

Why Does City Water Cost So Much?

We take for granted when we turn on the faucet that clean water will come out and when we flush the toilet, the stuff in the bowl will go away. Then we get the monthly bill from City Hall. Ouch.

Water and sewer rates in Albany go up every year. Here's why.

An Albany utility bill covers water and sewer services, with a small charge to help fund a low income assistance plan. Water charges vary month to month, according to the amount you use. Summer water bills are typically highest as customers water lawns and gardens and wash their cars.

Water use is measured in "units" of 100 cubic feet. If you use 8 units or 800 cubic feet, that's 5,984 gallons, which costs \$42.90. Cost per gallon? \$.007. A 16-ounce bottle of water at a convenience store for \$1.49 costs \$11.92 a gallon – and it's not delivered to your home, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

For residential customers, sewer charges are the same each month, based on the amount of water you use in winter, when most people use less. Whatever goes down the toilet or sink ends up at the wastewater treatment plant; the more water down the drain means the more sewage at the plant.

If 8 units or 5,984 gallons of water represent winter use, the sewer part of the bill is \$34.44 - or \$.006 a gallon.

Why do the rates keep increasing?

Albany's treatment plants and service lines were paid for by our parents and grandparents. Over time, mains, equipment, and facilities deteriorate or can't keep up with demands because the City hasn't had the money to keep up with regular replacement and repairs and to provide for a growing population.

In 2000, Albany was ordered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to keep untreated sewage from entering the Willamette River during extreme wet weather. The wastewater treatment plant has not had a major expansion since 1969.

The Vine Street water treatment plant had been operating since 1913 and was nearing capacity. That same year, the City of Millersburg took steps to build its own water plant. Officials in both cities reached an historic agreement to build and operate a new water plant together, saving money for both communities. They appointed citizen committees to review and draft long-range plans for both the water and wastewater systems.

The committee's plan for funding the water system called for a one-time increase of 28% followed by annual rate increases slightly above inflation. Income pays for part of the cost of building of the new plant, maintenance and repairs to the Vine Street plant and canal, and repair and replacement of old water lines throughout the city.

Where does the money go?

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2007, Albany and Millersburg spent \$17,317,904 on the water system; \$11,086,208 of that came from water bills. This \$17.3 million was spent in these ways:

Water Fund Expenses FY06-07

Treatment: 10%
Purifying water at both treatment plants.

Canal Maintenance: 2%
Day-to-day expenses for maintenance of the historic Albany-Santiam Canal

Administration: 11%
The costs of senior managers, office staff,

office supplies and other costs that are not specifically listed above; computerized system-wide hydraulics modeling, general support services engineering staff, processing water permits of development activities (covered by user fees), bank fees from accepting credit card payment, and miscellaneous costs.

Day-to-day repairs and maintenance **Customer Service: 3%** of pipes and other facilities used to Processing the water portion of deliver water to customers. customer bills, meter readings, and postage. Capital Projects/ Studies: 39% Replacing failing water mains, repairing pump stations, maintaining reservoirs and other major **Debt Service: 22%** projects, which often cost Annual loan payments, mostly for hundreds of thousands of the new Albany/Millersburg Water

Sewer Fund Expenses FY06-07

Sewer costs totaled \$41,227,382 in fiscal 2007, \$9,281,649 of that from utility bills. Much of the total went to upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

Customer Service: 1%
Costs for the sewer portion
of processing of bills, meter
readings, and postage.

Administration: 5%

Same as the costs for

water operations.

Treatment:4%
Sanitizing and purifying
wastewater that is sent to
the Willamette.

Treatment Plant.

Collection: 4%
Day-to-day repairs
and maintenance
of lines and other
facilities that
transport wastewater to the
treatment plant.

dollars each.

Debt Service: 2% • Annual loan payments which will rise significantly when the new Wastewater Treatment Plant is completed.

Studies: 83%
Will fall dramatically when the new plant is completed. This area also contains replacement of failing sewer lines, maintaining lift stations, and other major repairs or replacements.

Capital Projects/

Environmental Services: 1%

Testing industrial users for compliance with regulations, paid by fees to those users; managing storm water, hazardous waste regulations and reporting, and ongoing biosolids management.

The wastewater funding plan has regular, steady rate increases to pay for needed improvements. The 9 percent per year sewer rate increases were intended to avoid the large one-time increase that came with the new water plant and is scheduled to end in 2010. Rates will go up more slowly after that.

Albany's two-year-old water plant and current improvements to the wastewater plant are designed to last for decades. Using money from water and sewer bills, we will continue to replace leaking and broken water and sewer mains and upgrade other equipment on a regular schedule. Deferring those costs in the past helped create the expenses we have today.

Albany residents pay more for water and sewer services than other nearby communities because we are completing two major construction projects that will serve the community for decades, and we're paying for a backlog of deferred maintenance. When other communities make the same type of investments that we have made, their costs will increase also.

The costs of City utilities will continue to rise with energy prices and inflation. We hope to level out operating costs as we complete construction.

You can reduce your bill now by cutting back on how much water you use. Lowflow shower heads, drought tolerant landscaping, and washing machines that use less water will save you money. Fix leaks promptly.

Ultimately, you decide whether a fraction of a penny a gallon is a reasonable price to pay for safe drinking water and proper sewage disposal.

Albany has help for qualifying customers with very low incomes. To find out more about the Water Low Income Assistance program, please call the Community Services Consortium at 812-0743.

City of Albany Directory

Mayor

Dan Bedore 812-1426

Ward I Councilors

Dick Olsen 926-7348 Flovd Collins 928-2961

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

917-7500 **General Information Ambulance Billing** 917-7710 917-7553 **Building Inspection** 917-7500 City Manager

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/Council 917-7503 **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 917-7667 **Transit** Water and Sewer Billing 917-7547 Water/Sewer/Streets 917-7600

Emergencies (Fire, Police, Ambulance) Dial

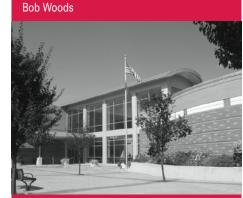
City Bridges Info

City Bridges is published by an editorial team from the City of Albany, Questions and input about this newsletter can be directed to:

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333 Broadalbin Street SW **Albany, OR 97321**

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Home Occupations

If you are thinking of starting a business from your home in the city of Albany, here is some information that you will need.

A home occupation is a small business within a residential property; the business is not large enough to need a commercial building. The business must blend in with the residential character of the neighborhood and may not impact your neighbors' rights to live peacefully in their homes.

A home occupation is allowed in a residence if it meets the following standards:

- The use is carried on only by members of the family residing on the premises.
- Not more than one outside employee or volunteer may work a maximum of 20 hours per week.
- No offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust odors, heat, or glare resulting from the operation may be noticeable at or beyond the property line.
- One window or wall sign, no larger than 12 inches by 18 inches, is allowed.
- No display is allowed, other than the sign, to indicate from the exterior that the building is being used for any purpose other than as a home.
- No visible outside storage of materials other than plant materials.
- The business may not generate excessive traffic, including frequent deliveries and pickups by trucks or other vehicles.
- Renting separate living quarters within a single-family residence is limited to no more than one bedroom which does not contain separate cooking facilities and which has a maximum occupancy of two



The following uses are

- Auto body repair and painting.
- Ongoing mechanical repair conducted outside of an entirely enclosed building.
- Storage and/or distribution of toxic or flammable materials and spray painting or spray finishing operations that involve toxic or flammable materials which, in the judgment of the Fire Marshal, pose a dangerous risk to the residence, its occupants, and/or surrounding properties.
- Junk and salvage operations.
- Storage and/or sale of fireworks in quantities judged by the Fire Marshal to be dangerous.
- Storage or display of more than one motor vehicle for sale.

If you notice a home occupation that does not meet these requirements or have further questions about home occupations, please contact the Community Development Department's Planning Division at (541) 917-7550.

The City of Albany does not require business licenses except for temporary or transient merchants doing business at a specific location for less than 30 days.

The state of Oregon requires all businesses to register their name. For more information, please call the Oregon Business Information Center at (503) 986-2200 or go to www.filinginoregon.com.

Projects Without Permits

Being stuck indoors all winter can bring out the urge for home improvement. Perhaps you're considering replacing old cracked siding or building a backyard patio. Did you know that these and many other minor remodeling projects usually don't require a building permit?

Here are a few items that are not regulated by the State Building Code:

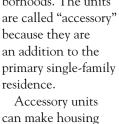
- Installation or replacement of insulation in existing buildings.
- Concrete slabs.
- Noncovered porches and decks, subject to height and property line restrictions. (Please call for more details).
- Patio, deck, and porch covers, not over 200 square feet in area and not attached to the house.
- Painting.
- Interior wall, floor, or ceiling covering.
- Nonbearing partitions, except when such partitions create habitable rooms.
- Shelving and cabinet work.
- Replacement or repair of most siding.
- Replacement gutters and downspouts.
- Door and window replacements if the size is not being changed. Bedroom windows require a minimum opening size. (Please call for more details).
- Plastic-glazed storm windows.
- Fences not over 6 feet high, except for required barriers around swimming pools. Note: the Albany Development Code has requirements regarding fencing construction materials, corner lot clear view, and fences adjoining streets.

If the project you're planning isn't on this list, give the Building Division a call to find out if a permit is required. If you do need a permit, Building staff will help guide you through the process. Stop by the Building counter on the second floor of City Hall, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and pick up an illustrated guide to creating your own project plans; ask for an estimate for the cost of a permit; or speak to a certified inspector about your project.

We encourage your questions and are here to assist you. Contact the Building Division at (541) 917-7553.

What is an **Accessory Apartment?**

Accessory apartments provide additional housing that blends into single-family neighborhoods. The units are called "accessory" because they are an addition to the primary single-family residence.



more affordable for



both the homeowner and the renter. They often enable residents to stay in their communities through changes in their families and incomes. They can offer families an affordable way to house relatives, provide a source of income, a way to use or reduce the square-footage of larger homes, and/ or provide affordable infill housing. Accessory apartments also use existing public infrastructure and services and conserve land and resources.

To help make accessory units compatible within neighborhoods, Albany regulates their size and location. In many cases, neighbors may not be aware of them at all.

Albany allows one accessory apartment per single-family residence, called the "primary residence." The accessory apartment may be:

- an addition to or within the primary residence, or
- in a detached building built before February 1, 1998, or
- on a lot in a subdivision of at least 10 lots, when the tentative plat was approved after July 1, 2007, within or attached to the primary residence or in a detached building.

Accessory apartments shall be incidental in size and appearance to the primary residence and meet the following standards:

(a) One of the residences is owner occupied.

The size of an accessory apartment does not exceed 50% of the gross floor area of the primary residence (excluding garages or carports) or 750 square feet, whichever is less. (Note: Accessory apartments greater than 750 square feet that were legally constructed before July 1, 2007, may remain.)

- (c) The size of the property meets the minimum single-family lot area requirements for the zoning district in which the lot is located.
- (d) At least three off-street parking spaces are provided on the property to serve the house and accessory apartment.
- (e) All required building permits have been obtained. If the primary residence is on the Local Historic Inventory, historic review may be required.

Accessory apartments in detached buildings must also meet the following standards:

Front setback: Greater than or equal to the location of the front wall of the primary residence; and

Interior setback: 5 feet for one-story; 8 feet for two-story; and

Maximum height: 24 feet to the ridge of the roof.

To find out how your property is zoned, the minimum lot size, or to ask questions about accessory apartments, please call the Planning Division at 917-7550.

Albany Design Standards

The Planning Division works to make great neighborhoods and an attractive and energetic environment for us to live, work, shop, and play. More and more people want ambiance and a sense of place. A desire for individual character grows out of the need to establish and maintain a special identity.

The character of a city can be determined by the mix, type, and intensity of use and the location of buildings and landscaping and, of course, the architecture. Planners help residents decide how to improve their community today, five, 20, and 50 years from now.

What will make Albany a place we are proud to call home and also unique from other cities?

The first step in planning is to involve residents, businesses, and civic leaders in defining a vision for what Albany could be like in the future. The City engaged residents in discussions related to building great neighborhoods and then how to encourage "balanced" development patterns throughout the city between 1998 and 2001 (where to locate future jobs and housing).

We then worked with residents on area-specific plans in East I-5 and North Albany. A plan for the area south of Oak Creek is currently underway. The guiding principles that emerged for how Albany should develop include:

- creating "village" and neighborhood centers that offer daily goods;
- placing services and employment near residents;
- supporting efficient land uses and transportation systems;
- providing job opportunities for balanced economic growth;
- preserving Albany's significant natural features; and
- creating a sense of place for Albany that is fun and attractive and entices people and good jobs to stay.

A city's zoning ordinance (Albany Development Code) implements the goals and policies and hopes to achieve a sought-after vision with minimum development standards. New nonresidential development must get approval from the Planning Division and meet the zoning district and Development Code regulations, which include building setbacks, building design (entrances and windows), and parking lot layout. Development and design standards influence the type and look of development in Albany.



Some recent Code changes include design standards for commercial development and additional standards in village centers. The original design standards have been in place for

almost eight years. Several projects have been constructed with the current regulations. It's time to assess whether or not the design standards are making a difference.

The most noticeable transformation may be along Pacific Boulevard heading west. If you lived in Albany about a decade ago, you may remember some of the older rundown buildings. Today, several sites have been redeveloped, the trees are maturing, and more development is on the way that will shape how this corridor looks for the next 50 years

According to Seattle architect George Hanson, "The City's design standards improved not only the outside appearance of the coming-

soon Carino's Italian restaurant, but also the functionality and ambiance of the interior of the restaurant. The Albany store changed the prototype." Carino's will be on Geary Street just west of Old Navy, on a vacant site at Heritage Mall. Red Robin's



popular outdoor dining area was a result of some nudging by the City's standards. Good design is good business.

The City identified locations for future village centers and

established additional standards for improved pedestrian ways, landscaping in large parking lots, and buildings along the street. North Albany Village is an excellent example of planning efforts becoming reality.





Another exciting change is seeing many years of planning for redevelopment along the Willamette River and downtown core occurring. Major renovations have been completed for several downtown historic buildings and the Amtrak station, and more are underway. The improvements will ensure the buildings are still functional for another century. Reusing existing buildings and infrastructure are good for the environment and good for

the layout and function of the City's public services.

Just east of the downtown core, the Ironworks office building on First Avenue is complete, new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified townhouses offer waterfront views, and an apartment building is under construction. New businesses and residents are restoring life to the heart of the city, and downtown has never looked better.

As Albany continues to grow, new buildings will be constructed and existing buildings and sites will continue to be redeveloped. If planning is done right, the result can last for 100 years or more to be enjoyed again and again, like our historic buildings are today.



"Down by the Riverside" **Cleanup Saturday, May 17**

The City of Albany is coordinating the ninth annual "Down by the Riverside" spring cleanup of Albanyarea rivers and creeks, on Saturday, May 17, 2008. The event is a perfect opportunity for families and community members to help clean up the community.

"Down by the Riverside" is part of a statewide cleanup day sponsored by Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV), a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving Oregon's natural resources. Last spring, 130 Albany volunteers collected over 14,000 pounds of garbage and cleared invasive ivy along the Willamette and Calapooia Rivers. Volunteers also labeled storm drains with "Do not dump, drains to streams" markers in various neighborhoods.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the 2008 "Down by the Riverside" event should meet at Bryant Park at 9:00 a.m. After collecting trash or removing invasive ivy at sites around Albany, volunteers will return to the park at noon for a pizza lunch and the chance to win prizes for their hard work.

Participants should dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots or waders if you want to wade in small creeks to pick up trash and debris. All other supplies and instructions will be provided by the City.

Groups of more than five people must preregister by Wednesday, May 14. Individuals and small families do not need to call in advance. Children younger than high school must be accompanied by a participating adult. All participants must sign a waiver, and those under 18 must have a parent or guardian's signature.

For more information or to preregister, contact Heather Slocum at 917-7600 ext. 4645, or by e-mail to heather.slocum@cityofalbany.net

City, Property Owners Team Up to Manage Storm Water, Protect Environment

Every year, the Public Works Department treats billions of gallons of sewage at the wastewater treatment plant. Storm water also enters the sewer system when roof or foundation drains are improperly connected to the sanitary sewer or when ground water leaks through holes or cracks in sewer pipes. This extra water dramatically increases the volume of sewage that needs to be treated.

The situation created by the extra water is called inflow and infiltration or I & I. The extra water can cause Albany sewers to overflow during extreme wet weather, sending diluted raw sewage directly into the Willamette River. It also increases the cost of wastewater treatment.

Albany's mean annual rainfall, as recorded at Oregon State University's Hyslop Station, is about 44 inches. At that rate, the roof of a 1,500-square foot house can pour 40,000 gallons of water down the drain spout. A 2,000-square foot roof will capture almost 55,000 gallons per year.

Connecting roof drains directly to the sanitary sewer system is common in many older Albany neighborhoods. Homeowners and businesses are working with the City to disconnect their downspouts and reroute their rain water to the storm drain system.

Through the roof drain disconnection program, City employees work with citizens to evaluate their property for possible connections. The City arranges for professional contractors to reroute the roof drains at no cost to the property owner.

City staff have set up a system of zones to make sure the work is done systematically in areas with existing storm drains and limited sewer capacity. The work is currently focused in the downtown business district and historic neighborhoods because of the high number of connections.

If you would like to be a partner in this program, or to get more information, call the Rain Drain Disconnect Program at (541) 497-6221.

Public Works Accreditation

The City of Albany Public Works improve performance Department is working toward official accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA).

Albany Public Works started in the Accreditation and Assessment Program in October 2007. The program is designed to provide guidance and technical resource to agency managers as they seek to evaluate and upgrade the performance of the Public Works Department.

Public Works is creating a Management Practices manual with policies and procedures necessary to provide the services of a well-run department that is open and transparent to the public. The purpose of accreditation is to:

- Create a dedication for organizationwide self-improvement,
- Offer a voluntary evaluation and education program;
- Recognize good performance and provide motivation to maintain and

- Improve public works performance and the provision of services;
- Increase professionalism;
- Instill pride among staff, elected officials, and the community.

Accreditation is a major step in demonstrating our commitment to provide the best and most efficient Public Works services to our citizens. The selfassessment and accreditation process requires the City of Albany to complete an internal evaluation of all policies, procedures, and practices to determine its strengths and weaknesses and areas for improvement. Accreditation involves an audit by other public works professionals every three years.

The Accreditation and Assessment Program will help Albany staff to build knowledge, train new employees, and to improve services. If you have any questions, please contact Angelia Sousa, Accreditation Manager, at 917-7653.

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Procession of the Species Parade set for April 26

Albany's first Procession of the Species parade will be held downtown on Saturday, April 26, 2008, starting at 11:00 a.m.

The Procession is a nature celebration that brings Albany and outlying communities together to honor and respect the natural world. The event is intended to heighten awareness of the environment and create a stronger, more unified community. The parade is for the young, the old, the tall, the short, fast walkers, slow crawlers, the furry, feathered, and fanciful.

Participants are asked to use art and music when creating their "species": a favorite animal, insect, fish, plant, or bird. Each species can be represented by a costume, mask, puppet, flag, musical instrument, or anything else the participant may imagine. Pre-parade workshops will be scheduled to help participants come up with ideas and carry them out.

Creations are limited by only three guidelines: no written words, motorized vehicles, or live animals.

Cass Templeton, Director of Albany's Community After-School Program, says "We hope to have a great turnout for the event and fabulous representation of a large variety of 'species.' I know the children will want to include lots of sound effects, musical instruments, home-made drums, and any other noise maker you can think of..."



The CAP program serves over 400 children at five Albany sites during the school year. Children and parents will be working together on a large project for the Procession.

Doris Hicks, Young Adult Services Librarian for Albany Public Library, says the Procession "has provided a focus for several library programs for kids and families, and it is providing opportunities for service for our teen volunteers who will assist at these programs." This year's library workshops will include creating large, moving creature puppets operated by rods and making creature crafts, costumes, and accessories.

Tiah Swanson and Patty Evans are leading the event and created a steering committee to help organize it.

"Our purpose is to bring all peoples together to celebrate something we have in common, the natural world that surrounds us," the women said.

For more information, contact Tiah Swanson at (541) 924-9758 or send e-mail to tiahswanson@comcast.net.

Cars and Bikes and Strollers, oh my!

Albany is updating its 1997 Transportation System Plan to take a fresh look at what the community needs to move pedestrians, bicyclists, bus passengers, drivers, rail passengers, and pilots in the year 2030. The TSP guides the future of the community's transportation system. We need your help to develop this roadmap for our future.

So far we have:

- Determined where future jobs and households will be located in accordance with the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan;
- Projected increases in the number of vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and buses for families and businesses in 2030;
- Identified which existing transportation facilities (roads, bus system, etc.) cannot handle community growth in 2030; and
- Identified a draft set of transportation solutions and documented input from Council, agencies, and the community.

The next step is to update the project lists and maps and to estimate project costs. Once this is done, we will begin a community conversation to establish priorities and explore potential funding options.

You can view the latest documents at www.cityofalbany.net/tmp or you can send your questions or comments directly to Jeni Richardson at jeni.richardson@cityofalbany.net.

Safety First!

The Building Division knows that nothing is more important than your family's safety. When you get a construction permit for your project, it helps protect your loved ones from potentially deadly mistakes. Faulty work can cause house fires, flood damage, and structural instability. It can also lead to mold and deterioration, which may lurk unseen for years, causing damage that may be costly and hazardous.

When you obtain a permit, a certified City inspector will come to your home to examine your project, making sure it's safe and that it meets the state of Oregon Building Code requirements so your family can rest easy and avoid costly repairs down the road.

Not sure when a permit is necessary or how to get one? Stop by the Building Division on the second floor of City Hall or call Building Customer Service at (541) 917-7553, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for help.

AROUND THE CITY



Teen Artists Needed for Spring Art Show at City Hall

Emma knew she had a special talent, but would others see her decorative purses as art? What about Jared's spraypainted posters?

The Albany Art Commission is looking for teens just like Emma and Jared to show their art in the third annual Teen Art Show.

The artwork must be appropriate for public display. All art media are encouraged. Individuals who are interested in submitting work for consideration should drop it off at the Albany Visitors Association, 250 Broadalbin Street, Suite 110, in Two Rivers Market on Thursday or Friday, April 24-25, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All pieces submitted must be ready to display with the appropriate hardware attached.

Accepted pieces will be displayed at Albany City Hall from May 1-31, 2008, with an artists' reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, 2008.

Gift certificates will be given to first, second-, and third-place pieces. A

People's Choice award will also be given. Awards are \$100 for first place; \$75 for second place; \$50 for third place; and \$25 for the People's Choice.

For more information and for an application, contact Joy Gilliland, Albany Parks & Recreation, at 917-7772, or visit the City Web site at www.cityofalbany.net/atart.

Borrow a Life Jacket from AFD

The Albany Fire Department, in conjunction with the Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund (AFFCAF), will again sponsor the Loan-A-Life Jacket program from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

The life jackets are available at Fire Station 11 (corner of 6th Avenue and Lyon Street) on an outdoor display. The program operates on the honor system. People can check out a life jacket and return it without needing staff at the station for assistance.

A Life Jacket Agreement form is available for people to fill out when borrowing a life jacket. Signs are posted with the life jackets with the rules for their use and the requirement to sign the agreement.

The life jackets, for children and adults, were donated by the U.S. Boat Foundation, Legend Homes, and AFFCAF. A similar program has operated in other communities for several years with good success.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the Number 2 killer of children under age 14. The Albany Fire Department hopes the life jacket loan program will help reduce the risk of drowning in local

For more information, contact Fire Services at 541-917-7700.

Grants Add to Albany Public Library Services for Kids

Two grants will enhance services for kids at the Albany Public Library this

A John and Betty Gray Early Childhood Grant, administered by the Oregon Community Foundation, will fund Raising a Reader, a program of book bag delivery to families throughout the county through agencies partnering with the Library.

The 16th annual Ready to Read Grant, administered by the Oregon State Library, will continue to fund Summer Reading Program events and materials including four special events for preschoolers. This year, Ready to Read will focus on early childhood literacy, including continuation of "Parenting Q and A," informal drop-in parenting class; purchase of new games, toys, and manipulables; and purchase and installation of an Early Childhood Literacy Information Station displayer for the new Library.

For more information about children's programs at the Albany Public Library, contact Scott Keeney at 917-7951.

Library Centennial Campaign Seeks \$2 Million

The Centennial Campaign for Our Great Library kicked off on January 31, 2008, with an open house at the new Library building, 2450 14th Avenue SE. Over 70 attended the tour and listened

to State Senator Frank Morse urge citizens to support the effort to raise \$2 million for the building's renovation.

Former Mayor Chuck McLaran and his wife, Kathy, are campaign cochairs.

The \$2 million will be added to an earlier donation of \$2 million to meet the renovation budget of \$4 million. City officials hope to open the new Library by the end of 2008.

Contributions to the Centennial Campaign may be made in the form of cash, real property, or appreciated securities. Checks should be payable to the Friends of the Albany Public Library and mailed to the Albany Public Library, 1390 Waverly Drive SE, Albany, OR 97322.

Please call 541-917-7590 for more information.

Thanks for your support!

The City of Albany takes this opportunity to publicly thank the following businesses and organizations who provided generous in-kind contributions in support of the City's 2007 United Way campaign:

The Mill Casino and Resort
Shilo Inns Inc.
The Oregon State University
Athletic Department
The Albany Athletic Club
Caboodle Cartridge
Costco

Chinook Winds Casino and Resort Surefire Design Ceramics

This year's employee campaign concluded in November and raised a total of \$16,700.