

May 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



## ADA COUNTY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS BEGIN JUNE 10TH

Every June, Ada County Elected Officials and Department Heads come before the Ada County Commissioners to present their budgets. The county's fiscal year begins October 1st of each year. The budget is adopted in August. You are encouraged to provide input June 12th or July 30th.

Developing a budget that is lean, but also covers critically important services you count on, is a delicate balancing act. State Law in Idaho requires that each county provide a wide variety of services and programs. In Ada County that includes the Ada County Jail, the Ada County Sheriff's Office, the Ada County Landfill, the courts and legal services, DMV services, elections, weed and pest abatement, and much more. While these services benefit our rapidly growing community, tough decisions are sometimes required in order to provide them at a cost that is fair to taxpayers. Our objective is to provide these services in the most efficient and fiscally responsible way possible, all while providing outstanding customer service.

That's why we encourage you to watch the annual Ada County Budget Presentations. The more you know about how county government operates the greater potential for influencing or changing things you don't like and supporting programs and initiatives you do like.

The [Ada County Budget presentations are streamed live](#), and we encourage you to listen to what each office and department has done, is doing, and plans to do in the future. These are guardians of taxpayer dollars who take their responsibility very seriously. We hope you'll take a moment to hear what is being done on your behalf.

A graphic for the FY25 Budget Presentations. It features the text "FY25 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS" in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below this, it says "Budget Presentations of Ada County Offices &amp; Departments" in white text. At the bottom, there is a small version of the Ada County Seal. The background is dark blue with faint charts and graphs.

**A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS SCHEDULED FOR  
JUNE 12, 2024  
5:00 – 6:00 PM**

# PROPOSED UTILITY SCALE SOLAR FARM BRINGS HOURS OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FROM NEIGHBORS AND OTHERS

Interested parties, nearby resident and others packed the house at the May 8th [Ada County Commissioners](#) public hearing on a conditional use permit for a proposed utility scale solar farm. The property in question is located east of S. Can Ada Rd. and north of W. Kuna Cave Rd and is approximately 1419 acres.



The applicant is Powers Butte Energy Center - a subsidiary of Savion LLC.

All but two people, of the dozens

signed up to speak, opposed the industrial solar farm. Many of those speaking owned farmland in the area. One common theme in the testimony was the importance of preserving the land, the habitat and the community's unique character as a whole.

Public testimony ended at 10:00 PM with Chairman Rod Beck requesting time at an upcoming public hearing where those who showed up to testify Wednesday night would have that opportunity.

The next round of testimony on the solar farm, and rebuttal from the applicant will take place July 10, 2024.

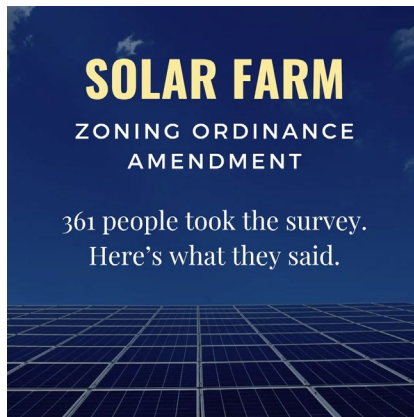
This is the first available date - as every other Wednesday night public hearing has a booked agenda.

You can watch the hearing on the Ada County YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmREyet73vxhBFCffWCIEKA>

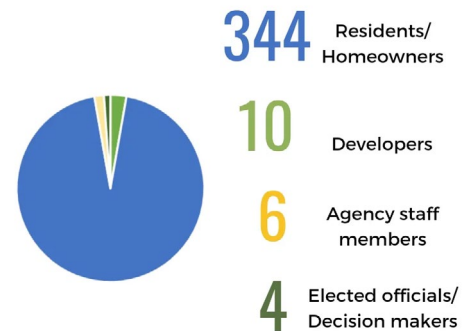
Want to use the [Ada County Development Services](#) application tracker? It's a great tool!

[https://gisprod.adacounty.id.gov/apps/application\\_tracker/](https://gisprod.adacounty.id.gov/apps/application_tracker/)

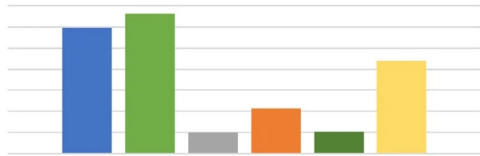
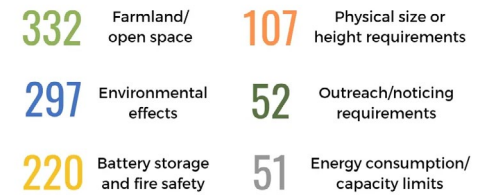


## Check out the results of our Ada County Development Services Survey:

### Who took the survey?



### What are the primary concerns?



### Other comments received

Those supportive of the ordinance noted:

- Solar farms are preferable to residential development
- They are glad to see the county being proactive in addressing this type of development
- The draft ordinance would help address demand and aid grid reliability
- The safety of these technologies in comparison to other energy sources

Primary concerns seem to be:

- Preserving farm/agricultural land
- Decommissioning regulations and environmental impacts
- Increasing noticing requirements
- Keeping the energy generated in Idaho
- Conditions of approval require plans for mitigation; some would like to see increased enforcement of these plans

## CHAIRMAN BECK SPEAKS AT DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB



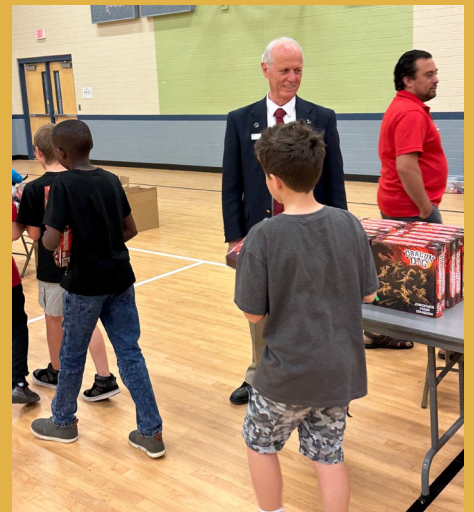
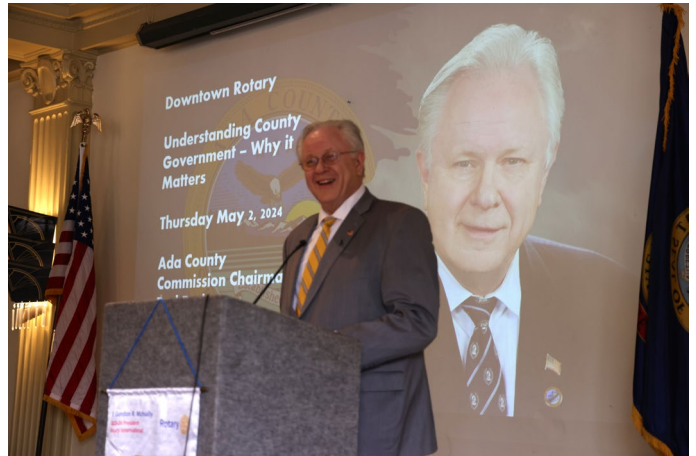
Thank you to the Boise Downtown Rotary Club for inviting Ada County Commission Chairman Rod Beck to speak at a recent luncheon. The subject was “Understanding County Government. Why It Matters.”



The more you know about how county government operates the greater potential for influencing or changing things you don't like and supporting programs and initiatives you **do** like.

People are busy and we don't expect everyone to be experts on which government entity does what. But you do need a basic understanding. If you want to learn more about the difference between what cities do and what counties do - check out our home page.

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



### Some community events just make you feel really good!

[Ada County](#) Commissioner Tom Dayley joined in with The United States Marines and Toys For Tots for the ‘Unplug and Play’ program to give toys to children at Reed Elementary in Kuna, Idaho. It was a big success! More than 700 children received over 2000 toys in the annual event which is meant to encourage children to unplug from electronics and play!

# ADA COUNTY CELEBRATES EMS WEEK

When you or someone you know is having a health emergency in Ada County, or if you're in an accident and someone calls 911, the frontline people who immediately rush to your aid are [Ada County Paramedics](#). The people who work at Ada County Paramedics are your lifeline when you need it. That's why Ada County recognizes EMS Week each year. It's our way of saying 'thank you!'

Ada County Paramedics employs 156 people (138 of whom are licensed medical providers) and has 17 substations spread throughout the county.

If you'd like to learn more about Ada County Paramedics and the programs offered check out their home page

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



**WORK WITH US**  
**ADA COUNTY CAREERS**  
A Great Place To Work  
Competitive Pay & Benefits

[www.adacounty.id.gov/human-resources/](https://adacounty.id.gov/human-resources/)

The banner features a scenic background of a river flowing through a valley with mountains in the distance. The Ada County seal is positioned in the bottom left corner, and the recruitment text is centered in the upper half.

**Learn More about Career Opportunities and Ada County's Benefits Package**

<https://adacounty.id.gov/human-resources/>

# ADA COUNTY UNVEILS REMODELED JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY RECREATION SPACE

For vulnerable youth struggling with behavioral health concerns, access to fresh air and exercise is critically important.

That's why it was especially meaningful in May when Ada County unveiled a revamped Juvenile Detention Facility Recreation Space.

Ada County Commission Chairman Rod Beck along with Commissioners Tom Dayley and Ryan Davidson, and Ada County Juvenile Services Director Alison Tate did the honors.



The new recreation space will provide safe, secure, multi-season opportunities for outdoor recreation to benefit the physical and mental health of youth and staff. The area has a large sport court with regulation-height basketball hoops and an easily accessible green space. Overhead screens keep the space open and airy while providing shade and protecting the privacy of youth and staff.



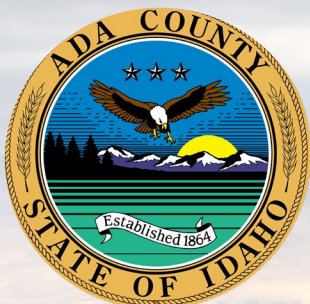
When the county received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for certain projects including improvements at the jail and detention center, the recreation space was identified as a top priority.



Thank you to Juvenile Services leadership and staff for making this happen so quickly.



## 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/](http://www.adacounty.id.gov/)

# EVERY MAY DURING JUROR APPRECIATION WEEK – ADA COUNTY SAYS, ‘THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!’

If you’ve ever had jury duty in Ada County you know the process is streamlined, considerate, professional and most of all – important. Juries are one of the cornerstones of our legal system. If you’re ever on trial, having a jury of your peers is critically important. They are people just like you, who live in your community and who can relate to you. Same goes if you are juror. The defendant needs to know that those listening to the evidence are peers and community members.



Can it be disruptive to your daily routine serving on a jury? Yes, but it is a small price to pay for keeping our system fair for all parties.

So, to all the jurors and potential jurors who have shown up for their civic duty – thank you! You are what makes our system so great!



L-R: Ada County Commissioner Tom Dayley, Ada County Trial Court Administrator Sandra Barrios, Ada County Jury Commissioner Randy Rutland, Ada County Chairman Rod Beck and Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

We all experience a whole array of emotions each day throughout our lives. It’s part of being a human. However, sometimes life circumstances can make unpleasant emotions stick around too long or cause us problems in our home life or at work.

Mental health is important at every stage of life from childhood through adulthood. That’s why the Ada County Commissioners along with [Central District Health](#) Leadership were proud to share the importance of recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Understanding the importance of protecting your mental health and seeking help when necessary if critically important. If you or someone you know needs help reach out to your medical provider or consider using your employer’s Employee Assistance Program.



L-R: Ada County Commissioner Ryan Davidson, Connor Young, Health Policy Analyst with Central District Health, Russ Duke, District Director Central District Health, Ada County Chairman Rod Beck, and Ada County Commissioner Tom Dayley.



## DAN CURTIS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH ADA COUNTY

Why do we highlight our employee milestones at Ada County? That's easy. It gives you an idea of the level of expertise in Ada County government. County employees are subject matter experts with diverse and impressive backgrounds who work for you.

Today we are featuring Dan Curtis who has been with the Ada County Assessor's Office for 25 years. Dan first came to work for the Assessor's office in 1999 as a Residential Appraiser after retiring from Albertsons as a Store Director after a 25-year career. In 2006 he accepted a Supervisor role which he held for 10 years. The past 8 years he has technically filled a Residential Appraiser position. However, Dan goes above and beyond in terms of training appraisers and assisting management.

The fact that Dan has managed two 25+ year careers is a testament to his loyalty, dependability, and skills. He has created and implemented many of the tools and techniques used office-wide and that will be used long into the future. The quality and precision of his work-product is second-to-none, due to his attention to detail and respect for his craft.



Dan, you're the best and we appreciate you!

## EVAN AMIDAN HONORED AS "BUYER OF THE YEAR"

*Another Significant honor for Ada County Procurement*



Evan Amidan has been named the Idaho Public Purchasing Association's (IPPA) Buyer of the Year for 2024 by his peers in procurement. Additionally, Evan has been nominated for the

"Procurement Specialist of the Year Award" by the NIGP – The Institute for Public Procurement. The national award will be announced this August in Charlotte, North Carolina. Way to go Evan!

Upon graduating from Boise State University in Supply Chain Management, Evan Amidan,

CPPB, NIGP-CPP, started his procurement career with Ada County Procurement on October 16, 2017. Evan began as a Procurement Officer I and was promoted to a Procurement Officer II in October 2022. Evan contributed significantly to the advancement of our Bonfire e-Procurement system. So much so, that in 2023 he was awarded the **Bonfire Power User of the Year Award**. Being the consummate professional, Evan was not good with just one certification, he now holds two. He is a Certified Professional Public Buyer and an NIGP Certified Procurement Professional.



# TIM STURGES

## Financial Manager of the Year

Tim Sturges has been named **Financial Manager of the Year** by the Idaho Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).



This prestigious award is given to one person each year who was nominated by a peer and then voted on by the entire chapter board.

Tim demonstrates exceptional dedication

and leadership as he navigates the challenging responsibilities of being Ada County Controller. He was a core project team member recently tasked with implementing a new finance and

budgeting system for the county, within a tight one-year timeframe. He played a pivotal role in implementing the system, which was crucial for managing the county's \$374M budget. Tim showcased his commitment by creating a new financial chart of account structure, reconfiguring business rules and workflows and designing the new system that would work best for Ada County's 2,000 employees.

While preparing for the October 1, 2023, go-live of the new system, Tim was also transitioning from his role as the Accounting Manager into his new role as Ada County Controller. He spent countless hours in meetings and training sessions, all while overseeing the daily operations of the Auditor's Office, which certainly did not slow down during this time. Tim managed this transition flawlessly.

On top of that, the difficult tasks that come with closing the books each year overlapped with our go-live date. While he had many sleepless nights, he was instrumental in each task. The Clerk's Office is fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated person like Tim leading the way!



**Best Wishes Robbie!**  
**Happy Trails to Ada County Parks & Waterways Program & Education Specialist Robbie Sosin who is moving to Seattle.**

## COMING UP!

You can watch the Ada County Board of Commissioners' weekly Open Business Meeting on YouTube

**WATCH NOW**

**Want to see what's on the Agenda?**

**LEARN MORE**

**NEWSLETTER SIGN UP**

**Make sure you're following us on**

