



January 2022

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.

DILAPIDATED HORSE STABLES TO BE CLEARED FOR LADY BIRD PARK RELOCATION

Can we have the surplus horse stable materials - you asked?

When we told you about the Ada County Commissioners approving the removal of dilapidated horse stables from the EXPO Idaho property, many people reached out wanting to know how they could acquire some of the materials for re-use and re-purposing. First, we are so happy that so many folks see the value in re-using and recycling materials like this.

The removal of the horse stables will happen with the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The process of removing the horse stables will get underway later this year. By statute any materials from the demolition can only be donated to another government entity; not to individuals or non-profits.

Once a company has been selected to safely remove the old stables, people interested in the wood and other materials would be welcome to reach out to that company.



Horse racing at EXPO Idaho ended following a voter supported ballot initiative in 2018 . The horse barns/stables are no longer used (or usable). The stables exist on a floodway so no structures can be built on this section of the EXPO Idaho property adjacent to the greenbelt.

<https://www.fema.gov/glossary/floodway>

Plans for this area include moving Lady Bird park from its existing location at the corner of Chinden and Glenwood to the area once occupied by the horse stables.



TICKET TO RIDE

*Your ride, and your walk/
run is about to get a lot
smoother!*

If you've lived in Ada County for even a short amount of time you know that we all love our beautiful greenbelt. Some people use it for commuting, some for enjoying the outdoors, and some people use it as a place to exercise and stay healthy.

Ada County Parks & Waterways will begin repairing a 1.6 mile segment of the Boise River Greenbelt that was damaged in the aftermath of flooding back in 2017. (Post Snowmagedon) The project will begin later this year.

This segment serves thousands of people every year and runs from Garden City's western boundary to the City of Boise's wastewater treatment facility on the south side of the Boise River. Riders and pedestrians can expect a smoother, improved, and more pleasant pathway experience.

The money for this project is made possible by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed into law in March.



*These are
the 'before'
pictures. We
are so excited
to show you
the 'after'
pictures!
Stay tuned!*



ADA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN SURVEY



TAKE THE SURVEY

A coalition of local governments and other stakeholders in Ada County are working together to update the Ada County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This survey helps local government better understand the public's view of our most prevalent hazards, community preparedness, and risk exposure. The online survey runs through the end of February.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO COULD QUALIFY FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF?

Property Tax Reduction is available to those who own and occupy their home as their primary residence by April 15, 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 \$32,230 after deducting unreimbursed medical expenses and the property must have a Homestead Exemption in place.

Veterans Property Tax Reduction - is 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, 2022

HAS COVID AFFECTED YOUR ABILITY TO PAY RENT/UTILITIES?

Do you know someone who has?

If you are currently renting and your household has experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive emergency rent and/or utility assistance. In order to qualify you must: Be an Ada County resident; Have a current lease agreement; Meet income eligibility criteria; Have a documented loss of income due to COVID-19; Be at risk of homelessness or housing instability; You may not receive rent or utility assistance from any other source (including federal, state, and local assistance).

You can apply at the Boise City Ada County Housing Authorities webpage.

<https://erap.bcacha.org/>



- Owned and lived in your primary residence before April 15, 2022
- Property must have a Homestead Exemption

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 \$50,650 or less for 2021.

All of the listed programs must be applied for each year with the County Assessor's Office. Contact our office at 208-287-7200.

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



ADA COUNTY MAKES RAPID TEST KITS AVAILABLE TO STAFF

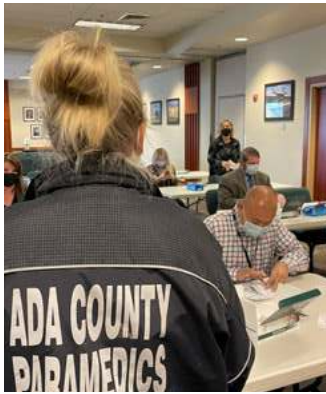
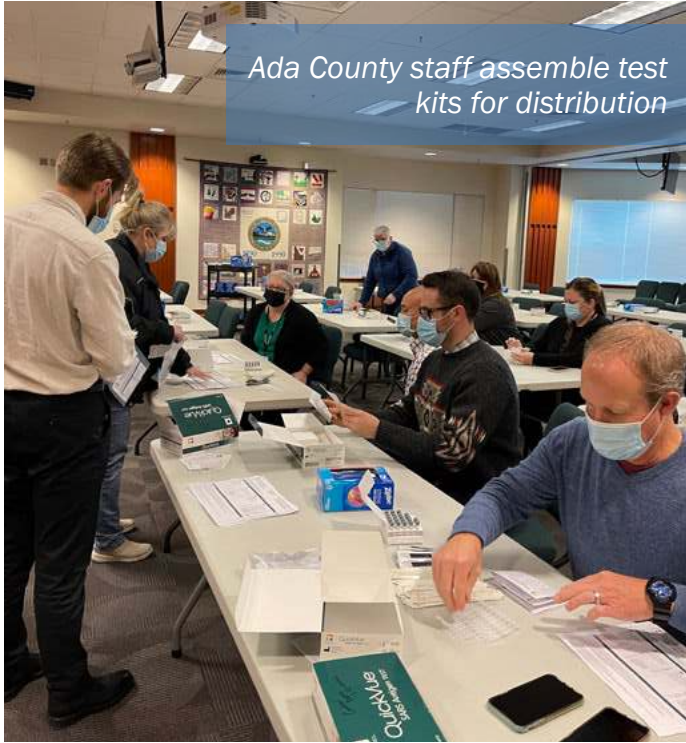
Thanks to the foresight of the Ada County Commissioners, County offices and departments now have a supply of rapid covid test kits. In early January, the Board instructed Ada County Procurement to use federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase 2000 covid rapid test kits.

Having the tests to provide to county employees allows managers and supervisors the information they need to adequately staff during this period of extremely high COVID case counts. The county's goal in procuring these tests is to allow county employees to continue providing excellent customer service without jeopardizing the health of their co-workers or the public that relies on county services.

Each Ada County department and office sets their own policy on how to distribute the tests. Alison Tate is the Juvenile Services Director.

"The availability of rapid tests has helped us to determine if detention officers can safely be at work during our current staffing shortage and has also allowed us to get the youth in our care out of quarantine more quickly. Even brief periods of isolation can have negative consequences on physical and mental well-being, so anything we can do to get our kids out of an individual cell and into programming is important."

Alison Tate



Important note: Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are available at no cost. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days via the United States Postal Service.

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

COMMISSIONERS MEET WITH LEGISLATIVE LEADERS TO OUTLINE PRIORITIES



Ada County Commissioners meet with state legislators to discuss the county's priorities for the current session. Each year the board meets with legislators, who make the laws in Idaho, to highlight issues of importance to Ada County.



Ada County Legislative Priorities Include:

Property Tax Relief – Re-examining the homeowner's exemption as well as using online sales tax revenue to reduce property taxes.

Investment Authority – Giving treasurers for counties with a population of 200,000 or more the authority to invest in corporate bonds.

Mandatory Minimums – Reevaluating the need for mandatory minimums in felony criminal cases.

Emergency Rental Assistance – Providing clear legislative intent during the appropriation process.

E-Cig/Vaping Tax – Establishing a tax on vaping products and using the revenue for cessation programs and county juvenile justice programs.

Increase Housing Options & Affordability – Supporting the Governor in his effort to make \$50M available for affordable and workforce housing.

EMS Levy Authority – Supporting a one-time levy adjustment to properly fund emergency medical services where funding gaps exist.

Optional Regional Public Defense Model – Improving public defense by increasing state funding and overhauling the Public Defense Commission by adding additional county and public defender representatives.

ATTENTION SENIORS – YOU GET A TRASH BILLING PRICE BREAK



**Do you live in Unincorporated Ada County?
Are you over 65?**

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

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

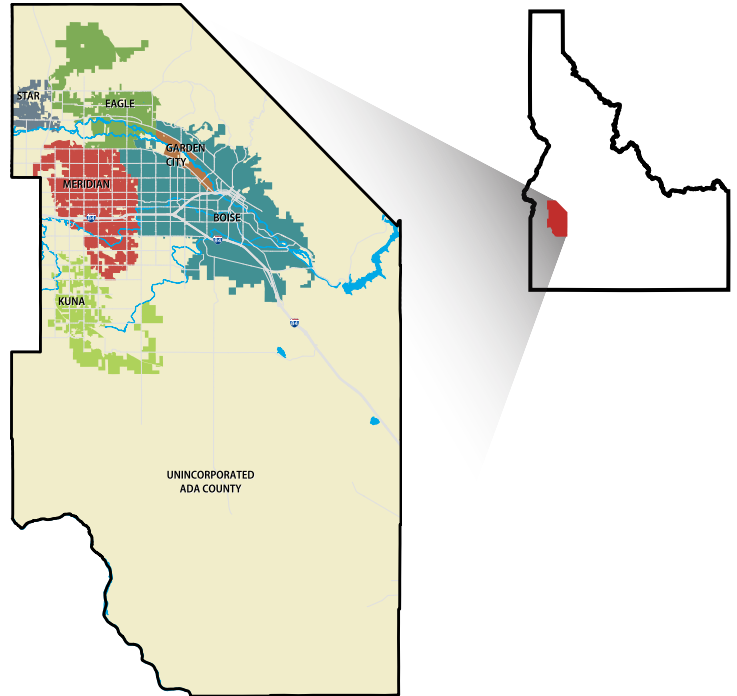
Proof of age can be submitted by email to: acbs@adacounty.id.gov or by mail to:

**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.

Note: Residents of Ada County who live outside city limits are serviced by Hardin Sanitation.



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



Ryan Davidson - Commissioner
Rod Beck - Commissioner Chairman
Kendra Kenyon - Commissioner