

February 2024

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 information on significant news and events in Ada County.

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



NEW ADA COUNTY TREATMENT COURT CENTER TO OPEN SOON

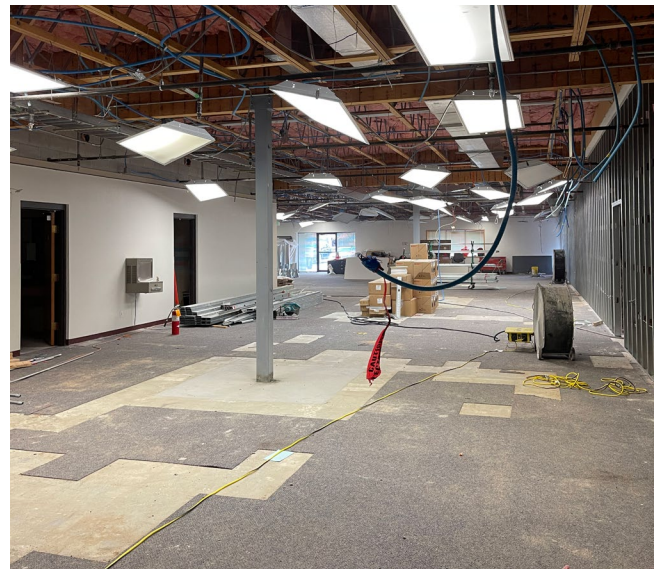
New facility is double the size of the current location and centrally located just off I-84

When the Ada County Treatment Court Center on Benjamin Lane in Boise first opened in 2010 Ada County's population was 393,000. Today, Ada County's population is more than 512,000. A lot has happened in those fourteen years including the need for additional space to accommodate a



growing population. The current treatment center has just over eleven thousand square feet of usable space but come July that will all change. That's when the new Ada County Treatment Services Center (ACTS) opens.

The new 20,440 square foot facility on Elder Street near the Boise Airport will house 33 offices, 13 group rooms, four urinalysis (UA) bathrooms, one conference room and ample storage space. Additionally, the facility will have approximately 105 parking spaces.





Drug Court itself still happens at the Ada County Courthouse but the essential treatment services will be provided at the Elder Street facility. Ada County Commissioners Ryan Davidson, Chairman Rod Beck, and Tom Dayley toured the facility in February along with Trial Court Administrator Sandra Barrios, Treatment Courts District Manager Marreen Baker Burton and Ada County Operations staff.

“This is a massive improvement,” said Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson. “Our previous space was cramped and inconvenient. This will be a huge improvement taxpayers will be proud of.”

ADA COUNTY TREATMENT COURTS COUNSELORS AND CASE MANAGERS RECOGNIZED

Counselors and case managers who are part of the Ada County Treatment Courts were recognized during the Ada County Commission’s Open Business Meeting February 6th. Treatment Courts are a voluntary, court-supervised, intensive outpatient treatment program for substance dependent defendants. Individuals who are in in these programs participate in individual and group counseling provided by licensed or certified drug and alcohol counselors.

Ada County’s counselors and case managers are dedicated professionals providing individual counseling, group counseling and other services to about 276 participants in the drug courts. In these positions they change peoples’ lives. Counselors help high-need, and high-risk participants to understand their situation, address trauma, develop self-awareness, self-worth and learn skills to live a productive and drug free life.

There are 14 counselors, two case managers and one clinical supervisor who work for Ada County,

some of them have been with us for almost 15 years while others were recently hired. These professionals dedicate their all to make our community stronger by helping participants to turn their lives around.

Thank you for changing the trajectory of so many lives – both individuals and their families. Thank you for the work you do to restore hope and purpose.



You’ve heard a lot about Drug Court and the treatment services provided through the program but who are the people who utilize this service? How is this program affecting and improving lives? Check out this video that profiles a recent Drug Court graduate.

[Watch video](#)



ADA COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES CENTER HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Trina Allen's career demonstrates her heart for service. Allen is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). She worked for the last six years as a clinician at St. Luke's Children at Risk Evaluation Services (CARES). CARES consists of specially trained professionals who

provide developmentally appropriate evaluation, treatment, and support for children. CARES is located inside the Ada County Victim Services Center and has been since 2006.

"For nearly two decades, the center has been an essential part our community, providing wraparound services, collaboration, and hope to victims of abuse. It's my privilege to join such an amazing group of people who share the same passion of helping others as I do," said Executive Director Trina Allen.

Since 2000, Ms. Allen has worked in the Treasure Valley in numerous capacities helping children and families through direct services, including as a therapist, juvenile probation officer, a family preservation specialist, and as an adjunct instructor for Northwest Nazarene University. Trina comes to the county with a strong understanding

of multiple systems and prides herself in being person centered.

"Trina's experience and reputation in the community will ensure the mission of the victim center remains. She understands both the roles each partner plays in the success of the center, and the needs of those who seek services at the center," said Ada County Prosecutor Jan Bennetts. "I'm confident Trina will shine in this position."

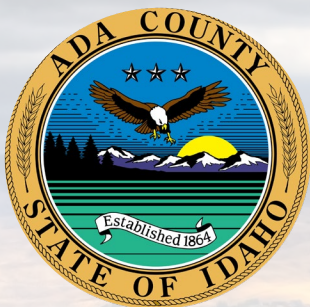
The Ada County Victim Services Center at 417 South 6th Street was created in 2006 to provide wraparound services in one location for individuals experiencing domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking or human trafficking. For the past 18 years, local law enforcement, healthcare providers, and many other partners have seamlessly provided services at the facility.

"I'm excited to see Ms. Allen take on the leadership role at the Ada County Victim Services Center," said Ada County Commission Chairman Rod Beck. "I believe her talents will allow the center to continue being a success and vital resource for our community when they need it most."

If you or someone you know experiences interpersonal violence WALK-IN to the facility 24/7 at 417 South 6th Street, Boise, Idaho 83702 or call for help 208-577-4400.

Visit this link at www.adacountyvictimcenter.org for more information.

ADA COUNTY GOVERNMENT



In addition to elected offices, Ada County government includes thirteen 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

www.adacounty.id.gov/

ADA COUNTY'S LANDFILL DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT LOCAL FORUM ON EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

The growing challenges faced by communities calls for innovative solutions.

If you've lived in Ada County for any amount of time you know it is growing fast. People from all over the country are moving here in record numbers. With the growth comes a significant increase in solid and liquid waste. So how do communities manage that? Ada County Landfill Director Herb Cantu shared his expertise on waste management February 27th at a forum hosted by the University of Idaho's Policy Pub.

"One of the recommendations I make to agencies and jurisdictions as they embark on solid waste recycling programs is to evaluate the entire life cycle and total carbon intensity of conceived projects," said Ada County Landfill Director Herb Cantu. "This ensures their actions or programs do not negatively impact the community and our environment."

The discussion event was organized by U of I's [James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research](#). Panelists from local government agencies and local businesses shared perspectives on agriculture and food waste, solid waste and landfills, and wastewater and water reuse.



Panelists L-R Moderator – Katherine Himes, McClure Center Director, Haley Falconer, Environmental Division Senior Manager City of Boise Public Works, Devin Rindlisbacher, Production Manager Owyhee Produce and Ada County Landfill Director, Herb Cantu.



In January, we told you about Ada County's new cash counting machines.

The cash counters provide an efficient way to maintain accuracy and reduce fraud – AKA counterfeit bills.

As you can imagine these machines are a life saver at county locations that deal with cash. The Ada County Treasurer's Office delivered the last cash counting machine of our new inventory to the Ada County Sheriff's Office in February.

Ada County obtained the additional machines through banking credits, not department budgets. These additional machines are now incorporated into the cash handling procedures at the Sheriff's Office, DMV locations, EXPO Idaho and the Western Idaho Fair.

Pictured L-R Ada County Sheriff's Director of Administrative Services Bureau Kelli Bolicek, Budget/Finance Officer Michael Blomstrom, Chief Deputy Sheriff Justin Dusseau, Ada County Treasurer Elizabeth Mahn, Banking & Finance Manager Robert Brown, and Banking Analyst Mercy Clarkson



EMILY CHILD - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Emily Child is celebrating 20 years of dedicated service to Ada County! After graduating from Boise State University and working at the Idaho State Law Library, Emily began her career with Ada County in 2004. Emily was originally assigned to the Probate/Guardianship Unit, and then moved up to District Court where she was mentored by Judge Wetherell and his clerk. Emily is currently assigned as an In-Court Clerk for District Court Judge, Jonathan Medema. Prior to her assignment with Judge Medema, she also

worked with District Court Judges Steven Hippler, and Cynthia Yee-Wallace.

In addition to her many years of customary in-court duties, Emily clerked for Ada County's Mental Health Court for seven years. For her outstanding efforts and service in this arena, Emily received the Michael R. McLaughlin Founder's Award.

We look forward to another 20 years with Emily!



Pictured L-R: Cheryl EauClaire, Shannon Holstine , Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Emily Child, Commissioner Tom Dayley, Ada County Clerk Trent Tripple, Pamela Bourne, and Santiago Barrios in front

JONI SWIFT - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joni Swift started working full time at Ada County Juvenile Services on February 22, 1999. Joni worked in Victim Mediation and as a Detention Officer before starting work as a Juvenile Probation Officer in June of 1999. Joni has worked in several different areas, including time in the Female Unit, Drug Court, Court Investigations, High Risk Unit, as the EM (Electronic Monitoring) Officer and as a Field Training Officer for new employees.

Joni is a POST Certified JPO and is certified in Appropriate Use of Force, ARCON and O.C. Joni has been trained in EPICS, LEAP, Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused, as well as Graduated Responses and she has attended many trainings over the years to further her knowledge of working with at-risk youth. Joni is a POST Certified Instructor in Breathalyzer Training, and she has taught various classes at POST including Addictions, Cultural Diversity, Suicide Prevention in Detention, and this year will be teaching Case Management. Joni is currently the President of the Idaho Juvenile Justice Association.



Pictured L-R: Ada County Commissioner Tom Dayley, Probation Division Manager Lael Hansen, Juvenile Services Director Alison Tate, Joni Swift, Chairman Rod Beck and Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson

KEVIN JESSEE - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kevin Jessee has dedicated 25 years of service to Ada County with Juvenile Services at the detention facility. Initially involved in a contracted program for youth in the custody of the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, he later transitioned to working directly with the general population youth at the juvenile facility. In his roles as Detention Officer and Assistant Supervisor, Kevin has been a consistent presence on the day shift, providing stability and leadership. Over the years, Kevin has demonstrated a wonderful ability to balance being firm, kind, and supportive in his interactions with the youth during emotionally charged interactions, which results in a positive response from youth.

Kevin has experience as a certified POST instructor, teaching verbal de-escalation techniques and effective communication strategies. He's also played a role in training new Juvenile Detention Officers, contributing to the development of scenarios and practical exercises at the juvenile detention academy.



RICHARD MAHER - 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Richard Maher has dedicated 25 years of service to Ada County. Over Richard's 25-year tenure with Ada County Juvenile Services, he has worked in numerous positions throughout the detention facility including night shift, day shift, Assistant Supervisor, Supervisor, and his current position as Assistant Detention Manager. Richard excels at being flexible and stepping up when "other duties as assigned" situations present themselves.

Richard is a POST certified instructor, Master Instructor for Appropriate Use of Force and has played a key role in developing the curriculum used for the POST Juvenile Detention Academy. Richard is our go to historian for all things juvenile detention and provides invaluable information any time we need to understand the past development of our current operations. Richard can add humor to any situation no matter how big or small, which often leads to staff seeking him out to process unique situations that arise in the juvenile detention setting.

Thank you for your service to Ada County Richard!



Thank you to Boise State University Adjunct Professor Audrey Dutton's Reporting Public Affairs class for visiting Ada County's Communications Department. The group shared their career objectives following graduation and learned about the role of Public Information Officers in state, county, and municipal government.

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?

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