

# City Bridges

Winter 2007

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

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## The South Albany of the Future

The Albany Community Development Department wants to know what you think of the new land-use plan for a 1,400 acre area of South Albany.

All of the area is within the City's urban growth boundary. It is between Interstate 5 and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, mostly south of Oak Creek and east of Linn-Benton Community College.

Much of the area is now used to grow grass seed and as pasture. PepsiCo has plans to develop a production and bottling plant on 243 acres in the southwestern corner of the area across Pacific Boulevard from Target Distribution Center.

City planners and John Stewart, landscape architect and site planning consultant, presented a preliminary map of the area at a public meeting at Albany City Hall on October 19, 2006.

The Oak Creek Refinement Plan map shows such potential features as a greenway along Oak Creek with walking trails; professional offices; housing of various types; and commercial areas. It shows generally where new infrastructure and public facilities could be located, such as a school, fire station, parks, and roads.

About 85 people attended the October 19 meeting, including several who own large tracts of land in the area. They asked questions about the extension of 53rd Avenue that will cross the Union Pacific railroad tracks to link with Ellingson Road; wetlands mitigation; drainage; impacts to wildlife; when properties would be annexed; how their property might be affected; the amount of truck traffic expected when PepsiCo's plant opens; and other issues.

Planners received written comments on the map following that meeting and

have already made some preliminary revisions. More comments are welcome. You can find a copy of the revised map on page 4 of this issue of *City Bridges*, as well as on the City's Web site, [www.cityofalbany.net](http://www.cityofalbany.net); look for the Oak Creek Refinement Plan link on the home page. A comment form that you can fill online is posted there. Please submit your comments by December 15, 2006.

City planners will review the comments and may make additional changes to the map. Both the City Planning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings in early 2007 before any changes are adopted.

Take a look at the map. Send in any comments you might have. If you have questions, contact Heather Hansen in the Planning Division at 541-917-7564, or [heather.hansen@cityofalbany.net](mailto:heather.hansen@cityofalbany.net).

## Monthly Crime Statistics Available Online



The monthly crime brief that the Albany Police Department provides to the City Council is now available on the City Web site at <http://cityofalbany.net/police/>.

The single-page document is designed to quickly communicate information about crime in the city of Albany, historically and geographically. The brief was developed to help City Councilors identify areas in the city that pose problems for law enforcement. It is increasingly requested by individuals, by realtors providing relocation services, and by Neighborhood Watch groups.

Each month, the brief compares statistics against the previous month and against the same month the previous year. This comparison uses police data to provide a basic snapshot of seasonal and historic trends. Areas of comparison include calls for service, cases, Uniform Crime Report (UCR) violent crime, UCR property crime, adult and juvenile arrests, traffic (moving violation) citations, abandoned vehicles, and junk and trash ordinance complaints.

Calls for service rates reflect the overall workload for officers, police clerks, and dispatchers. Tracking the case rates shows investigative functions for police officers and detectives. Tracking UCR violent crime and UCR property crime helps to pinpoint the type and frequency of crime throughout the city.

Remaining areas (arrests, moving violations, abandoned vehicles, and junk and trash complaints) provide specific information that the City or that the Council requests.

The Analyst Notes highlight Crime Analyst Patrick Hurley's specific observations in important crime trends and patterns.

The brief also includes two maps showing locations for UCR violent crime and property crime. These allow the viewer to quickly identify where these crime problems are being reported. In general, areas shaded white or yellow have insignificant crime compared to areas in orange, red, or black.

By providing this information, police hope to increase citizen awareness of crime as they partner to make Albany a safe city. If you have any questions about the monthly crime brief, please contact Hurley at 541-917-7680.

## 20th Children's Performing Arts Series Opens January 20

The Albany Parks & Recreation Department partners during the winter and spring months with local businesses to provide educational and cultural experiences for children and families through the Children's Performing Arts Series. Since 1987, the series has brought a variety of performers and artisans to the Albany area.

Elementary schools host performances at no cost to the school the Fridays prior to community performances that are open to the public. The school performances provide an opportunity for children to interact with the artists and ask questions, as well as provide those who are unable to attend the community performance the chance to experience the arts.

Community performances take place at the Forum at Linn-Benton Community College LBCC Forum at 11:00 a.m. All performances are free of charge.

### January 20 — Greta Pedersen

Greta comes from West Linn and has been involved with children's music for many years. Her performances are highly interactive, with lively sing-alongs, hand motions, and a variety of percussion instruments. Her "Music is Magic" CD is highly acclaimed.



### February 24 — Fast Horses

This Minnesota-based Lakota family has been performing since 1998. Transcending age, language, and cultural differences, their performances focus on the evolution of native music, dance, and native influences on other cultures. They use poetry, humor, storytelling, flute-playing, song, and dance to share their stories.

### March 24 — "Boston Tea Party"

This energetic two-person play tells the story of the American Revolution with audience participation. Children are able to learn about American history in a theatrical manner.

### April 21 — Eric Herman

Herman is a local composer, actor, and

writer with an engaging sense of humor and instant rapport with children. His performance contains participatory songs and is creative and enthusiastic.

### May 12 — Tears of Joy Theatre

Tears of Joy Theatre returns to the series with "Little One Inch". Using puppetry, this classic Japanese folk tale is about a tiny boy who proves his strength through a number of adventures.

### Target Sponsors 2007 Children's Performing Arts, River Rhythms

Albany Parks & Recreation Department has received \$8,000 from Target as sponsorship for the 2007 Children's Performing Arts series and the 2006 and 2007 River Rhythms concert series. The sponsorships are the first to be offered for Parks & Recreation's 2007 community events.

Target officials, led by Phil Jones, Senior Group Leader of Facility Operations at Target's Albany Distribution Center, presented the contribution to staff at the November 15, 2007, City Council meeting.

"Target is committed to giving back to the communities in which we operate," said Jones.

## Would You Watch the City Council on TV?

The Albany City Council is considering videotaping its meetings for later broadcast over government-access cable television and the City's Web site. The Council considered the idea in September and plans to discuss it again at its February 14, 2007, meeting.

Under a plan proposed by City staff, the meetings would be videotaped for unedited rebroadcast on cable and the Web site, and copies of each meeting, on digital video disc, would be also be available for Albany Public Library patrons to review at the Library or to borrow.

Many City Councils and other governing bodies videotape their regular meetings for rebroadcast as a public service for area residents who might otherwise be unable to attend the meetings in person. While the *Albany Democrat-Herald* and local radio stations report what happens at Council

meetings, videotapes would show viewer the full public discussion, comment, and deliberation that occurs there.

The City's Information Technology Department researched the proposed video project and estimates the cost of equipment, including three videocameras, at about \$47,500. One Information Technology employee would tape the meetings and prepare the DVDs as part of his regular job duties.

Tell the Council what you think of the idea.

### Would you watch the City Council on TV or on the Web?

Call the Public Information Office at 917-7507 or send e-mail to [marilyn.smith@cityofalbany.net](mailto:marilyn.smith@cityofalbany.net).

## ALBANY TEEN ART SHOW

COMING APRIL 2007

[www.cityofalbany.net/atart](http://www.cityofalbany.net/atart)



**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 917-7500  
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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# Help Available for Low-Income Water Customers

The City of Albany offers financial help to some residential water customers with limited incomes. The program began on a trial basis in January 2006 and is available until December 31, 2007, unless the Albany City Council chooses to extend it. The program is funded through a low monthly surcharge on all residential customers' bills.

Customers who qualify for the program can receive a credit for part of their water use (up to four units) on each monthly bill. These credits do not carry over from month to month, and customers are still responsible for paying all other charges on the bill.

To qualify, all four of the following must be true:

1. Your annual income must be no greater than 30 percent of the 2006 Linn County median income, based on family size, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). See the chart below:

Family size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Over 8
Annual income	\$11,200	\$12,800	\$14,400	\$16,000	\$17,300	\$18,550	\$19,850	\$21,100	+ \$1,250 for each additional family member

2. You must either be a senior citizen or disabled. A senior citizen is defined as being 60 years old and older. Disabled is defined as having a medically documented physical or mental condition that has prevented or will prevent you from working for more than 12 continuous months. A statement of disability benefits (Social Security, SAIF, OSHA) may qualify as proof of the disability.
3. The water bill must be in your name.
4. You must be at least 18 years old.

Qualifying customers need to reapply for the program each year.

If you meet all four of the criteria listed above, contact the Community Services Consortium (CSC) at 812-0743 to apply for assistance or to reapply.

# Friends Book Sale Thrives at Fair & Expo Center

The Friends of the Albany Public Library raised more than \$9,600 from their annual three-day book sale at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center in October.

The sale moved to the Expo Center this year after outgrowing the meeting room at the Main Library. Cummins-Mayflower donated help to move more than 400 boxes of books from the basement of the Downtown Carnegie Library to the Expo Center, and more than 70 community volunteers, including a large crew of West Albany High School students, helped out.

Other donations for the event came from Brower's Bookstore, Waldenbooks, Washington Mutual, Boccherini's Coffee and Tea House, and Fred Meyer.

The Friends use the profits from the book sale to purchase new equipment and support programs, such as the Children's Summer Reading Program, which exceed the Library's general budget.

If you missed the sale, used books remain for sale year-round at both branches of the Library. If you have books donated to next year's sale or the ongoing sale, drop them off at the Downtown branch. All donations are tax deductible.

# What's Up At Your Library:

## Grant Provides Library Cards for Youth Outside Albany

Youth outside Albany who want a Albany Public Library card for a reduced price will be able to get them for another year, thanks to state of Oregon Children's Ready to Read Grant funding.

Any Linn County resident may register for a one-year youth nonresident card, and the \$10 fee will be waived. The grant provides up to 150 of the cards during the year. Cardholders are limited to checking out items from the children's collections.

## Internet Provides Music for Home or Office

The Albany Public Library has added four new musical Internet databases that are available from home or work with a library card.

The Smithsonian Global Sound, Classical Music Library, African American Song, and In the First Person comprise a collection of quality music and spoken word that are global and seldom heard on local radio.

Listen in at <http://library.cityofalbany.net/reference/db.php>.

## Storytelling, Manga Comics Fans Groups Invite Newcomers

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join two ongoing groups this winter at the Albany Main Library, 1390 Waverly Drive SE.

Joyce Greiner of the local Wonderkeepers Storytelling Guild will lead a series of free workshops on dramatic storytelling on several Saturday afternoons. Teen storytellers who attend the workshops are then invited to perform with the group at various special events throughout the year at the Library and other venues.

The Anime Club for readers of the popular Japanese Manga comic books will meet once a month on a Saturday afternoon. During meetings, fans discuss their favorite characters and series, learn Japanese vocabulary, and practice drawing in the Manga style. The Club provides a chance to meet others with similar interests in an informal setting. Refreshments are served.

Both programs are free of charge, and no registration is necessary. For more information, call Doris Hicks, Young Adult Services Librarian, at (541) 917-7580, ext. 4704.

## A Home for the Holidays — Really!

Representatives of Neighborhood Housing Services will present a free seminar, "Introduction to Homebuying," at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 13, 2006, at Albany Public Library.

Neighborhood Housing Services provides access and encouragement to families that are interested in buying a home for the first time.

The talk will cover grants, subsidies, and low-income incentives for first-time buyers who qualify. Speakers will address such questions as how to know if you're ready to buy a home, how much you can afford, what a buyer should look for, how to find a lender, and how to avoid common pitfalls.

The seminar is open to the public at no charge.

In order to qualify for assistance from the Regional Housing Center, your income may not exceed 80 percent of the area median income level for family size as established by the Housing and Urban Development Department. Income guidelines for households with up to five members are listed below.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5
Benton	\$37,750	\$43,150	\$48,550	\$53,900	\$58,250
Lincoln	\$27,050	\$30,900	\$34,800	\$38,650	\$41,750
Linn	\$29,250	\$33,400	\$37,600	\$41,750	\$45,100

## Albany Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Underway

Construction to expand Albany's Wastewater Treatment Plant began in August 2006. So far, the site has been excavated for tanks and new buildings.

At a total cost of approximately \$67 million, this is the largest single public improvement project the City has undertaken. It will:

- Expand treatment capacity from 20 million gallons per day (MGD) to 68 MGD;
- Provide capacity for residential, commercial, and industrial growth for the Albany/Millersburg service area to approximately 2030;
- Provide a higher and more efficient level of wastewater treatment so that water is cleaner when discharged to the Willamette River;
- Reduce the frequency of sanitary sewer overflows;
- Meet or exceed regulatory requirements

Additional information and construction photos are available on the City of Albany's Web site at [http://www.cityofalbany.net/publicworks/sewer/wwtp\\_project/](http://www.cityofalbany.net/publicworks/sewer/wwtp_project/)

If you have questions concerning the project, please call Chip Ullstad, Utility Engineer, at (541) 917-7635.



## Tips For Safe Winter Driving

Fall and winter can bring serious and sometimes dangerous driving conditions. Review these tips for safe driving; they could help you in the blustery days to come.

1. Some crashes occur when drivers get on the road without letting their vehicle windows defrost completely. Make sure your view is clear before you start. You and other motorists are safer when you can see blind spots and use mirrors.
2. Summer heat damages windshield wiper blades. Check to be sure your blades clean the windshield adequately and allow a clear view in wet weather. Even when it's not raining or foggy, water from wet roads can be thrown onto windshields. Your driving can be greatly impaired when you can't see.
3. Never leave your vehicle unattended while you warm it up. Many vehicles are stolen here under those circumstances every year.
4. Braking on slippery roads can be a challenge. Allow plenty of room when you are following another vehicle. Increased following distance gives you more time to react to hazards. If you don't have to slam on the brakes to stop, squeeze braking (also known as threshold braking) along with declutching (manual shift) or shifting to neutral (automatic transmission) will do the job best. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, use the heel-and-toe method. Keep your heel on the floor and use your toes to press the brake pedal firmly just short of locking the wheels, then release the pressure on the pedal, and press again in the same way. Repeat until you come to

a full stop. You can also use heel-and-toe with antilock brakes, but don't take your foot off the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.

5. Many people enjoy outdoor winter activities such as skiing, snowmobiling, snow boarding, or a relaxing drive into the mountains. If you are planning to go out into the snow, be sure to have a winter driving kit stocked with these items:
  - Properly fitting tire chains
  - Bag of sand or salt or kitty litter
  - Traction mats
  - Snow shovel
  - Snow brush
  - Ice scraper
  - Jumper cables
  - Warning devices such as flares or emergency lights
  - Fuel line deicer (methanol, also called methyl alcohol or methyl hydrate)
  - Extra windshield wiper fluid appropriate for subfreezing temperatures
  - Roll of paper towels
  - Flashlight and a portable flashing light with extra batteries
  - Blanket
  - Extra clothing, including hat and windproof pants and warm footwear
  - First aid kit
  - Snack bars or other emergency food and water
  - Matches and emergency candles—only use with a window opened to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.
  - Road maps.
  - "Call Police" or other help signs or brightly colored banners.

These winter driving tips will help you travel safely this year. Be a defensive driver and always buckle up.

## Make Your Voice Count How to Be Effective at a Public Hearing

One of the most important ways for residents to influence decisions about how Albany grows is to participate in land use public hearings, but it takes more than just speaking to be effective.

The land use process is governed by state law to protect the rights of all involved. Each type of land use application (subdivision, site plan, etc.) is reviewed according to several criteria to determine whether it can be approved or must be denied. Review criteria are used to evaluate whether a particular application meets requirements such as whether streets are adequate to support the proposed development.

Here are some ways to be effective if you participate in a public hearing:

### Be informed.

Know your issue. Get specific information about the application; learn the legal processes, requirements, and regulations and ask questions of planning staff and/or the developer.

Read the staff report, a comprehensive analysis of the application. Many of your questions may already be answered in it. Staff reports must be available to the public at least seven days before a scheduled public hearing; copies are available at Albany City Hall. Staff reports for high profile applications are often posted on the City's Web site, [www.cityofalbany.net](http://www.cityofalbany.net). Contact the Planning Division for more information on a particular case.

Present facts and evidence that relate to the review criteria.

Testimony, either favorable or opposing, must also relate to the review criteria. The hearing body can only base its decision on whether an application meets the criteria, and the claims must be able to be proved in court.

Example: five separate review criteria apply to Albany subdivisions. One reads, "The proposed street plan affords the best economic, safe, and efficient circulation of traffic possible under the circumstances." It's not enough to say that a proposed subdivision will generate too much traffic. You must be able to show, with supporting evidence, why more traffic would be inefficient or unsafe.

### Control your emotions.

You may have very strong feelings about the issue. However, you may not be able to understand what others are saying if you are angry or upset, or it may detract from the points you are trying to make.

### Don't Repeat Others' Testimony.

Simply say that you support previous testimony.

### Be Courteous.

Don't interrupt others. If you talk to your neighbors while the hearing is underway, keep your voices low or leave the room.

### Educate yourself again.

If you disagree with a decision, learn your rights and how to continue exercising those rights.

Several online publications from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) address citizen involvement in local land use: find them at [http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/publications.shtml#Citizen\\_Involvement](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/publications.shtml#Citizen_Involvement).

## What Does The City Tree Commission Do?

The City of Albany has provided tree services for the past two decades. These services include planting trees, removing hazardous trees, and pruning trees on public property; providing technical assistance to City staff and residents; outreach and education. As a result, Albany has been nationally recognized as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 12 consecutive years.

Albany's Tree Commission plays an important role in City tree services. The Albany Municipal Code Chapter 2.23 established the Tree Commission to promote and protect public health, safety,

and the general welfare of the citizens of Albany regulating planting, maintenance, and removal of trees in the city.

The five-member commission meets once a month. Its primary duties and responsibilities are to develop and administer a written plan for the management of all public tree resources; develop criteria for the City Forester to apply in making resource management decisions; designate Heritage Trees; hold special events to promote planting and proper maintenance of trees; obtain the annual Tree City USA designation; and review the discretionary decisions of the City Forester.

- The Tree Commission has been working for the past year on updating a resource management plan, which will be presented to the Council in 2007.
- The City's eighth Heritage Tree was designated in the spring of 2006. The black walnut, just north of Highway 20 near Blossom Lane in North Albany, is one of the largest black walnuts in Oregon.
- Several school and neighborhood street tree planting projects were completed this year.
- Arbor Day events are done each year and hundreds of Albany residents participate.

- The Tree Commission also helps with some tree-related decisions including those made by the City Forester.

The City has a limited number of trees still available for planting along neighborhood streets. Requests can be made on-line at the urban forestry Web site, <http://www.cityofalbany.net/parks/urban-forestry/>. Tree planting begins in February.

More information about street tree planting and other aspects of the urban forestry program is available on the Web site, or by contacting Craig Carnagey, City Forester, at 917-7679 or [carnagey@cityofalbany.net](mailto:carnagey@cityofalbany.net).

# Oak Creek Refinement Plan Map

See "The South Albany of the Future," page 1.

