ada County Assessor Rebecca Arnold were elected to their offices in November of last year. As part of their ongoing series of tours around the county, Dayley and Arnold visited the Public Defender's Office in February. The tour was led by Ada County's Chief Public Defender Anthony Geddes. The legal staff in the PD's office have an incredibly important job. You've heard the line on TV shows like Law & Order – "If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you." These are the folks who will fight on your behalf regardless of your financial status.



L-R Ada County Chief Public Defender Anthony Geddes, Ada Commissioner Tom Dayley, Ada County Assessor Rebecca Arnold, and Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson

Public Defender's Office Facts:

- Staffed with 74 attorneys and 26 support staff, including eight investigators and two social workers.
- Eight attorneys are on the Capital Defense Roster. That means they are qualified to represent individuals facing the death penalty.
- The Ada County Public Defender's Office has performed 141 felony jury trials and processed nearly 15,000 overall cases in the last twelve months.
- Even after a conviction, the Public Defender's Office works to help their clients; PD staff follow up with their clients with information on the services in the community that can help individuals be successful on probation – one of many ways to reduce recidivism rates.

Through a careful fusion of work, dedication and focus, the Public Defender's Office offers a pathway to collective justice to the people of Ada County and the justice system throughout the state of Idaho.

Learn more about the Public Defender's Office <https://adacounty.id.gov/publicdefender/>

ADA COUNTY GOVERNMENT



In addition to elected offices, Ada County government includes eleven individual departments. Each department provides important services to our residents in Star, Eagle, Meridian, Boise,

Garden City, Kuna, and Unincorporated Ada County.

These services include law enforcement protection, emergency preparedness, election services, parks and waterways, public defense, indigent services, juvenile court, solid waste management, the Western Idaho Fair, Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement and more.

Learn more about the services provided to you by Ada County

<https://adacounty.id.gov/>

COMMISSIONERS TOUR FACES FACILITY IN DOWNTOWN BOISE

There are so many programs in Ada County developed and maintained to provide essential services to our community. One such service is the Faces of Hope Victim Center. The Faces facility in Downtown Boise offers assistance and resources to those affected by interpersonal violence. It is a one stop triage and support center for those who are grappling with the profound effects of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Ada County Prosecutor Jan Bennetts gave a tour of the facility to Commissioners Ryan Davidson and Tom Dayley in February. The tour provided insight into the services and programs Faces offers to the community. The center was established in 2006 and sees on average 24 people a day.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call 208-577-4400 or visit <https://www.facesofhopevictimcenter.org/>



COMMISSIONER DAYLEY TOURS ADA COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES



Ada County Commissioner Tom Dayley toured the Ada County Juvenile Services facility in Boise with Juvenile Services Director Alison Tate and Detention Manager Jessica Barawed in February. Commissioner Dayley was briefed on

how youngsters are kept out of the system first, and managed with care and compassion if they do require time in the facility. The misguided days of 'scared straight' and other programs that focused on fear, and harsh punishment no longer apply here. For children who are experiencing life challenges, solid research now shows there are better ways to help them get, and stay, on the right track. One key is remembering these are children whose brains are still developing even into their early 20s.



To learn more about the facility and how youth and families are being served visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/juvenilecourt/>

ADA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ATTEND IDAHO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE

There are 44 counties and five federally recognized tribes in Idaho. Each county and tribe has different challenges and issues to navigate.



That's why the annual [Idaho Association of Counties](#) (IAC) Midwinter Legislative Conference is so important. The IAC conference allows county and tribal leaders from around our diverse state to meet and discuss emerging issues,

programs and initiatives important to the folks back home.

Not surprisingly rapidly rising property taxes were a major topic of discussion at the general session – not just for Ada County but also counties across the state whose residents are grappling with how to pay higher property taxes and at the same time manage their expenses with inflationary challenges.

Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Chairman Rod Beck and Commissioner Tom Dayley attended the three day conference in February, along with other Ada County elected officials



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Ada County employee exemplifies outstanding public service

[Ada County](#) has amazing employees! Some of them are actually “Perfect.” Case in point, Mark Perfect who was recognized in February by Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Chairman Rod Beck and Commissioner Tom Dayley for his 25 years of outstanding public service.

Thank you Mark for your dedication to the residents of Ada County! Thank you for your professionalism and knowledge! You are so appreciated!

Mark was grateful that his [Ada County Development Services](#) co-workers were on hand to help him celebrate!





Do you know anyone who could qualify for property tax relief?

Did you know that these programs exist?

All of the listed programs, with the exception of the Homestead Exemption, must be applied for each year with the County Assessor's Office.

Homestead Exemption

Available to those who own and occupy their home as their primary residence, and make application prior to December 31, to the Assessor's Office to qualify for that specific tax year.

Property Tax Deferral Program

This program defers the taxes on the home and up to one acre of land for qualified applicants. The deferred taxes become a lien on the property and have to be repaid to the State of Idaho. The applicant must meet one of the requirements of the Property Tax Reduction Program and have a combined income of \$53,638 or less for 2022.

Property Tax Reduction

Available to those who own and occupy their home as their primary residence by April 18, 2023 and meet one of the following qualifying statuses below:

- Over the age of 65
- Widow(er) of any age (not remarried)
- Legally blind (any age)
- Disabled through Social Security, Railroad or VA
- Former POW/Hostage
- Fatherless or motherless child under the age of 18

Income for this program cannot exceed \$33,870 after deducting unreimbursed medical expenses and the property must have a Homestead Exemption in place.

Veterans Property Tax Reduction

Available to those that meet the following:

- Applicant is recognized as 100% service-connected disabled or receive 100% compensation due to individual unemployability by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as of January 1, 2023
- Owned and lived in your primary residence before April 18, 2023
- Property must have a Homestead Exemption



For more information, please contact the Ada County Assessor's office **208-287-7200**.

ATTENTION SENIORS – YOU GET A TRASH BILLING PRICE BREAK

**Are your trash services provided by Hardin Sanitation?
Are you over 65?**

If so, you are eligible for a reduced trash pickup rate!

Remember, you must live outside the city limits and you'll need to show proof of your age. Take advantage of this benefit for Ada County residents!

Proof of age can be submitted by email to: acbs@adacounty.id.gov or by mail to:

**Ada County Trash Billing
PO Box 2780
Boise, ID 83701**

Please reference your six-digit trash account number or your property address to ensure proper processing of your discounted service.



COMING UP!

You can watch the Ada County Board of Commissioner's weekly Open Business Meeting on YouTube.

WATCH NOW

Want to see what's on the Agenda?

LEARN MORE

Make sure you're following us on



NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

