

City Bridges

Summer 2006

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

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Summer Concert Lineups Announced

Albany Parks & Recreation Department has booked a variety of music for its two free mid-summer concert series on seven Mondays and six Thursdays at Monteith Riverpark.

Concerts are held in the downtown park at the confluence of the Willamette and Calapooia Rivers in downtown Albany. Food booths open at 5:00 p.m., and concert performances begin at 7:00 p.m.

Children's activities begin at 5:30 p.m. before River Rhythms concerts.

For more information about the concert series, visit www.riverrhythms.org.

The 23rd annual River Rhythms series features:

July 6: Grupo Fantasma. Latin.

July 13: Aaron Meyer. Concert rock violin.

July 20: Western Underground. Backup band for the late Chris LeDoux. (This show is presented in cooperation with the Linn County Fair and will be held at the Linn Fair & Expo Center.)

July 27: Hit Explosion. Ensemble band performing '70s disco and funk dance classics.

August 3: Clumsy Lovers. Fiddle, bagpipes, mandolin, and all around rocking guitar and bass.

August 10: Billy Dean. Country.

August 17: Those Darn Accordions. Accordion-fueled rock and roll.

Mondays @ Monteith features local and regional artists:

July 10: Linn-Benton Concert Band. Directed by Dr. Richard Sorenson, this 50-piece community band will play everything from rousing marches to Broadway musicals to classical masterpieces.

July 17: 234th Army National Guard Band. Rock, blues, and jazz.

July 24: TBA.

July 31: The Craig Einhorn Trio & Dancers. Music spanning time and geography, including solo classical guitar.

August 7: Albany Swing Band. Big-band swing and jazz from some of Albany's finest musicians.

August 14: Willamette Master Chorus. Sixty-voice choir performing a variety of music.

Council Adopts New Code for Unsafe Properties



The new code will help the City clean up properties like this one that are abandoned or neglected and unsafe.

The Albany City Council has adopted new rules to help City staff clean up contaminated drug lab properties and other dangerous conditions that could affect the health, safety, and welfare of Albany residents.

As Albany grows, properties that are potentially hazardous, such as those used to manufacture methamphetamine, may impact a greater number of people than ever before. City officials are addressing these concerns through the adoption of new rules.

The regulations have been added to the Albany Municipal Code under Title 18. They can be used by the City

Building Division to require repair or clean up of properties that are structurally unsafe or hazardous due to lack of maintenance.

Under the new rules, the property owner may choose to demolish all or part of a dangerous structure in place of repair, subject to Building Division review. If the responsible party does not fix the problem as required, the Building Division will have the work done and can attach a lien to the property to pay for any costs the City incurs to do so.

The new code is intended to help City staff respond more effectively to citizen complaints of vacant or neglected proper-

ties that attract crime, pose a fire hazard, or create other hazards for the public, the neighborhood, or the occupants. It allows the Building Division, in collaboration with the City's Code Enforcement Team, to deal with properties that have been neglected to the point that they have become a danger to the community.

The City Council agreed to try the new code for a year. It took effect on May 10, 2006.

For more information about the new code, contact Building Official Blaine Brassfield at 541-917-7553. A link to the ordinance is available on the City's Web site, www.cityofalbany.net.

A New Library!

For the third time in its history, the City of Albany will get a new public library without using any local property taxes. Albany received a \$5 million pledge this winter through the extraordinary generosity of one of its citizens. On April 14, 2006, the City used \$3 million of the donation to purchase the former Unitrin Building, former location of Valley Insurance, across 14th Avenue from the current Main Library, a mere 145 steps away.

Several reasons compelled the purchase of this building:

- Citizens have encouraged the City for years to reuse vacant property.
- At 42,250 square feet, the Unitrin Building is only 1,100 square feet shy of the proposed renovation that narrowly failed in the November 2004 election. The current Main Library is 17,520 square feet.
- It has ample room to expand.
- Parking is more than adequate.
- The community identified this location as excellent.
- The cost of the move and renovation is expected to be substantially below the \$12 million bond estimate from 2004.
- The extraordinary private donation.

Library staff began work with an architect in May to further define the scope

of the project, costs, and schedule. Staff expects to solicit renovation proposals this summer, review those, and select a contractor this fall, with construction beginning soon after. The project is a design challenge with a noble goal – to convert generic office space into a modern library for Albany's future.

The City will sell the existing Main Library with proceeds going to the renovation project budget. Library staff will continue fund-raising and looking for grants.

Stay in touch with the project through the Library's Web page: library.cityofalbany.net.

Oak Creek Refinement Plan Underway

In an ideal land-use planning world, each area is planned before development takes place. That's the opportunity Albany has in the Oak Creek area.

The City is doing a refinement plan for the neighborhood between Interstate 5 and Pacific Boulevard south of the canal. Much of the vacant land is along Ellingson Road.

Landscape architect John Stewart is head of the project team. His preliminary

plan considers major streets planned there, the floodplain and stream corridor along Oak Creek, and wetlands that lace the area. It looks at locations for public facilities that will be needed, including sites for a park and a fire station.

The refinement plan will recommend future land uses. The preliminary plan shows large- and small-scale commercial areas, industrial properties, and housing at varied densities.

The City Council hopes that many Albany citizens will take an interest in this project. While it is of particular interest to property owners in the area, all of Albany has a stake in how this part of town develops.

Please check the City's Web site, www.cityofalbany.net, or call the City of Albany Planning Division, 917-7550, for project updates and opportunities to get involved.

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 926-6812

Ralph Reid, Jr. 928-7382

Ward III Councilors:

Bessie Johnson 791-2494

Jeff Christman 926-0528

City Manager:

Wes Hare 917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 917-7500

Ambulance Billing 917-7710

Building Inspection 917-7553

City Council Message 917-7503

City Manager 917-7500

Downtown

Carnegie Library 917-7585

Economic Development 917-7639

Engineering 917-7676

Finance Office 917-7520

Fire Department 917-7700

Human Resources 917-7500

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 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 can be directed to the City Manager's Office, 333 Broadalbin SW, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321-0144.

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City Staff Work Hard to Be Safe

June 2006 is National Safety Month. We polled City government departments to find out what we do to be safe on the job and make City buildings safe for the public.

The Administrative Services Safety Committee is very concerned with the safety and well being of employees and patrons of City Hall. The committee does regular safety audits by walking through the building to look for hazards, updating logs of hazardous materials, and organizing City Hall evacuation drills. With the assistance of Building Inspector Randy Peppers, the committee inspects for safety and for compliance and access under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Police Department Safety Committee designed and implemented a new Facility Inspection Checklist with the help of the Fire Department. The checklist has made it much easier to inspect work areas, and inspectors are more aware of what's safe and what needs to be changed.

The checklists helped identify safety concerns with some lighting and electrical

outlets in a storage area at Fire Station 12. Those were promptly corrected.

The Police Emergency Vehicle Operations team identified concerns with the tires used on patrol vehicles. Data collected by the team showed that the tires increased braking distances and were contributing to poor overall vehicle handling characteristics. With some assistance of the Police Safety Committee, Police now use a much better tire on all of the emergency vehicles.

Safety is serious business at the Library for staff and patrons. All safety issues are brought to the attention of one or more members of the Library Safety Committee and investigated quickly.

Parks & Recreation staff are particularly conscious of worker safety. Every morning, the Parks Maintenance crew does stretching exercises. The value of these is documented in the crew's low number of muscular and skeletal injuries. The stretching warms up workers' muscles while getting them to think about doing

things safely throughout the day.

This same crew works under the philosophy that no matter what else is going on around them, safety comes first. They take the time to do whatever job they are doing safely.

In addition to holding regular meetings, performing fire station safety inspections and tackling other safety issues in the workplace, the Albany Fire Department Safety Committee has established a near-miss suggestion program. Adopted less than a year ago, the program encourages firefighters to provide input and find solutions to situations affecting safety. It is an opportunity for them to document any "near miss" that happens on the job. The safety committee has received many suggestions for positive change. One firefighter each month can earn a \$25 certificate for Albany Chamber of Commerce dollars to recognize his or her safety suggestion. The program helps give Fire staff more ownership in safe workplaces for themselves and their coworkers.

Life Vest Loan Program

Albany Fire Department and the Albany Firefighters' Community Assistance Fund (AFFCAF) have life vests available for loan this summer. Fire officials hope that the loan program will reduce the risk of drowning in local rivers and streams.

The Life Vest Loan Program began Memorial Day weekend. Life vests are available at Fire Station 11, at the corner

of Sixth Avenue and Lyon Street, on an outdoor display. The program operates on the honor system; users can check out a life vest and return it on their own without having to depend on staff at the station to assist.

Borrowers are required to fill out a life vest agreement form when they pick up a vest. Rules about how to use the vests are posted in the display.

The life vests are sized for children and adults and have been donated through the U.S. Boat Foundation. The loan program is operating successfully in other communities.

These life vests, for both children and adults, were donated through the U.S. Boat Foundation. This program is operating in several other communities with good success.

August 1 is National Night Out Against Crime

Albany will join cities across the nation on Tuesday, August 1, 2006, for America's Night Out against Crime. Neighborhoods throughout the city are invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide for this 23rd annual crime prevention event.

From 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., neighborhood 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, visits from police and fire departments, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities, and anti-crime rallies. Members of the Albany Police Department administration will visit neighborhoods that are holding events.

Albany has approximately 110 active Neighborhood Watch groups. Twenty neighborhoods participated in National Night Out last year, enjoying good food, activities, and a beautiful evening. The Police Department challenges neighborhoods to increase last year's participation to at least 30 neighborhood events this year. They invite neighborhoods to join forces with them to give crime and drugs a going-away party.

Prizes will be awarded to the neighborhoods that have the most original and best-organized events.

If you would like to organize a Neighborhood Watch group to participate in National Night Out, this is an excellent opportunity to do so. 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. You'll be glad you did. And who knows? Your event may win a prize!

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 Service Officer Lynn Hinrichs at 917-3208. Please register your event before July 24, 2006.

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.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Albany Police Department, will involve more than 10,000 communities from 50 states, as well as U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world. Over 34 million people worldwide are expected to participate in 'America's Night Out Against Crime.' National Night Out 2006 is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Bike Safety Rodeo June 24

The 2006 Bicycle Safety Rodeo will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 24, 2006, in the parking lot at G.I. Joe's, 2000 14th Avenue SE. The annual event is sponsored by the Albany Police Department, Kiwanis Club of Albany, G.I. Joe's, Wal-Mart (Lebanon) and Fred Meyer.

Children may participate at any time during the three-hour period. In-line skates and bicycles are welcome; helmets are required for all participants.

Activities include bicycle skills testing, bicycle safety inspections and a 'fatal vision course,' provided by KRKT Radio. Bicycles, helmets, and bicycle-related items will be given away in a drawing at 1:30 p.m.; rodeo participants must be present to win.

Albany Police Department personnel, including bicycle officers, will conduct the rodeo. The purpose of the event is to make children safer by educating them about safety rules, bicycle skills, and helmet use.

Bicycles and other items for the drawing were donated by G.I. Joe's, Albany Fred Meyer, Kiwanis Club of Albany, Target, and Albany Fire Department. For more information, contact Darla Luther, Community Service Officer, at the Albany Police Department, 917-3206.



Albany Public Library Summer 2006 Programs for Young Adults

Reading Incentive Program

Thursday, June 1, to Monday, August 28

Kids going into grades 6 through 12 may pick up blank forms at either branch of the Albany Public Library throughout the summer to keep track of the number of hours of reading at home. Bring the forms into either Library after each 10 hours to claim prizes including tickets for an end-of-summer swim party at COOL! Swanson Park Action Center.

Library Volunteers

Kids who have completed sixth grade may apply to volunteer at the Library during the summer. Youth volunteers assist at children's programs, prepare craft items for children's programs, straighten items on the shelves, put items in order numerically or alphabetically, and help to put up displays. Applicants may pick up a Volunteer Application packet at either Library. New volunteers must turn in the completed application and attend an orientation and training session.

Mad Science

Tuesday, June 20, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Main Library:

"Fire and Ice"

Wednesday, June 21, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Main Library:

"Up, Up, and Away"

Thursday, June 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Albany City Hall, Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW:

"Spin, Pop, and Boom"

Kids in kindergarten through grade 8 see and participate in a lively exploration of scientific principles.

Henrik Bothe Comedy and Juggling

Wednesday, June 28, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Main Library

Parking Lot Sale

Saturday, July 8, 9:00 a.m.- Noon., Main Library

Kids of all ages may buy and sell items in the west area of the Main Library parking lot. No sales of food or animals. Bring table, chairs, or blankets, if needed, and money (especially change).

Storytellers Troupe

Storytelling Workshops:

Wednesday, June 21; and Wednesday, June 28,

Noon-1:00 p.m., Main Library

Performances:

Tuesday, July 11; and Wednesday, July 12,

2:45 p.m., Main Library;

Thursday, July 13, 2:45 p.m.,

Downtown Carnegie Library

Kids going into grades 6 to 12 will learn the basics of traditional storytelling,

movement, voice projection, and interaction with the audience, and will then perform at three Albany Idol shows. The workshops are co-sponsored by Albany Public Library and Wonderkeepers: A Storytellers' Guild.

Albany Idol

Tuesday, July 11, or Wednesday, July 12,

2:00 p.m., Main Library

Thursday, July 13,

2:00 p.m., Downtown Carnegie Library

Kids up to age 18 may perform on stage in competition for cash prizes in the fourth annual Albany Idol Talent Show. To register, pick up an entry form at the children's desk at either Library.

Ventriloquism Workshop

Tuesday, August 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Main Library

Professional ventriloquist Randel McGee presents an introduction to ventriloquism for kids going into grades 6 through 12.

Marionettes — Performance Troupe

Rehearsals:

Monday, August 14; Tuesday, August 15; and

Wednesday, August 16; 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Downtown Carnegie Library

Performances:

Thursday, August 17, 2:00 p.m.; and

Tuesday, August 22, 10:30 a.m.

Downtown Carnegie Library

Kids going into grades 6 through 12 will put on a live show using stringed puppets.

Drum Circle

Thursday, August 10, 2:00 p.m.,

Downtown Carnegie Library

Kids in kindergarten through grade 12 try out drums and rhythms from around the world.

COOL! Swanson Park Action Center Parties

For readers who earn a ticket in the Reading Incentive Program. Tickets will be available after August 1, 2006.

Thursday, August 24; and Monday, August 28, 7:15-9:15 p.m.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

For more information, call Young Adult Services Librarian Doris Hicks, 541-917-7580, ext. 4704
Main Library, 1390 Waverly Drive SE
Downtown Carnegie Library, 302 Ferry Street SW

Library Offers Access to Special Databases

Albany Public Library has just added Morningstar.com to its menu of powerful research tools. Access is available to Library patrons only within the Main or Downtown Libraries.

Morningstar is primarily associated with mutual funds through its print publication. The online library edition includes the information from the print publication with more depth and broader coverage of funds not included in the print issue.

The online version includes stocks with in-depth analysis of securities in real time. This powerful service allows investors to screen for stocks and funds, evaluate and compare portfolios, and track the market in real time.

The Library has a wide array of other databases, most available from your home via the Internet, at <http://library.cityofalbany.net/reference/db.php>.

Samaritan Health and the Albany General Hospital take wellness very seriously. Each year their Social Accountability group returns over \$200,000 to area agencies for health initiatives. These services include the Library's EBSCO health databases.

The EBSCO family of databases includes full text access to more than 900 peer-reviewed periodicals. Access is available within the Library and from home or office with an Albany Public Library card. Resources include Clinical Pharmacology Database, Health Source - Consumer Database, Health Source - Nursing Database, and Alternative Health Database.

If you have a particular interest, the magazine titles available from these databases can be put on your desktop for easy access. If you really want to stay on top of a subject, the databases can alert you each time a new article is published on it.

Samaritan Health and the Albany General Hospital's generous contribution is outreach that can lead to a more informed and healthier community. Check these databases anytime: <http://library.cityofalbany.net/reference/db.php>.

Refine Your Recycling Knowledge

Do you want to refine your recycling knowledge? Go online to <http://www.cityofalbany.net/recycling> for a full list of items Allied Waste can recycle and tips on how to easily identify them.

The recycling industry is constantly changing, so it's a good idea to take a look at what we can recycle from time to time. For example, when recycling began in the Albany area, newspaper was the only paper residents could recycle. Now there are very few paper products that cannot go in your commingled curbside bin.



While numerous paper, plastic, and glass products can be recycled, it is important to keep our recycle source 'clean'. When you put items in the bin that we cannot recycle, they contaminate the other products and in some cases reduce the benefit of recycling. This simple process works best when we all work together. The idea is to save virgin resources by making clean recycled materials available to commercial markets.

For more information about recycling in our area, call Allied Waste of Albany-Lebanon at 928-2551.

Share Your Library With Friends; Donate Used Books for October Sale

Friends of the Albany Public Library are preparing for their major annual fundraiser: the Friends Book Sale, scheduled October 19-21, 2006 in the Willamette Conference Center at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

The theme for this year's sale is "Books: World's Best Treasure."

The Friends use money from the annual sale to provide the library with programs like the Summer Reading Program and equipment and materials for other special projects and needs. As Albany Public Library prepares to move into a new building more than twice the size of the existing Main branch, the Library's needs are growing as well.

The book sale is increasingly popular. For the last few years, the Friends have had more books donated than they've had room to display all at once, and enough customers to get the attention of the Fire Marshal. The move to the Fair & Expo Center will provide enough room to display the books and make the Fire Marshal happy.

But: book donations are lagging behind what they usually are by this time of year. If you have books, new or used, that you want to donate, you can drop them off at the Downtown Carnegie Library, 302 Ferry St. SW. Donations are tax-deductible, and tax forms are available at both library branches.

The book sale will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, October 19 and 20; and 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, October 21.

For further information about donations, call 917-7580 or 917-7585.



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24-hour service covers the entire family
Saves money and lives
One low price



Please send me a **FREE** membership information packet.

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Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____

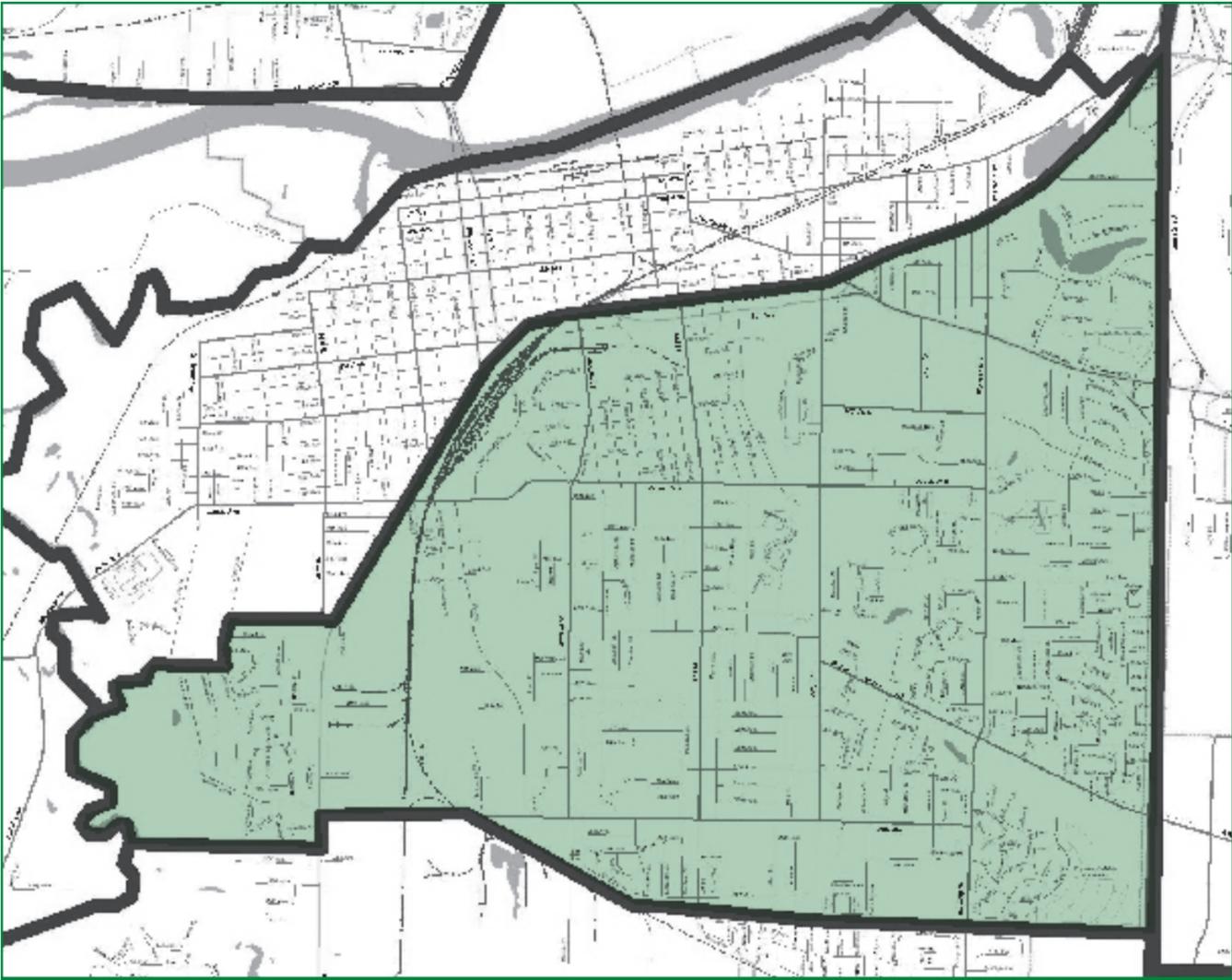
Mail to:
Albany Fire Department
P.O. Box 490
Albany, OR 97321

Housing Choices Increase in Central Albany

Anyone can see that Albany is growing and the City's Community Development Department is receiving a record number of residential subdivision applications. Since 2000, Planning staff and the Planning Commission have reviewed 46 new subdivisions that could result in 2,777 lots. As of March 31, 2006, the Building Division had issued building permits for 963 new homes within these subdivisions.

New homes are being built all over the city, not just in areas with large areas of vacant land. While most of us see a 200-lot subdivision, many of the smaller subdivisions created in existing neighborhoods may go unseen by anyone but the neighbors. However, these eight- or ten-lot subdivisions start to add up.

The community planning efforts known as Great Neighborhoods and Balanced Development Patterns divided Albany into five planning areas. One is Central Albany, roughly bounded on the north by Pacific Boulevard and on the south by the



Caption here.

Santiam-Albany Canal; Interstate 5 on the east and the Calapooia River to the west. Central Albany is south of downtown and the historic districts (see map).

Already substantially developed with well-established neighborhoods, Central Albany accounted for almost 25% of

single-family building permits in the last five years. If you've walked or driven down Waverly Drive or Marion Street lately, you might have noticed new homes under construction or for sale.

New homes provide choices for residents as their families grow or when they

retire. Moving doesn't mean that your children have to switch schools, that you have to give up your favorite neighborhood restaurant, or move away from friends and family. Residential growth may offer the chance to find the right house, close to home.

City Updating Transportation System Plan

The City is currently updating its Transportation System Plan (TSP). The existing plan was completed in 1997; since then, the city has grown, some land uses have changed, and many of the projects in that plan have been completed.

A TSP should be updated about every 10 years to keep up with development patterns, review problem areas, and track the types of funds that are available to address transportation needs.

This update will look at how Albany's transportation system will function for the next 20 years and beyond. It will look at a wide range of projects and needs including strengthening the road network and developing and encouraging people to take the bus, walk, and ride bikes.

A vision statement for the updated plan describes how transportation facilities and services support broader community goals and values by providing "a safe, diversified, and efficient transportation system that serves the needs of anticipated growth while protecting and enhancing Albany's economy, neighborhood quality, and natural and built environment."

The update will include transportation policies; background information on existing and future travel behavior and expectations; and investment in improved facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, bus

Three Albany areas are examples of some of the problems we hope to solve:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1.
Cut-through traffic in the South Shore neighborhood | 2.
Congestion at the Queen Avenue railroad crossing | 3.
Peak-hour tie-ups at the Interstate 5 interchanges. |
|---|--|---|

Please let us know your thoughts about these or other situations that are important where you live or work.

passengers, drivers, rail passengers, and pilots.

City staff will also take a look at the annual cost to maintain and operate the existing transportation system, including local residential streets.

Staff will develop a list of the top improvements and maintenance needs and 10-year plan to pay for them. Public transportation facilities and programs need public funds, and the 1997 TSP was

only partially funded. Your comments about what projects are most important will help the City decide how best to spend the money that is available.

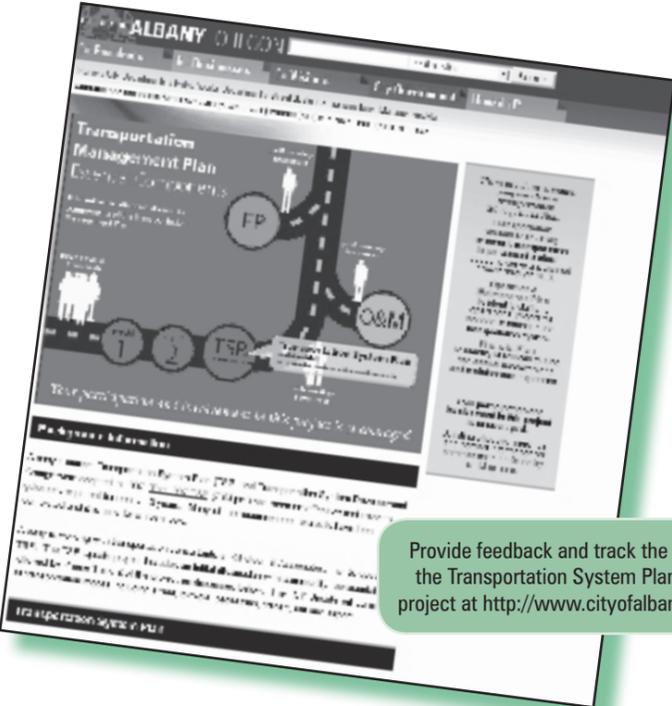
The TSP update will refresh the City's vision of the transportation system, adding and removing proposed projects to produce a system that works well for all forms of transportation. Public discussion is critical. We have set up a Web site, www.cityofalbany.net/tmp, to make the plan more accessible and useful to Albany citizens. The site contains

supporting information, completed documents, upcoming tasks, and information about public involvement, plus a feedback link.

Engineer Jeni Richardson is in charge of the update project; she can be contacted directly at jeni.richardson@cityofalbany.net. Please let us know what you think!



Photo courtesy: Albany Community Herald



Provide feedback and track the status of the Transportation System Plan update project at <http://www.cityofalbany.net/tmp>