

CITY Bridges

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

Fall 2010

Know the rules for posting signs

Do you use temporary signs to advertise your business or event? If so, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Signs may not be placed in the public rights-of-way. Public rights-of-way typically include sidewalks and planter strips (the area between the sidewalk and the curb), as well as things like telephone poles, street trees, lamp posts, and directional signs. Know where your property line is located and be sure to keep temporary signage on private property.

Temporary signs are not intended to take the place of permanent signage. Temporary signs are limited to 60 days per calendar year; so if you need a permanent directional sign or other long-term sign for your business, call the Planning Division at 541-917-7550 for help.

All temporary signs require a permit from the Community Development Department. This applies even if your sign is placed on private property. Applications are available online at cityofalbany.net or at the Community Development office at City Hall, 333 Broadalbin Street SW.

City staff will be happy to walk you through the process in person or over the phone. Temporary signs posted without a permit may be removed by the City and citations may be issued.

City staff have done periodic sweeps of the city to remove temporary signs that don't have a valid permit and plan to conduct another sweep before the end of the summer. Oregon Department of Transportation crews also periodically remove all unauthorized signs along Highways 20 and 99E within the city limits. If you have a temporary sign placed without a permit or in the public right-of-way, please give the Planning Division a call to make sure your sign is in compliance before the next sign sweep.

A brochure containing all the rules for political signs is also available at the



Community Development Department.

The Development Code says that signs cannot be erected more than 45 days before an election, but the Albany City Council approved an exemption to that rule in August 2008 to accommodate mail-in elections. August 31 is 45 days before October 15, 2010, the day that ballots are distributed to Linn County voters. Ballots will be distributed in Benton County on October 16, 2010.

Violation of the sign code will result in enforcement procedures against the candidate or the property owner.

Where Does My Money Go?

If you pay taxes or fees, and pretty much everyone does, this may be a question you've asked about city government.

A quick visit to the City Web site at www.cityofalbany.net may help you get an answer to that question.

Where Does My Money Go? is a new web feature that takes the stream of new revenue that flows to the City each year and splits it into categories that tell the story of where that money is used.

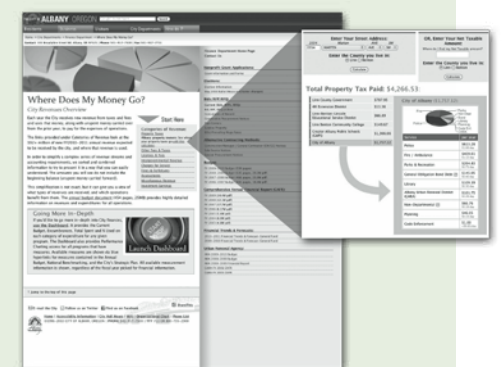
If you own land in Albany, you probably pay property taxes. We say probably because not every property owner does. Clicking on the Property Tax link helps explain who does and who doesn't pay. It gives a breakdown of the services that property tax supports and how much.

Best yet, the Property Tax Calculator allows you to put in your address or the taxable value of your property and get a breakdown of your last property tax bill. You also get a detailed estimate on what you paid in property taxes for City services that receive property tax money.

Do you get a water or sewer bill? Then you're definitely included in the Charges for Service category. Did you take out a building permit or get hit with a Library fine? If not, then you probably don't pay into the Licenses & Fees category.

Intergovernmental Revenue, Fines & Forfeits, Assessments, Investment Earning, Other Fees & Taxes and Miscellaneous Revenue round out the sources that provide new revenue each year to pay for city services.

Have a question? Call the Public Information Office at 541-917-7500 or e-mail marilyn.smith@cityofalbany.net.



Introducing Eco Rangers

What did you see the last time you went outdoors? Living things like insects and people. Nonliving things like concrete, soil, and puddles. An ecosystem contains all that you can see — trees, birds, buildings, people — and what you can't readily see: life underground and microscopic organisms like fungi and bacteria. It all works together in a balanced system.

Albany's natural ecosystem has been altered through years of community growth and change. Our natural resources are in pretty good shape, but we have the opportunity to make them even better by increasing community involvement through awareness, education, and action. Eco Rangers reminds us that we all have a chance to be environmental stewards through everyday actions and is meant to represent the volunteers who participate as keepers of our local ecosystem.

The City of Albany currently offers many opportunities for citizens to be involved in natural resource protection, restoration, and education. We want you to know these opportunities exist, and we invite you to join in.

Water is one of our most important natural resources. Activities that focus on water protection include:

- River cleanups
- Storm drain marking program
- Native plant restoration
- Invasive plant removal
- Water outreach and education in schools and at events

Students in Albany schools are actively involved in restoring ecosystems. Hundreds have participated in water education programs presented by City

of Albany Environmental Services staff. Many classrooms have found a specific environmental need and created projects to address it. The projects incorporate state standards in learning while allowing students the opportunity for real world experiences.

Last year at North Albany Middle School, Roger Stephen and his hands-on science class built a rain garden that uses water that drains from the roof to sustain plants in the front of the school. Stephen said:

"The rain garden was a huge success. My students got a great appreciation of the construction, function, and scientific importance of a rain garden. We spent several months taking a dried-up, eyesore piece of land and redesigned it to be a beautiful piece of environmentally-friendly landscaped art. The students, after reading about them, had to choose drought-tolerant plants, landscape the land so that we would make maximum use of rain water runoff and deal with the City on getting appropriate permits so that safe guidelines would be followed. The community has reached out and supported us through kind words, advice, and actual donations. My students are now trying to focus more on drought-tolerant plants in our greenhouses. I think the biggest thing my students got out of this was pride in hard work and the finished product."

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Last year at North Albany Middle School, Roger Stephen and his hands-on science class built a rain garden that uses water that



Rain Garden at North Albany Middle School

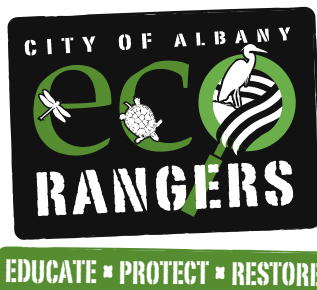
Many other projects are underway around Albany. Students have adopted parks and waterways where they have tested water quality, cleaned garbage from Periwinkle Creek, removed invasive ivy from trees, and replanted with native species along Eagle Trail in Takena Landing Park. Educating youth ensures that the next generation will be wise stewards of our natural resources.

Students are not the only source of true volunteerism in Albany. Many active citizens have showed up on a Saturday morning over the last 13 years to clean up Albany's rivers and streams during "Down by the Riverside" events.

Many partner agencies with similar goals also provide support. Three years ago, we partnered with Allied Waste to create The Big Pickup, a neighborhood cleanup and beautification project. Three hundred volunteers this year helped neighbors clean up 22 tons of junk, yard debris, and wood waste.

Our next volunteer event is "Down by the Riverside" on Saturday, September 25, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Bowman Park. We will pick up garbage along Periwinkle Creek, remove invasive plants, and replant with native species. Come on down and find out what Eco Rangers is all about. The first 50 volunteers will receive an Eco Rangers canteen.

To find out more about this event and how to become an Eco Ranger, contact heather.slocum@cityofalbany.net or call 541-791-0058.



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Be cautious with other people's dogs

Today, dog owners view their animals as members of the family and schedule vacations and trips with the family canine in mind. *K9* magazine completed a traveling-with-pets survey of 1,600 travelers; of those, 61% have traveled with a pet. Hotels offer pet-friendly rooms with goodies for Fido, some restaurants will let Rufus sit at the table, and there is a beach at the Oregon coast that encourages Rex to run off-leash.

With the increase of pet-accompanied vacations, chances are that you will encounter a dog in places where they are

not normally found. A survey done by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta concluded that dogs bite nearly 2% of the U.S. population—more than 4.7 million people annually. Taking precautions could save you from becoming a victim of a dog bite or attack.

Always ask the owner's permission to pet a dog; they will tell you if the dog is friendly.

When attempting to pet a dog, hold out your hand with your fingers curled under and let the dog sniff the back of your hand; it reduces the chances of your fingers being bitten.

Approach the dog from the front but don't run at it, so as not to startle the dog.

If you encounter a dog running at large and it comes at you, do not attempt to run away. The best thing you can do is stand still with your arms crossed at your chest and your hands up.

If you are bitten and the dog's teeth break the skin, go to the closest medical care facility for treatment. Make sure that the staff contacts the local animal control agency to check on the dog's vaccinations.

Interacting with dogs can be enjoyable if you take these precautions each time.



Police Community Resource Unit:

New faces, continuing service

The Albany Police Department's Community Resource Unit is a group of dedicated professionals committed to providing Albany with crime prevention, education, and specialized enforcement. The Community Resource Unit includes two Community Education Specialists, four Community Service Officers, three School Resource/Bike Patrol Officers, and two Traffic Enforcement Officers.

Our Community Resource Unit has undergone a few recent changes this year. The Unit is supervised by Lieutenant Casey Dorland, a 17-year veteran of the Albany Police Department with over 21 years of law enforcement experience. Lt. Dorland, a former School Resource Officer, has experience in narcotics enforcement, narcotic detection, K-9 handling and training, and as a detective. Lt. Dorland spent several years supervising a patrol team and has been an administrative supervisor.

After years of dedicated service in CRU, School Resource Officer Ken Fandrem returned to the Patrol Division and a relative newcomer, Officer Curtis Bell, took Fandrem's place. Officer Bell has been with the Department for three years in the Patrol Division and has a background working with kids in various assignments before becoming a police officer. Officer Bell brings a positive "can do" attitude to the Unit.

The Community Resource Unit coordinates programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Citizens Academy, Safe and Secure Seniors Independent (S.A.S.S.I.), Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.), child safety education, and home security/fire safety inspection.

If you or your organization would like more information regarding educational programs offered by our Community Resource Unit, call 541-917-7680. We're happy to serve!



Lieutenant Casey Dorland



Officer Curtis Bell

A new Oregon law makes it easy to recycle leftover paint



PaintCare, a program to minimize, recycle, and dispose of leftover paint, launched July 1, 2010, with the opening of about 30 collection centers in paint stores across the state. Ninety collection centers are scheduled to open by the end of the year.

Oregon is the first state in the nation to enact a law requiring paint manufacturers to safely manage leftover latex and oil-based paint from consumer and contractor painting jobs. This historic product stewardship legislation responds to the problem of managing leftover paint, which is the largest component of local household hazardous waste collection programs. An estimated 10 percent of the more than 750 million gallons of architectural paint sold each year in the United States is unused.

In Oregon, the new system is expected to result in the reuse, recycling, energy recovery, or safe disposal of an estimated 800,000 gallons of leftover paint each year.

Visit the PaintCare website at www.paintcare.org for a paint calculator and more information.

To avoid the problem of disposing of leftover paint or other household hazardous materials, the best strategy is to buy only as

much as you need for a project. You'll save money, storage space in your garage, and the environment by purchasing only the amount of paint and other materials that you need. The less you have left over, the less chance it has of ending up in a landfill or down a storm drain. Please: never dump paint or other hazardous materials down a storm drain; it goes directly to rivers and streams without being treated.

To safely dispose of other household hazardous waste, please bring it to Allied Waste's Albany Household Hazardous Waste Roundup October 22 and 23, 2010, at the company facility at 1214 Montgomery Street SE. For more information on Allied Waste's Albany Household Hazardous Waste Roundup, call 541-928-2551 or visit <http://www.sanitation.com/>

THE NEAREST COLLECTION CENTERS FOR ALBANY RESIDENTS ARE:

Albany Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore

541-924-1450
1225 Sixth Avenue SE
Albany, OR 97321

Sherwin Williams - Corvallis

(the Albany store will start collecting paint later in 2010)
541-757-1619
2495 NW Ninth Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

Benton Habitat for Humanity ReStore

541-752-6637
1327 NW Ninth Street
Corvallis, OR 97330



CITY OF ALBANY Directory

Mayor

Sharon Konopa 541-926-6812

Ward I Councilors

Dick Olsen 541-926-7348
Floyd Collins 541-928-2961

Ward II Councilors

Bill Coburn 541-928-0649
Ralph Reid, Jr. 541-928-7382

Ward III Councilors

Bessie Johnson 541-791-2494
Jeff Christman 541-926-0528

City Manager

Wes Hare 541-917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 541-917-7500
Ambulance Billing 541-917-7710
Building Inspection 541-917-7553
Carnegie Library 541-917-7585
City Manager 541-917-7500
Engineering 541-917-7676
Finance Office 541-917-7500
Fire Department 541-917-7700
Human Resources 541-917-7500
Main Library 541-917-7580
Mayor/Council Line 541-917-7503
Municipal Court 541-917-7740
Parks & Recreation 541-917-7777
Planning and Zoning 541-917-7550
Police Department 541-917-7680
Public Information Office 541-917-7507
Senior Center 541-917-7760
Transit 541-917-7667
Water/Sewer Billing 541-917-7547
Water/Sewer/Streets 541-917-7600

Publishing Information

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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Emergencies (Fire, Police, Ambulance)

DIAL 911

New FEMA flood maps crucial to local flood insurance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated local flood hazard maps with newer topographical data provided by the City of Albany. Some properties were removed from the floodplain and some were added. The maps include the 100-year floodplain boundary, floodways, and base flood elevations and are used to establish flood risk zones and calculate the cost of flood insurance premiums.

FEMA sent the floodplain maps to the City of Albany on March 29, 2010. Federal regulations require the City to adopt a new floodplain development ordinance that references the new maps and brings our codes into compliance with the current National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements by September 29, 2010.

In order to comply with the NFIP requirements, the City of Albany has to update floodplain regulations to meet minimum criteria set by the state of Oregon and NFIP. The intent of the regulations is to reduce loss of life and property and regulate activities that may obstruct or change the flow of water. If new regulations aren't adopted by September 29, 2010, residents and businesses will not be able to buy flood insurance and would have great difficulty getting financing for existing development in the floodplain.

Most of the proposed changes clarify the intent of floodplain regulations that are already in the Albany Development Code. A few new regulations are necessary to comply and a few that exceed NFIP minimum requirements would increase the discount on flood insurance rates for businesses and residences in the 100-year floodplain through the NFIP Community Rating System Program.

The significant changes are:

- Any development that could potentially increase areas subject to the 100-year flood or could affect the floodway must require a permit. Development is defined as any man-made change to real property, including but not limited to buildings, fences or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading,

paving, land clearing, excavation, drilling operations, and continuous storage of materials and equipment.

- Many small-scale development activities and residential accessory uses will be exempt from the floodplain development permit. Development in the 100-year floodplain that could potentially divert or obstruct the flow of water and create a danger or hazard to life or property is not exempt from obtaining a floodplain development permit.
- Recreational vehicles placed in the 100-year floodplain must be on the site less than 180 consecutive days, be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or meet the elevation and anchoring requirements for manufactured homes.

Three proposed regulations exceed the NFIP minimum requirements:

- New critical facilities would be required to be built outside the 100-year floodplain with their lowest floor three feet above base flood elevation or to the height of the 500-year floodplain, whichever is higher. Critical facilities include but are not limited to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, emergency responders, and installations that produce, use, or store hazardous materials.
- The definition of "substantial improvement" is proposed to change from 50% to 49% of assessed value and requires tracking the improvements cumulatively over a ten-year period.
- Property owners would be required to sign and record a non-conversion agreement to not improve, finish, or otherwise convert an area below the lowest floor that is less than a foot above the base flood elevation.

If Albany decides not to adopt a NFIP compliant ordinance by September 29, 2010, the community is immediately suspended from NFIP:

- Flood insurance would no longer be available. No resident or business would be able to purchase or renew a flood insurance policy.
- No federal grants or loans for build-



Aerial view of North Albany during the 1996 Willamette River flood.

- ings will be made in identified flood hazard areas.
- No federal disaster assistance will be provided in the form of loans for repair or reconstruction of buildings in identified flood hazard areas.
- No federal mortgage insurance will be provided in identified flood hazard areas. This includes FHA, VA, and Farmers Home.
- No Fannie Mae, Freddie Mae, and GMNA purchase of mortgages in the secondary market will be made if the mortgaged properties are located in Special Flood Hazard Areas of non-participating communities.
- Lenders of conventional loans must notify the buyer or lessee that property is in a flood hazard area and must notify the buyer or lessee that property in flood hazard area is not eligible for federal disaster relief in a declared disaster.

Only FEMA can amend the new maps. Property owners who believe a property was incorrectly included in a floodplain zone can get an official determination, by letter, to amend or revise effective maps.

The new FEMA digital floodplain maps can be viewed using the City's online geographic information system, InfoHub (<http://infohub.cityofalbany.net/infohub/>). If you enter your address, and "click" on the 100-year floodplain layer, or floodway, you can see where they are on your property.

The proposed floodplain development regulations are available at <http://www.cityofalbany.net/comdev/floodplain>. For more information, call 541-917-7550, email heather.hansen@cityofalbany.net, or visit the Community Development Department on the second floor of City Hall.

Natural Hazard Mitigation

Why should Albany residents care about mitigating natural hazards? What does that mean, anyway?

The Albany area is or could be subject to eight identified natural hazards: high winds, floods, ice storms, and snow storms affect the area occasionally, while droughts, landslides, volcanic activity, and earthquakes are also possible. The City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan helps identify ways to minimize the impact of these natural hazards on our property and lives.

A copy of the current Natural Hazard Mitigation plan is online at <http://www.cityofalbany.net/fire>. City staff is in the process of updating the plan; that should be completed by December of this year.

A public meeting to review a draft of the new plan is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 30, 2010, in Council Chambers at Albany City Hall, 333 Broadalbin Street SW. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The draft plan will be available on the City website after September 30.

Engaging in mitigation activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits, including reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship; reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs; increased cooperation and communication within the community through planning; and increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction.

If you have questions about the plan or the update process, contact Darrel Tedisch, Emergency Management Specialist, at 541-917-7725 or darrel.tedisch@cityofalbany.net.

Don't store your trailer or boat on the street: it's the law

Summer camping and outdoor recreation season is winding down. Here's a reminder to Albany residents and visitors of laws that apply to where recreational vehicles or travel trailers may be parked.

City ordinances allow motor homes, travel trailers, boats, fifth-wheel trailers, and other recreational vehicles to be parked on public rights-of-way for up to 48 hours with the consent of the adjacent property owner. Without that permission, vehicles may not be stored on the street for more than 24 hours.

Any vehicle or combination of vehicles more than 23 feet long or eight feet wide cannot be parked on a street, alley, public parking lot, or parking strip between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays or all day Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Vehicles must not block traffic signs or a driver's clear view at intersections.

Albany ordinances allow camping in recreational vehicles on a front yard setback for up to 48 hours with the consent of the property owner. A residential property owner may allow someone to camp in a recreational vehicle on their property for up to seven days in a 90-day period.

Vehicles found parked illegally will be marked by Albany police and must be moved within 72 hours. If the vehicle is not moved, police will contact the registered owner by mail. The penalty for the violation is \$100.

Vehicles that are not registered, have expired registrations, or are stored on a street may be tagged as abandoned and could be towed. The owners are charged for the towing bill and vehicle storage fee along with the civil penalty.

The rules for RV parking are in the Albany Municipal Code 13.21.030(12) and 13.36.180(4) and online at www.cityofalbany.net/municipalcode.

If you see vehicles parked in violation of these rules or have related questions, call the Albany Police Department, 541-917-7680.



Monteith Neighborhood Watch leaders celebrate National Night Out 2010

National Night Out is held the first Tuesday of August each year; the Albany Police Department encourages your neighborhood to participate in 2011. For more information to begin planning your neighborhood celebration, call Lynn Hinrichs at 541-917-3208.

Work continues to protect natural resources

Oregon's 19 statewide land-use planning goals provide the framework for planning within the state. State law requires each city to adopt a comprehensive plan and development codes that are consistent with those goals.

Planning Goal 5 requires all Oregon cities and counties "to conserve open space and protect natural and scenic resources." The goal and Oregon Administrative Rules 660-23 establish specific procedures and criteria for compliance.

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development requires Albany to inventory wetlands, riparian corridors, and wildlife habitat inside the City's urban growth boundary (UGB); identify which resources are significant; and adopt measures to protect them.

Albany has completed the inventory and created a list of significant resources. Adopting protection measures is next. Public hearings will begin in September. Scheduled hearings and new information are at <http://www.cityofalbany.net/goal5/>. The web page also links to a Goal 5 discussion board. Email heather.hansen@cityofalbany.net if you have questions.

Most significant Goal 5 resources are in and along creeks, rivers, and lakes. Protecting them directly relates to other municipal government responsibilities such as floodplain management, storm-water quality/management, buildable land supply, drinking water supply, parks and recreation, economic vitality, health and safety, and livability.

Many of these resources are zoned as Open Space which limits potential development. The federal government and state of Oregon already regulate development activities in wetlands and waterways. Additional restrictions and requirements may increase development costs, decrease the amount of buildable land inside the UGB, restrain redevelopment potential of developed properties, and reduce the development area of individual properties.

Protecting Goal 5 resources will allow some development on all properties, but it will also limit development on portions of some properties. Cluster development and planned development are options that protect natural resources on a portion of the property and more dense development on the remainder: if homes were clustered together on smaller lots near wetlands or riparian corridors, the wetlands and riparian areas could serve as parks and open space for the residents. Preserving natural resources can add value to property because many people would prefer to move their family or business close to protected natural areas.

Beyond their own intrinsic value, high-value or high-functioning natural resources regulate river flow and groundwater levels; purify air and water; provide drinking water; control climate; absorb and break down waste; thermal regulation; cycle nutrients; offer recreation, education, research and spiritual opportunities and aesthetics.

Some community members feel strongly that the City should protect natural resources beyond the state's minimum requirements, while others feel just as strongly that the minimum is enough. Ultimately, the City Council must decide how to balance those views with multiple government responsibilities and public benefit.

FITNESS SHOULD BE FUN:

How to pick an exercise activity that suits your personality

We all know that we need to exercise; however, how many of us ask, is it fun? Researchers have found that the secret to sticking to an exercise program is finding an activity that you think is fun. How?

First, look at your personality. Are you very social, somewhat social, or do you prefer to be alone? Very social people will want a group activity, such as a fitness class or a team sport. If you enjoy being on your own, you may want to walk, jog, or garden.

Also consider your schedule, physical abilities, and who will help you stick to

your chosen program. A support person would be someone to attend classes with, a personal trainer, or someone else who can be your cheerleader. Support helps to keep you accountable and often adds to the fun of what you do.

Look for fitness opportunities that leave you asking, "Did I just work out? It was so much fun I didn't even know I was exercising."

Albany Parks & Recreation offers a wide variety of fitness opportunities from softball to hiking and snowshoeing

to pickle ball. We also offer the greatest number of fitness classes with the most variety of class formats and scheduled times. Locations include the Albany Community Pool, COOL! Swanson Park Action Center, and Albany Senior Center. Land fitness includes Zumba, Step Aerobics, Muscle Tech, Pilates, Tai Chi, and Yoga.

Interested? Check out the fall Parks & Recreation magazine, visit www.albanyparksandrecreation.org, or call 541-917-7777.

Find a Workout That Matches Your Personality

Mark where you fit on the social to nonsocial scale. The exercises near that box are the ones that best match your personality.

Are You More...

...Or Are You More

SOCIAL

NONSOCIAL

Fitness Classes

Social Dancing

Racket Sports

Golf

Individual Training

Team Sports

Martial Arts

Circuit Training

Hiking

Walking/Jogging