

# City

# Bridges

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

Fall 2003

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## Sidebar

### Aquatic Center Fund Drive Gets State, Federal Boosts

The City of Albany is closing the gap on the funding needed to move forward with the construction of a new family aquatic center at Swanson Park.

The latest boosts in fund raising came in a \$250,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and \$75,000 in federal funds, thanks to the efforts of Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio.

The two grants, announced in July, left the City about \$191,000 to raise toward the project's \$2.4 million price tag. The City Council wants to wrap up efforts in September so that construction can be completed in time for the waterpark to be used in the summer of 2004.

The new waterpark will replace Swanson Pool, Albany's only public outdoor swimming pool, which closed after the 1999 season after 62 years in use. Plans call for a larger water area with interactive water features, a water slide, a river channel, lap swim area, therapy pool, sunbathing areas, and concessions.

Fund-raising for the project got its first major contribution, a check for \$250,000, in December 2001 from the Willamette Industries' Albany Paper Mill. Weyerhaeuser Foundation later donated \$125,000 to the effort. A private anonymous donor has pledged \$250,000. The Albany City Council has pledged up to \$1 million in City funds for the project.

Parks & Recreation staff and volunteers will host an invitation-only, semiformal dinner and auction on Saturday, September 6, 2003, at Spring Hill Country Club to help raise additional funds for the project. Those attending will have an opportunity to bid on specific features at the waterpark. Details are available by calling the Parks & Recreation office at 917-7777.

All donations to the waterpark project are tax deductible and may be made 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.

## Look Out, Yogi! Park Rangers on Patrol



Reserve Officer Roy Wright at Albany Skatepark

As of July 3, 2003, Park Rangers have been on patrol duty in Albany city parks.

The three rangers are Reserve Albany Police Officers who work part-time to provide a total of 40 hours of patrol duty in the parks. They are scheduled to work in the parks through September.

The ranger position was included in the five-year ambulance, fire, and police levy that Albany voters approved in November 2002.

Reserve Police Officers are community members with an interest in law enforcement. Most work full-time jobs, are college students, or both. They graduate from a nine-month reserve officers' academy where they attend one night a week and one Saturday a month.

By using Reserve Police Officers as Park Rangers, the Albany Police Department is able to place fully trained personnel in the parks.

The initial focus of the Park Rangers has been the Albany Skatepark and Eleanor Hackleman Park. These parks have a history of many calls for police service. "The Park Rangers' presence should help to prevent many crimes of opportunity," Captain Ben Atchley said.

The Park Rangers are working on building relationships with park users and educating users on the safe and courteous use of the parks. As a last resort, Park Rangers enforce park rules with a citation or an arrest. They are available to explain park regulations to those who are new to the park or from out of the area, such as those from other cities or states who come to use the skatepark.

The Park Rangers also patrol other Albany parks. Their goal is to make everyone's visit to a park safe and enjoyable. Our parks have general rules with more specific rules for some parks, such as no alcohol use without a permit in most waterfront parks. If park users are courteous to one another, they will find they have complied with most of the rules.

If you are aware of an ongoing problem at one of our parks or you see an issue that needs to be addressed by a Park Ranger, please call the Albany Police Department at 541-917-7680.

## Albany-Millersburg Water Project Moving Ahead



In 2002, the City of Albany and the City of Millersburg began working together to build a new water treatment plant to serve both communities' long-term population needs. The project goal is a new facility which will reliably provide high-quality drinking water to supplement the existing 1912 Albany Water Treatment Plant, which currently serves both communities.

The existing plant is served by an 18-mile long earthen canal from the South Santiam River above Lebanon, constructed in the 1870s. Though the existing plant has been upgraded several times, it has limited treatment capacity and does not meet current standards for withstanding earthquakes.

The new water project will construct a second intake on the South Santiam River, about nine miles downstream from the existing canal intake. The treatment plant will be located on Scrael Hill about three miles northeast of Albany next to Cox Quarry and will provide a reliable source of high quality water.

A 42-inch line will deliver treated water from the plant along a route down Century Drive. The line will connect with existing water lines at Knox Butte Road. Millersburg will be connected by a 24-inch line under Interstate 5. Construction may begin before the end of the year, with the plant in full operation by the end of 2005, or early in 2006.

*continued on page 2*

### City Council to Host Town Hall Meeting

The Albany City Council will host a town hall meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2003, to hear what city residents say are the most important needs for the near future.

The Council has tentatively planned to submit measures to voters in November 2004 to build a new library and pay for its operation. The Council is also considering measures to pay for park improvements, street reconstruction, a new police station, and a new main fire station, along with renewing the ambulance, police, and fire levy that voters approved in November 2002.

**How should the City spend your money?**  
The Council wants to hear from you.

The town hall will be held in the cafeteria at West Albany High School from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Watch for more information on the City's Web site, [www.ci.albany.or.us](http://www.ci.albany.or.us) and in the *Albany Democrat-Herald*, or call the Public Information Office at (541) 917-7507.

## 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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## Parks, Public Works Under New Leadership



The Albany Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments got new directors on July 1, 2003.

Parks & Recreation Director Ed Hodney, 49, comes to Albany from a similar position with the City of Denton, Texas. A native Oregonian, Hodney graduated from North Eugene High School and earned a bachelor's degree in recreation and resource management from Oregon State University. He also holds a master's in recreation and resource development from Texas A & M University.

He began his parks and recreation career as a park technician with the National Park Service at Kings Canyon National Park in California; held a succession of four positions with the City of Houston, Texas, Parks & Recreation Department as a recreation aide, park designer, assistant superintendent of planning, and capital improvements manager; was assistant director of parks and community services for the City of Fort Worth, Texas, for six years; and became director in Denton in 1995.

In Denton, population 90,000, Hodney faced many of the same challenges that face the City of Albany, including the construction of a \$13.5 million waterpark and raising many private donations and grants. Under his administration, Denton was been a finalist for the National Recreation and Parks Association Gold Medal award for three consecutive years.

Hodney describes his style as vision-oriented and values-based. He describes parks and recreation services as "the sustenance of a healthy economy."

"My job is to work with others to build an organization that is responsive to the needs of the community, creative and innovative in our pursuit of the vision, more entrepreneurial in the conduct of our businesses, and constantly demonstrating our value to Albany," Hodney said. "Parks and recreation should generate a positive return-on-investment for our citizens and policy makers, rather than be seen as a cost to be minimized. It's our job to produce the high return that Albany's citizens want and deserve."

Hodney and his wife, Heather, have two children. Their son Chris is an architect in Portland, and daughter Paige is at home.

Hodney replaces Dave Clark, who died of cancer in October 2002. Clark had been director of the department since 1975.

Albany's new Public Works Director is Diane Taniguchi-Dennis. Dennis, 41, had been Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City since 1999. As Assistant Director, she was responsible for the design and construction program of the City's \$107 million Capital Improvement Program for projects including water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation, and other public facilities. In particular, she served as project manager for the \$39 million Albany-Millersburg Joint Water Project.

Before coming to Albany, Dennis worked ten years for the City of Salem, progressing from a civil engineering assistant designing capital improvement projects to plant engineer, facilities



Ed Hodney (left) and Diane Taniguchi-Dennis (right).

engineer, wastewater services manager, and Assistant Public Works Director.

She started her career with CH2M Hill as a design engineer on water and wastewater treatment plant facilities throughout the United States.

Dennis said that she chose this career "because I wanted to be part of creating the infrastructure of a modern society so people have clean water to drink; so our wastes are treated and returned to the environment in a sustainable way; and so we can have a choice to walk, ride a bike, drive a car, ride a bus or train, and even fly to get where we want to go."

Dennis grew up in Hawaii, holds a bachelor of science degree in civil and environmental engineering from Cornell University and has done graduate work at Oregon State University. She is enrolling this fall in the Willamette University Atkinson School of Management to work toward a master's degree in business administration. She is actively involved with talented and gifted students and has coached a number of regional and national award-winning science teams.

She and her husband, Clay Dennis, have two sons, Cameron and Alexander. Clay Dennis owns Zephyr Engineering, a precision metal fabrication company in Salem.

Dennis replaces Floyd Collins, who has retired. Collins had been Public Works director since 1998.

## Fire Station Treasure Hunt Set

The Albany Fire Department will host its annual Fire Station Treasure Hunt on Saturday, October 4, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All four Albany fire stations will be open to the public for tours, activities, and demonstrations by firefighters. Visitors will learn about the variety of services the Fire Department provides and have some fun.

Pick up a Treasure Hunt map on the day of the event at any fire station, or by visiting the Fire Department's new Web pages at [www.ci.albany.or.us/fire](http://www.ci.albany.or.us/fire). Once you've completed the hunt through all four stations, you can claim your treasure!

### Albany fire station locations:

- Station 11**  
110 Sixth Avenue SE
- Station 12**  
120 34th Avenue SE
- Station 13**  
1980 Three Lakes Road SE
- Station 14**  
2850 Gibson Hill Road NW



## Water Project includes Fish Screen, Hydro Turbine

*continued from page 1*

Both Albany and Millersburg are looking for grants and other sources to help pay for the project, estimated to cost \$39 million. Oregon's Congressional delegation has already secured \$450,000 in federal funds.

Albany is also upgrading the existing Santiam River diversion dam and installing a canal fish screen. A seven-foot-high concrete diversion dam was built across the South Santiam River in the 1920s to make sure enough water was going into the Canal. The dam is about 300 feet downstream from the canal entrance and diverts water into the Canal. Four fish lad-

ders have been added to allow fish passage around the dam. The fish ladders were built over a 50-year period, the newest in 1972. These fish ladders are inadequate by today's standards.

Another drawback to the system is that the canal intake is unscreened which could allow fish to stray into the canal and get lost from the main river channel. Albany has sought solutions to both problems since purchasing the system from Pacific Power & Light in 1984.

For several decades, the Canal used additional river water to generate electricity. The extra water was routed through two small turbine generators at the Albany Water Treatment Plant. Hydropower

generation stopped in 1991, when the City learned that it needed a federal license to continue. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted the City a 50-year hydropower license in 1998, with some stipulations including substantial improvements to the dam's fish passage system and installing a fish screen to meet current regulations. The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$4 to \$5 million.

The City also plans to improve the headgate control structure near the canal entrance to allow better regulation of flow into the Canal. The City intends to refurbish the old hydropower generating system in the near future.



## Visit the Library Without Leaving Home

The Albany Public Library has partnered with Samaritan Albany General Hospital and the Linn Genealogical Society to provide valuable new services to Library cardholders.

For the ninth year in a row, Samaritan Health Services is providing financial support for four health-related databases available at the Library or from one's home or business over the Internet. The databases include:

- *Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition*, which provides access to nearly 600 scholarly full-text journals focusing on many medical disciplines. This database is updated daily.
- *Clinical Pharmacology* provides up-to-date, concise and clinically-relevant drug monographs for all U.S. prescription drugs; hard-to-find herbal and nutritional supplements; over-the-counter products; and new and investigational drugs.
- *MedicLatina* is a Spanish language collection of medical research and investigative journals published by Latin American medical publishers. This unique database provides access to full text for nearly 125 periodicals, including over 50 peer-reviewed medical journals.
- *Health Source: Consumer Edition* is the broadest collection of consumer health information and is available to libraries worldwide. It provides information on health topics including the medical sciences, food sciences and nutrition, child care, sports medicine, and general health. This database features searchable full text for nearly 300 journals and is also updated daily.

The Linn Genealogical Society has contributed to the Library's licensing of HeritageQuest, a genealogical resource that will be an asset to everyone interested in family history. It, too, will be available 24 hours a day by connecting to the Library at [www.library.ci.albany.or.us](http://www.library.ci.albany.or.us). This resource includes the complete federal censuses, 1790-1930, searchable by name, place of birth, and other variables; and a genealogy and local history collection of over 25,000 digitized books, searchable by keywords.

If you are looking for the next great "read," look in NoveList, a database underwritten by the Albany Public Library Foundation. Users can enhance their recreational reading by identifying books they want to read before their next visit to the library. Patrons can place holds for those books from their home computers, too. NoveList provides background information about authors, identifies series and read "alikes," and provides book discussions.

These powerful databases and other resources – from auto repair to telephone directories, archived *Oregonians*, *Baby Talk* or *Rolling Stone* — are a few of the many electronic resources provided by the Library for both in-Library and home use.



## Busy Summer at Downtown Carnegie Library

Between crowds of kids and parents in summer reading programs and workers from Pioneer Waterproofing Company cleaning and repairing exterior brick, summer 2003 at the Downtown Carnegie Library was busy and noisy. The staff appreciates the patience of patrons during that time.

The Summer Reading Program was funded through a grant from the Oregon State Library to help promote the joy of reading. Librarians always strive to make reading an enjoyable habit for children. The Friends of the Library also give money to the Summer Reading Program, allowing the Library to provide more programs and offer incentives.

The Albany Public Library Foundation teamed with the City of Albany this summer to hire Pioneer Waterproofing Company to restore the brick and mortar of the Carnegie building. Frequent passersby will have seen the building restored to its original look of almost 90 years ago. The building looks better, and the treatment should enable the building to stand up to another 90 years of Oregon weather.

The Library is quieter now. Stop by to check it out.

## Sign up for Library Cards in September

Do you have access to free books, magazines, videotapes, computer use, Internet, books on tape, CD-ROMS, music CDs, and a multitude of other informational, educational, and entertainment resources? If not, you can check them out at the Library.

September is Library Card Sign Up Month at public libraries across America. The timing reminds parents that a library card is one of the most important of school supplies, and it's free. Studies indicate that children who use the library and are read to at home are more successful in school and have a better chance of becoming life-long learners. Children learn what they live; so when parents use the library and enjoy reading, it is likely that the children will too.

The Albany Public Library hopes to register 500 new patrons in September. Those who sign up for new cards that month will be eligible for drawings and prizes. To get a card, bring in photo identification and proof of residency within the Albany city limits. Parents will need to accompany minor children when registering for a card. Registration takes a few minutes; then you can use the card immediately.



## Have a Question? Ask the City

**Question:** Are there any restrictions/requirements for neighborhood garage sales?

Public Information Officer Marilyn Smith provides the answer:

Household or neighborhood garage sales are allowed in Albany with specific rules that are listed in Section 7.84.190 of the Albany Municipal Code. Those rules say:

- Household items may be offered for sale to the general public from a residential address no more than three times each calendar year for no more than three consecutive days per event.
- Items offered for sale shall not be displayed or stored in the public right-of-way, in a clear vision area, or on another person's property without the property owner's permission.
- Signs advertising garage sales are limited to two on the premises and two off premises. Each sign can be no more than four square feet per face and four feet tall.
- Signs can be erected only one day before the sale and must be removed no later than one day following.
- The rules apply jointly and severally to each person who offers goods for sale.



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.



## Train Station Renovation Ready to Roll

Restoration and renovation work at the Albany train station should begin soon, enhancing the station to serve more modes of transportation.

The project has been in the works since 1995 when Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments conducted a study of intermodal facilities in the Albany-Corvallis area. The study identified Albany's rail depot as the preferred location for improved passenger rail service.

The project will convert the passenger rail terminal and adjoining property to a multimodal transportation center. A variety of changes will accommodate a growing number of train and bus users.

The first phase of the project is expected to be under construction this winter. Construction of this phase of improvements is projected to be completed in 2005. The initial work will:

- Restore the train depot building to a condition befitting its historic status. The building will once again be used exclusively for passenger rail service, tripling the present size of the area used by Amtrak.
- Improve the entrance and exit with a new access point at 12th Avenue SW.
- Create a bus transfer area for Albany Transit System, Linn Benton Loop, Amtrak Thruway bus, Greyhound, and other transit providers.
- Improve the rail platform to provide an elevated loading and waiting area with lighting and shelters.
- Improve facilities for dropping off passengers and passenger parking.

While the depot and surrounding site are being renovated, Amtrak offices will move to the Rail Express Agency (REA) building just east of the current ticket office.

The 1995 study also identified a long-standing need to improve highway capacity north of the depot at the Pacific Boulevard overpass. The City of Albany obtained \$2.6 million of state funding for highway improvements in Phase 2 of the rail station project. Preliminary design work will begin this fall, with construction after the first phase is completed.

Funding for the transportation center project includes \$9 million in federal funds secured by Oregon Fourth District Congressman Peter DeFazio; \$1 million from Amtrak; the \$2.6 million state funds; and \$1.4 million of City matching funds. The City continues to look for additional grant funds to complete future phases.

## Maintain Your Wood-Burning Heat Appliances

Protect your home and family by inspecting and cleaning your wood-burning heat appliances before it's time to use them.

### Inspect the Flue

- Ensure adequate distance from burnable materials like wood, cardboard, paper, or insulation. Burnable materials should be at least two inches away from the flue.
- Repair cracks.
- Remove creosote buildup.

### Clean Chimney Caps

- Remove, clean, and reinstall caps.
- Replace caps if damaged or unable to remove creosote buildup.

### Inspect Woodstoves and Fireplaces

- Repair any damage or cracks in masonry.
- Ensure that woodstove doors are properly sealed.
- Ensure that doors and screens are in good condition.

Keep burnable materials at least 18 inches away from a wood-burning appliance.

Start the season with a large, hot fire. Use dry, seasoned, hardwood to burn the creosote out of the appliance. All future fires during that season should be smaller, using seasoned wood. Never burn paper, plastic, or garbage; they will create more creosote buildup.

Remove ashes regularly. Place them in a metal container, add water, stir, and add water again. While the ashes cool, place the metal container away from anything that could burn.

Chimney-cleaning brushes and rods can be borrowed at no cost from Albany Fire Department Station 11, 110 Sixth Avenue SE. Be sure to measure the length and dimensions of the flue to know the correct brush size and number of rods you will need.



## 53rd Avenue Reconstruction Begun

Work began this summer on improvements to 53rd Avenue west of Pacific Boulevard.

For half the summer, traffic was detoured onto a temporary bypass road while 53rd Avenue was elevated above the level of most local winter flooding. The street should completely reopen to traffic in October, but final paving and curbs will not be done until the fill under

the new road has settled. A temporary asphalt surface may be needed for the winter, with final work completed in the spring or summer of 2004.

The \$4.075 million project will improve 53rd Avenue to urban street standards and raise the roadway above the 100-year flood plain. The project includes replacing two bridges and installing a traffic signal at the intersection of 53rd and Pacific.

Several residential subdivisions have been developed on the north side of 53rd Avenue in the last several years, prompting the road improvements.

Property developers and homeowners in those subdivisions are being charged for some of the work. Other funds include \$1.5 million from the Oregon Department of Transportation through the Oregon Transportation Investment Act.

## Police, Fire, Public Works Help With Kids Day America

Albany kids and their parents can learn more about how to be healthy and safe, and make their environment better at Kids Day America/International, a free community event on Saturday, September 20, 2003.

The event will be hosted by Advanced Chiropractic, 1819 14th Avenue SE, in the parking lot at Heritage Mall. Hours are 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Kids Day America is dedicated to children's health, safety, and environmental awareness. Participants include the Albany Fire Department, Albany Police Department, Albany Public Works Department, South Albany High School swim staff, Operation Life Saver, and KlaasKids Foundation.

Activities will include child safety seat checks, a 9-1-1 simulator, child safety identification cards, water safety instruction, spinal exams and scoliosis screening, and environmental information. Printed information will be available on crime prevention, child safety, environmental awareness, and disease prevention.

All ages are welcome. Refreshments will be served and prize drawings will be done every half hour. Two local residents will be recognized for their work with children.

The event will happen regardless of weather. Proceeds will be donated to the Albany Public Schools Foundation.

For additional information, contact Advanced Chiropractic at 541-928-1010.

## Annual Fall River Cleanup Set For September 27

The City of Albany is coordinating the seventh cleanup of Albany-area rivers and creeks on Saturday, September 27, 2003.

Volunteers are needed to collect trash and debris from 9:00 a.m. to noon at various sites around Albany. Volunteers need to meet by 9:00 a.m. at Bryant Park for instructions, then drive to their assigned cleanup areas and return to Bryant Park at noon for a snack. Prizes will go to those who find the largest and most unusual items.

Participants should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves. Adults who are willing and able to wade in shallow water can bring rubber boots or waders. The City will provide garbage bags, latex gloves, maps, and instructions.

River cleanups are a great opportunity for families, individuals, or groups to get involved in the community and for school and youth groups to do community service. Groups of five people or more must preregister by Monday, September 22, by calling Irene Friedman, 917-7636. Individuals and small families are encouraged, but not required, to preregister.

Children younger than high school must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must sign a waiver, and those under 18 must have a parent or guardian's signature.

At each previous river cleanup, about 150 volunteers have removed 5,000 pounds of trash and debris from our creeks and rivers.

Cleanups make rivers healthier for people, fish, and wildlife; and they help us appreciate and safely enjoy the outdoors. Please join us and help clean up Albany's creeks and rivers.

Plan ahead: the next Albany river cleanup will be on Saturday, May 22, 2004. The spring river cleanup is part of the statewide cleanup day, Down By the Riverside, supported by Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV). SOLV is also coordinating the annual fall beach cleanup on Saturday, October 11, 2003, and the annual spring beach cleanup on Saturday March 22, 2004.

For more information about participating in the beach cleanups, visit [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org).

*Justin Silbernagel drags a shopping cart out of Periwinkle Creek during the May 2003 river cleanup. Justin and his parents Pam and Randy and brother Matt have volunteered at most of the past Albany river cleanups.*

