

City

Bridges

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

Summer 2003

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Sidebar

Swanson Son Visits Site of Future Waterpark

The son of the man for whom Swanson Park is named visited Albany in April to look at the City's plans for Swanson Family Aquatic Center.

John Swanson Duggan of Henderson, Nevada, was three years old when his father, Thomas Albert "Tommy" Swanson, was killed in action on June 13, 1944, near the small town of St. Lo in Normandy.

Tommy Swanson had been a popular teacher and football coach at Albany High School before he went overseas in World War II. He had been an outstanding halfback and punter for Lon Stiner's football squads at Oregon State College in the 1930s. After his death, the City of Albany named the City park and outdoor pool at Seventh Avenue and Railroad Street in his honor.

Tommy Swanson's widow eventually remarried and her new husband adopted her young son. John Duggan took his adopted father's name.

Duggan, his wife Carol, and their sons Brian and Kevin, met with Park Development Coordinator Shaun Cooper early in April to view plans for the water park at the site of the abandoned outdoor pool.

"This will be nice," Duggan said in an interview with the *Albany Democrat-Herald*. "It's going to be a wonderful park. I'll be back for the dedication, definitely. I wouldn't miss this."

Swanson Pool, the city's only public outdoor pool, was built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration and was open every summer until it closed in 1999.

The Albany City Council has made replacing the pool a top priority for the last two years. The new facility will include a multipurpose swimming area, a leisure pool with a beach-like entry, water slide, river channel, therapy pool, concession area, bathhouse, picnic shelter and parking.

The City hopes to open the new center in the summer of 2004.

The Albany Paper Mill has donated \$250,000 toward the project, and Weyerhaeuser Foundation donated \$125,000. A private anonymous donor has pledged another \$250,000. The Albany City Council has promised up to \$1 million toward the \$2.4 million total needed. By mid-April the amount remaining to be raised was about \$515,000.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent any time to Swanson Family Aquatic Center, Albany Parks & Recreation Department, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321.

For more information, contact Shaun Cooper at 917-7774.

Summer Concert Series Opens July 3

Albany Parks & Recreation Department will present the 20th annual River Rhythms concert series at Monteith Riverpark beginning Thursday, July 3, 2003. The lineup should appeal to nearly every musical taste:

- July 3—Lavay Smith & her Red Hot Skillet Lickers (Swing & Jump Blues)
- July 10—Subdudes (Rock & Blues)
- July 17—Rosanne Cash (Country)
- July 24—Suzanne Vega (Folk, Pop)
- July 31—Oliver Mtu Kudzi & Black Spirits (African)
- August 7—Robert Earl Keen (Country)
- August 14—Cubanismo (Cuban)

The free concerts are held on seven consecutive Thursdays in July and

August. Performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Art activities for children begin at 5:30 p.m. behind the adjacent Albany Senior Center. Food vendors open their booths at 5:00 p.m.

Beginning Monday, July 7, the family entertainment concert series, Mondays at Monteith, opens. This series is also free, and held at Monteith Riverpark. Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and conclude about 8:30 p.m. Food is available from vendors on site.

The lineup:

- July 7: The Linn-Benton Concert Band, directed by Dr. Richard Sorenson.
- July 14: Black Swan Classic Jazz Band.
- July 21: Jamie's Rock 'n Roll Legends. Live band featuring Buddy Holly and Jerry Lee Lewis impersonators.
- July 28: 234th Army National Guard Band.



Rosanne Cash on July 17

- August 4: David Valdez Jazz Latino with Nancy King.
- August 11: Artists of the Portland Opera.

For more information, contact Albany Parks & Recreation at 917-7777.

Christopher Cross at Art & Air Festival

Oscar-, Grammy-, and Golden Globe-winning singer-songwriter Christopher Cross is the headliner for the fourth annual Wah Chang Northwest Art & Air Festival, Friday through Sunday, August 15-17, 2003, at Timber Linn Park.

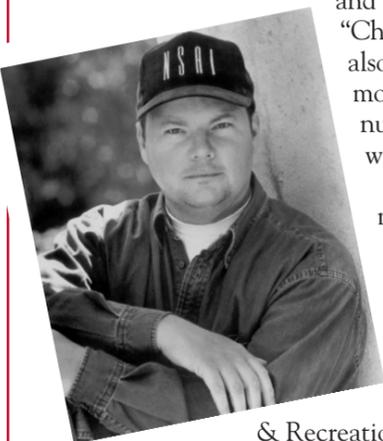
Cross will perform in the Oregon Amphitheater on Saturday night, August 16, 2003. The performance is free of charge.

Cross, who grew up in Texas, is best known for his 1980s hits "Sailing," and "Ride Like the Wind." His first album, "Christopher Cross," won five Grammys. He also won an Oscar for the title hit for the movie "Arthur." As of 2001, Cross had four number one singles, nine top 20 hits, and worldwide album sales of \$9 million.

Cross's music is described as intelligent, melodic pop.

The Northwest Art & Air Festival features hot-air balloons, vintage aircraft on display, a juried art show and sale, children's hands-on art activities, music, food, and Oregon wines. The event is coordinated by the Albany Parks

& Recreation Department and the Albany Visitors Association. Wah Chang is the title sponsor.



Foundation Enhances Downtown Carnegie Library

Have you visited the Downtown Carnegie Library recently?

As you enter the historic building, note the elegant lighting fixtures that enhance the warmth of the building and highlight the natural wood tones of the newly refinished historic furniture. Period lighting fixtures will soon be added to the basement to complement those upstairs.

These features are provided to the Downtown Carnegie Library through the generosity of the Albany Public Library Foundation. The Foundation also provides funding for Novelist, a reader's advisory database that is available at both branches of the Library and the Library Web site (www.library.ci.albany.or.us). The Foundation also helps to fund the popular Summer Reading Program hosted by both Libraries.

Police Promote Pedestrian Safety

The Albany Police Department has begun an aggressive pedestrian safety campaign in response to a high number of complaints from pedestrians. This effort includes driver/pedestrian education and aggressive enforcement.

The purpose of the Pedestrian Safety Law Enforcement program is to raise awareness of pedestrian safety issues and to reduce the number of auto/pedestrian crashes within the city limits of Albany.

Most of the serious auto-pedestrian accidents occur while the pedestrian is trying to cross one of the busy multilane roadways. A high majority of these accidents occur while the pedestrians are in a crosswalk.

In each auto vs. pedestrian collision, the pedestrian is sure to lose. The result of almost every collision is substantial injury or death. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), 637 pedestrians were injured or killed in collisions with vehicles in 2001 in Oregon. Of that number, 292 were in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at the time of the collision. Over the past several years, pedestrians have accounted for 10%-15% of all traffic-related fatalities, though walking comprises only 3%-5% of the trips that Oregonians make.

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City of Albany Directory

Mayor:

Chuck McLaran 928-3114

Ward I Councilors:

Dick Olsen 926-7348

Doug Killin 926-6829

Ward II Councilors:

Sharon Konopa 928-3067

Ralph Reid, Jr. 928-7382

Ward III Councilors:

Bessie Johnson 791-2494

Leonard Smith 791-9540

City Manager:

Steve Bryant 917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers General Information 917-7500

Building Inspection 917-7553

City Council Message 917-7503

City Manager 917-7501

Downtown Carnegie Library 917-7585

Engineering 917-7676

Finance Office 917-7520

Fire Department 917-7700

Human Resources 917-7501

Main Library 917-7580

Mayor's Message 917-7502

Municipal Court 917-7740

Parks & Recreation 917-7777

Planning and Zoning 917-7550

Police Department 917-7680

Public Information Office 917-7507

Senior Citizens Center 917-7760

Transit 917-7667

Water and Sewer Billing 917-7547

Water/Sewer/Streets 917-7600

Emergencies
(Fire, Police, Ambulance)
Dial: 911

City Bridges Info

City Bridges is published by an editorial team from the City of Albany. Questions and input about this newsletter should be directed to the City Manager's Office, 333 Broadalbin SW, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321-0144.

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Sewer Problem Comes from Our Kitchens

What lurks below our streets and sidewalks causing costly sewer maintenance and leading to pollution of our environment due to sewer spills? The culprit comes right out of our kitchens — grease from cooking. With some effort, we can keep the problem under control.

Grease comes from food preparation involving meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes, either on your property or in the streets. Over time, it can build up and block the entire pipe.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the home or business owner; and
- Higher costs to operate and maintain the City's sewer system, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

Everyone can take environmentally sound measures to prevent grease problems in the sewer system.

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal.

- Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty them into the trash.

- Speak to your family about how to keep grease out of the sewers.

Also, if your home or business has a garbage disposal unit, use it wisely. Ground up kitchen waste may combine with grease to plug up the sewer.

Restaurants and other food preparation facilities are faced with their own challenges to keep grease out their sewer systems. These facilities should be equipped with grease removal devices called grease interceptors, which need regular cleaning and maintenance to keep them operating properly. The Public Works Environmental Services office has information for restaurants to assist them in keeping grease out of the sewer system.

The City's Environmental Services Program works to protect Albany's sewer and storm drain systems and the wastewater treatment plant from hazards and illegal discharges. An important part of the program is educating sewer users on pollution prevention, which includes preventing wastewater discharge problems. If you have questions about grease or the Environmental Services Program, please contact us at 917-7613 or 917-7600, extension 4606.

Police Host Second Citizens' Academy

The Albany Police Department is accepting applications for the fall 2003 Citizens' Academy. The Academy begins in September and runs for 10 weeks each Tuesday evening. Specific dates and class schedules will follow.

The Citizens' Academy is offered free to Albany citizens 18 years of age or older who pass a criminal background check. The Academy is designed to develop citizen awareness and understanding of the role of the Police Department in the criminal justice system and our community.

Twenty-five citizens will be selected to attend 30 hours of interactive classroom and hands-on instruction. Topics include police officer selection, training, and duties; investigation skills; tactical operations; canine procedures; firearms use; narcotics investigations; communications; crime scene processing; emergency vehicle operations and crime prevention. Students will be actively involved in a variety of educational, interesting activities.

To reserve a seat for the fall class or to learn more about the Academy, please call Lynn Hinrichs at 917-7683.

Have a Question? Ask the City

Question: "Why is Main Street in such terrible condition? Also the street running in front of the police/jail? (Jackson Street SE)"

Public Works Director Floyd Collins provided the answer:

Both of these streets were built years ago when roads were basically two inches of asphalt over six inches of crushed rock. In some areas, no drainage was provided. In the Jackson Street area, industrial properties developed after the street was built; and the increase in traffic has caused the street to deteriorate more rapidly. We are now designing streets with a longer life and the ability to support the adjacent land uses. Main Street is classified as a collector street and Jackson is classified as an arterial. We have no money at this time for major reconstruction of arterial and collector streets. Both of these streets were on the original list of streets being considered for reconstruction when we submitted a general obligation bond measure to voters in 1998. We also had them on the list for the street bond that was considered in 2001. (The streets that were built with the 1998 bond are Salem Avenue, Elm Street, Santiam Road and 34th Avenue. Voters did not approve the 2001 bond measure.) The City Council may consider one or both of them again if any money is left from the 1998 bonds after the North Albany Road project and Fifth Avenue reconstruction are complete.

Question: "Why can't we have sidewalks on Geary Street? People have to walk on a busy street."

Engineering Technician IV Ron Irish provided the answer:

In Albany, as in most cities, the installation and maintenance of public sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjoining property owners. The requirement to install sidewalks is usually triggered by development. In the case of Geary Street, much of the property was developed many years ago before installation of sidewalks was required.

Geary Street is classified as a minor arterial and is one of the busiest streets in Albany. Because of the volume of traffic and the number of pedestrians that use the street, the City has actively worked to fill in gaps in the sidewalk using funds budgeted by the City Council for sidewalk infill. A major obstacle has been the lack of right-of-way. At most of the locations missing sidewalk, there is not enough public right-of-way behind the curb line to allow for sidewalk installation. In order

to address this problem, the City has contacted most of the property owners on Geary Street between Ninth and Queen Avenues and offered to fund and construct sidewalk improvements in return for dedication of right-of-way or sidewalk easements. The recent installation of sidewalk on the east side of Geary Street in front of the Villa Capri Apartments, Albany Wheel and Exhaust, and the vacant lot just north of 15th Avenue was accomplished in this manner with the cooperation of the adjoining property owners.

The 1000 block of the west side of Geary Street, where the questioner lives, is one of the locations still missing sidewalk. Additional right-of-way is needed to construct sidewalk improvements there. We will continue to work with the owner of the property to try and resolve the right-of-way issue. If we can acquire the right-of-way, we will construct the sidewalk.

My question is: _____

My name is: _____

My address is: _____

I would like a personal response to my question. (If you want a personal response, please provide your mailing address, telephone number, or E-mail address below.)

Return to: *City Bridges* Editorial Team, City of Albany, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321.

Responsible Owners and Dogs Welcome in City Parks

If you like to bring your canine companion to a City park, the Albany Municipal Code (Section 7.28.120) outlines how to be a responsible and courteous dog owner:

- Dogs are allowed in the parking areas, park walkways, and areas posted with signs allowing dogs. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- City staff, including Police and Parks & Recreation employees, may require a pet owner to control or remove their dog from the park to ensure that other park users are safe and not being bothered by the dog.
- You are not allowed to tie a dog to a tree or shrub if doing so will result in broken branches, damaged bark, or any other adverse effect to the plant.
- Dog owners are required to pick up their dog's waste and dispose of it in a garbage receptacle.

Some City parks have dispensers stocked with pet waste disposal bags, and the dispensers are conveniently mounted near a trash container. Waste bag stations are located in Monteith Riverpark, Draper Park, Deerfield Park, Timber Linn Park, Periwinkle Park, and Grand Prairie Park. Owners should carry plastic bags with them in case the dispensers are empty or you are in a park without a waste station.

If you and your dog follow the rules, you and others who don't have pets should have a safe and enjoyable experience in Albany's parks. Being responsible for your pet is especially important during special events like the River Rhythms concert series, when thousands of people are together in close proximity.

Please help keep our parks clean, safe, and pleasant for everyone. For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 917-7777.



Save Water, Save Money!

Follow these simple water conservation tips to reduce your water bill and keep more water in our streams for fish and wildlife. Use the Water Savings Coupon to get started on outdoor water conservation.

Indoor

- Turn off the water when you are not using it (when you brush your teeth or shave or rinse vegetables).

Albany Firefighters Golf Tournament

Albany firefighters will host their third annual golf tournament on Monday, July 28, 2003, to raise money for their Community Assistance Fund (AFFCAF).

AFFCAF provides help to individuals or families who need assistance due to an extraordinary crisis – burns, fire loss, major illness and injury, and others. All proceeds from the golf tournament will go to the fund.

The tournament will be held at Spring Hill Country Club. Format is a four-person team scramble. Shotgun start will be at 8:00 a.m.

The \$280 team entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, a tee prize, KP awards, lunch buffet, free range balls, a raffle, long drive, and awards in two divisions. Cart rental is an additional \$25. The tournament is open to everyone.

Teams should send members' names, addresses, phone numbers and handicaps, plus a team name, name of captain and fees, to Albany Fire Department, Attention Lt. Mark Matthews, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321. Entries are due by July 1, 2003. Checks should be made payable to Albany Fire Fighters Community Assistance Fund.

For more information, contact Matthews at 917-7700, ext. 5050.

Running water wastes up to five gallons per minute.

- Check your toilet for leaks. Put ten drops of food coloring in the toilet tank (don't flush). If you see color in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak that is wasting water and money.
- Fix dripping faucets and leaking pipes, both inside and outside. Even a small leak can waste 20 gallons per day. A jump in your water bill can also be a sign of a leaking pipe or toilet.
- Wait until you have a full load to run your dishwasher or washing machine.
- Keep drinking water in the fridge rather than running the tap and waiting for it to get cold.
- Don't use your toilet as a waste basket – every unneeded flush wastes between two and seven gallons.

Outdoor

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, patios, and driveways. This way, you will also sweep up pollutants

and throw them away, rather than washing them down the storm drain and into a creek.

- When you wash your car, use a bucket with soapy water, and turn the hose off except for rinsing.
- Wash your car on the lawn to water the lawn and also keep the dirty runoff from going down the storm drain and into the creek.
- Plant grasses and shrubs that use less water. Add a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture and discourage weeds. You can cut your yard watering by 20 to 50 percent.
- Water your lawn at dusk or dawn. If you water your lawn at midday, you are wasting up to 30 percent to evaporation.
- Slowly soak the lawn once per week, rather than sprinkling every day. Most lawns need about one inch of water per week — use a tuna can to measure.
- Check sprinklers to be sure you are watering your lawn, not the pavement, street, or house.

WATER SAVINGS COUPON

Clip this coupon* for a FREE outdoor water saving kit!!

The first 200 people to respond will receive a free outdoor water conservation kit, including:

- Hose nozzle with six settings (allows you to choose the most efficient setting)
- Lawn watering gauge (lets you see when your lawn has had one inch of water)
- Drip gauge (tells you how much water is wasted from a dripping hose or faucet)
- Lawn watering tips for saving water

Wasted water is wasted money!!

For more information, contact Cheryl Hummon, Water Resources Program Coordinator, at 917-7629.

* Bring this coupon to the Public Works Department, second floor of City Hall. If you forget to bring the coupon, just mention it.

Children's Summer Reading Program

Kids of any age up to sixth grade are invited to grow their brains this summer during the Albany Public Library's 2003 Children's Summer Reading Program.

The program provides rewards to kids based on the number of hours that they read during the summer months. Prizes include coupons for food, activities and an end-of-summer swim party.

Register by Monday, June 2, 2003 at either branch of the library; then start counting your reading time that day. Hours spent listening to someone read to you count as well. Eight hours of reading or listening qualifies you for a Little Caesar's Crazy Bread coupon. After 16 hours, you get a coupon for blueberry picking at Blueberry Meadows.

After 24 hours of reading or listening, participants get a coupon for a Dairy Queen Royal Treat and entry to Otter Beach in Corvallis for a swim party in August.

The Summer Reading Program includes special events at both branches of the Library each week during the summer as well. Most are for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade, and most will last an hour. Some events may have attendance limits. Parents are advised to not bring pre-schoolers to these programs because they will be overwhelmed by larger children.

Events will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Main Branch, 1390 Waverly Drive SE, and Thursdays at the Downtown Carnegie Library, 302 Ferry Street SW. All programs begin at 2:00 p.m. sharp.

Here is this year's schedule:

- June 17, 18, and 19 – Steve Taylor, the Magical Ventriloquist. Comedy and magic with audience participation. Special guest Ruddy O'Reilly appears as Sacajawea.
- June 24, 25, and 26 – Mad Science. Interactive shows. Tuesday: Spin, Pop and Boom; Wednesday: Up, Up and Away; Thursday: Fire and Ice.
- July 9 and 10 – Simply Songs and Stories with Anne-Louise Sterry. Interactive music and storytelling with a variety of songs, instruments, and stories.
- July 15, 16, and 17 – Gakfest. Goobety gak, slippery slime, ooblek ooze, and pudding painting.
- July 29, 30, and 31 – Celebrating Summer: Let's Make it a Party! Crafts, treats, games, and fun.
- August 5, 6, and 7 – First Annual Albany Idol Talent Show. No auditions. All ages up to 18 may perform. Sign up in June.
- August 12, 13, and 14 – TV Stinks and Game Day. You're challenged to not watch TV for seven days. Bingo, bug and worm races, cooperative games.
- August 19, 20, and 21 – Parade of Strings. Series of one-act plays written and performed by the teens in the Albany Public Library Teen Marionette Troupe.

The annual All-Kids Sidewalk Sale will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Downtown Carnegie Library. The All-Kids Parking Lot Sale will be 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 26, at the Main Branch. Kids of all ages may buy and sell. No sales of food or animals. The Saturday event will include shooting baskets.

The Otter Beach swim party is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. for those who qualify from the Summer Reading Program. Parents are welcome. Tickets will be available in August.

For more information, contact the Albany Public Library at 917-7583 or 917-7588.

Barbecues, Campfires, and 'smore

Summertime means barbecues and roasting marshmallows over an open fire; but before lighting the coals, the Albany Fire Department wants to remind you of a few rules to help protect you and your neighbors.

A barbecue, campfire, or other outdoor recreational burn:

- must be contained in a maximum area of three feet in diameter by two feet in height;
- use only firewood or charcoal — wood debris such as broken fencing is not allowed;
- must not burn within 25 feet of a combustible structure or material, unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit made of concrete or an approved non-combustible material; and
- have someone present at all times to monitor the fire and have a water source close by to put out the fire if necessary.

If a recreational burn causes damage and/or requires a response from the Fire Department, the person responsible for the burn can be held responsible for the costs associated with the response and any damages.

Wildfire is a Dangerous Neighbor

As Albany's population grows, more people are building homes in urban/wildland interface areas, such as the wooded hills of North Albany. While these areas are quiet, peaceful places to live, they can also put your home at risk of fire.

A record number of wildland fires burned in Oregon last year, damaging a record amount of land. Many homes were threatened and a few were destroyed by the fires. A number of Albany firefighters were called upon to help protect those homes. Seeing the situation firsthand and knowing the potential in Albany for such an event compels us to remind residents of what they can do to protect their homes.

- Trim tree limbs to a minimum of 15 feet away from the roof and chimney;
- Trim trees so that the crowns are 15 feet apart and lower limbs are 15 feet above the ground;
- Maintain small shrubs and plants by thinning and pruning them away from burnable structures;
- Frequently mow, rake, and water grass and never allow it to grow taller than 15 inches;
- Keep roof and gutters clear of debris;
- Keep firewood at least 30 feet away and uphill from home;
- Keep a shovel, rake, axe, saw, bucket, and working garden hose ready for use in case of a fire.

Don't forget to check your smoke detector batteries every week and practice an emergency home escape plan with the whole family.

What to do about Tall Grass

Tall grass or vegetation that blocks a driver's vision to enter traffic or that is in a public right-of-way should be reported to the Public Works Operations Division at 917-7600.

Tall, dry grass or vegetation that is more than 15 inches tall and within 50 feet of a burnable structure or a right-of-way where it could pose a fire hazard can be reported to the Fire Department at 917-7727.

Willamette River Facts and Figures

The Willamette River flows right past Albany's front door, but how much do you know about it? Here are some facts and figures about the Willamette River and its drainage basin (watershed):

The Willamette River...

- is the largest river in Oregon (by volume) and the 13th largest river in the continental U.S.
- is 187 miles long and begins in Waldo Lake in the Cascade Mountains just north of Willamette Pass.
- does not meet water quality standards for temperature, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and several other parameters.
- has 96 linear miles of artificially hardened banks.

The Willamette River Basin...

- is 11,500 square miles in area, larger than the state of Maryland.
- has 16,000 miles of streams.
- has 2.5 million people, or 70% of Oregon's population, with 100 cities and 10 counties.
- is 64 percent privately owned (including most of the valley floor) and 36 percent publicly owned.
- has 287 native animal species, with 36 of these threatened, endangered, or a species of conservation concern.



- is 69 percent forest, 22 percent agriculture, and 8 percent urban.
- produces about 50 percent of Oregon's agricultural sales.
- has lost about 99 percent of original bottomland prairie and 72 percent of original bottomland forest.

Albany and the Willamette River...

- Albany lies at River Mile 120 upstream from the confluence with the Columbia River in Portland. River miles are measured as the fish swims, along all the twists and turns, not "as the crow flies."
- Albany has a hydrograph, which is an automated device to measure the Willamette's river level and flow. Go to http://or.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=14174000 to see how high or low the river is and

how this compares to historical river levels.

The Willamette River and You...

Albany provides numerous ways to enjoy the Willamette River and its nearby forests, trails, and parks. Activities include picnicking, biking, walking, hikes, bird and wildlife watching, team sports, boating, fishing, summer concerts, Senior Center activities, a farmers' market, and much more.

You can help keep the Willamette River clean and healthy for people, fish, and wildlife. Stencil storm drains to remind people to keep pollution out of our rivers and creeks. Volunteer for a river cleanup each year in the spring and fall. Help with a project to restore native plants near the river. For more information about these opportunities, call 917-7629.

National Night Out August 5

Neighborhoods throughout Albany are invited to join with thousands of others nationwide on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, for the 20th annual National Night Out (NNO) crime and drug prevention event.

National Night Out is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Albany Police Department. Over 33 million people are expected to participate in 'America's Night Out Against Crime.'

From 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., residents are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods in Albany will host special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, contests, youth

activities, and anti-crime rallies. Members of the Community Resource Unit, Reserve Officers and Explorers will visit neighborhoods that are holding an event.

Albany has approximately 90 active Neighborhood Watch groups. Eighteen neighborhoods participated in National Night Out last year. The Albany Police Department is challenging neighborhoods to increase participation to at least 30 neighborhood events this year.

If you would like to organize a Neighborhood Watch group to participate in National Night Out, this is an excellent opportunity. Organize your neighborhood before there is an issue or incident to cause concern. Get to know your neighbors, plan something fun, and have a good time.

If you live within the Albany City limits and want more information regarding National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, or to schedule a visit from the Albany Police Department during your event, call Community Policing Specialist Sherri Jacobson at 917-3208.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Pedestrian Safety

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In each of the last six years in Albany, an average of one auto vs. pedestrian collision has resulted in the death of the pedestrian.

Studies have shown that an aggressive pedestrian safety campaign such as that used by Albany Police greatly increases motorists' awareness of pedestrians after a few months of enforcement and education.

Albany police first tried out the program, designed by ODOT, at a downtown Albany intersection during spring break in late March 2003.

The public was notified in advance through newspaper stories, information on local radio stations, and on the City Web site. Police then posted a warning sign at the approach to the enforcement area reading

"PEDESTRIAN ENFORCEMENT ZONE."

A police officer in brightly-colored street clothes acted as a pedestrian trying to cross the street in a marked crosswalk. Other officers used a video camera near the enforcement location to record any violations and assist in future successful prosecution of violators. Drivers who failed to yield to the pedestrian were stopped farther down the street by uniformed officers, provided with written materials about pedestrian laws and safety, and warned or given citations.

Police received numerous calls from downtown employees, business owners, and others to thank them for the special effort. They also got many requests from Albany residents to do a similar effort in other parts of town.

For more information regarding the Albany Police Department's

Pedestrian Safety Enforcement operation, contact Officer Matt Baldwin at (541) 917-7680.

Oregon Pedestrian Safety Facts (ODOT)

- 60% of auto vs. pedestrian crashes were in full daylight.
- In 68% of auto vs. pedestrian crashes, failure to yield the pedestrian was a contributing factor.
- 49% of pedestrians are hit at an intersection or crosswalk.
- A pedestrian hit at 20 MPH will suffer serious injuries and have a 15% chance of dying.
- A pedestrian hit at 40 MPH, the pedestrian's chance of dying increases to 85%.

References:

<http://www.odot.state.or.us/transafety/images>