

City Bridges

Winter 2005

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| New Councilor in Ward III | 2 |
| New Faces in Fire & Life Safety..... | 2 |
| Watersheds | 3 |
| Winter Heating | 3 |
| Avoiding Flood Hazards..... | 3 |
| Albany Growth East of I-5..... | 4 |

Work Underway on Aquatic Center at Swanson Park

After more than four years of planning and fund-raising, work has begun on the new Albany Aquatic Center at Swanson Park.

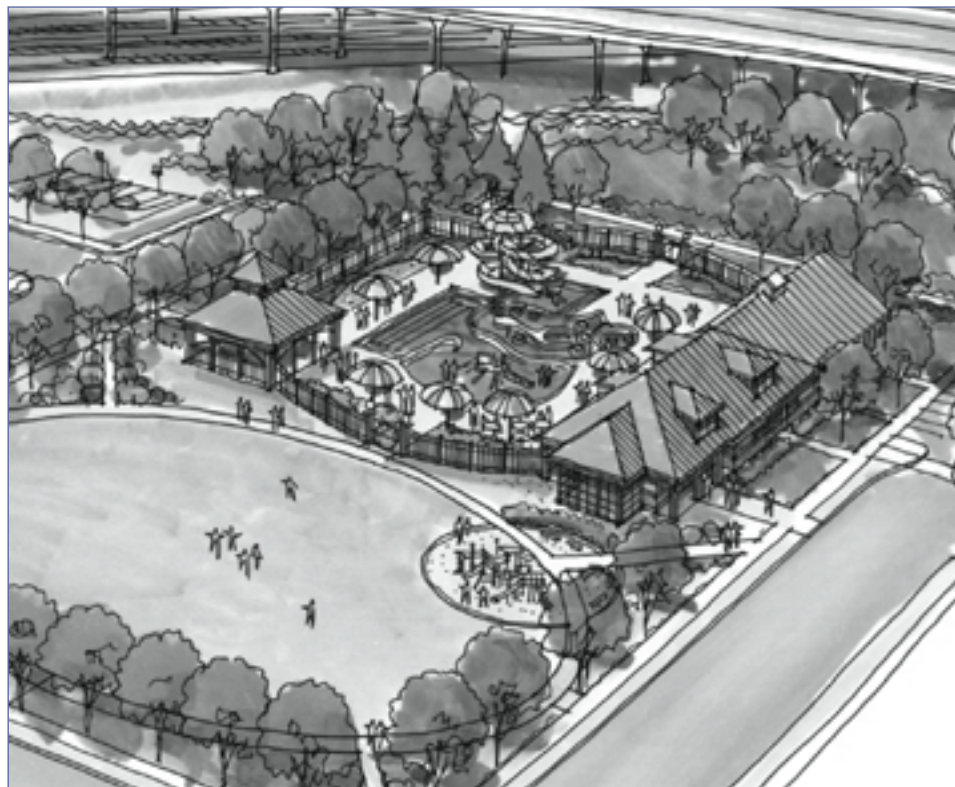
The Albany City Council awarded a \$2.1 million construction contract on October 27, 2004, to Colamette Construction Company of Sherwood. Colamette moved onto the job site November 22 and began with construction of a 70-car parking lot at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Railroad Street.

The City expects construction of the Aquatic Center to be completed and the park to be open to the public by July 2005.

Located on the site of the recently demolished Swanson Pool, which was built in 1939, the Albany Aquatic Center will offer a variety of recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. The facility will include 5,000 square feet of pool, a large shallow area with interactive water play equipment and geysers for young children, a "float river," a 22-foot tall water slide, deeper water for teens and adults, and 9,000 square feet of deck area with furniture for lounging.

The Center will also have a new bathhouse on the north end of the existing Swanson Fitness Center on Railroad Street. The bathhouse will include a small party room which will be available to the public for private parties or other events.

The aquatic center will have a maximum capacity of approximately 450



persons. Daily ticket prices will range between \$2.00 for toddlers to \$4.00 for adults (nonresident prices will be higher). Family, season, and multivisit passes will also be available and will go on sale in spring 2005.

"We are very excited to be underway with this long-awaited project. I can hardly wait until we can open the gates and show off the new Center to our

citizens next summer," said Ed Hodney, Parks and Recreation Director. "I know the entire community, including those who generously donated money for the project, will be very pleased with the result."

Watch the City Web site, www.cityofalbany.net, for photos of the construction as it continues this winter and spring.

Be Careful This Holiday Season

The Albany Fire Department offers the following advice for keeping your year-end holiday celebrations safe.

Holiday Trees:

- Select a fresh tree. Don't take one home that is already shedding its needles.
- Cut the trunk at an angle and place it in a sturdy stand with a water reservoir.
- Keep trees away from heat sources.
- Check the water reservoir every day. Don't allow your tree to dry out.
- Turn off tree lights when no one is home or everyone is sleeping.
- Promptly remove your tree if it dries out; put it outside, away from your home, until you can dispose of it.

Holiday Safety:

- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Don't block exits in your home.
- Never run extension cords across foot traffic areas.
- Unplug all electrical decorations and extinguish candles before leaving home.
- Clean your chimney at least once a year.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and test them weekly.

Albany Neighborhood Watch Support Council

On Sunday, September 19, 2004, the Albany Neighborhood Watch Support Council, supported by several area businesses, kicked off the Lock Out Crime project with a fund-raiser at Grand Prairie Park.

Purpose of the project is to provide free home security inspections and free or discounted security improvements to Albany residents, especially those who are disadvantaged or can be described as "at risk."

The Lock Out Crime project is administered by the Albany Police Department Community Resource Unit. The project is funded through tax-deductible charitable contributions.

The Neighborhood Watch Support Council was officially formed in November 2003. Its purpose is to support Neighborhood Watch groups through providing crime prevention education and improving communication. The Council's mission is to enhance public opinion of the Albany Police Department while improving community service through an exchange of ideas, empowering residents through education, and helping such efforts with assistance and understanding of our community's needs.

The Council is developing neighborhood foot patrol training and assists Neighborhood Watch groups as needed.

The Support Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Police Department; meetings are open to all Neighborhood Watch members and the public.

For more information about the Neighborhood Watch Support Council, contact Sherri Jacobson at 917-3208 or sherri.jacobson@cityofalbany.net.

YMCA Considers Move to Timber Linn Park

The Mid-Willamette Family YMCA could someday relocate to property in Timber Linn Park, following approval of the idea by the Albany City Council.

Councilors endorsed a proposal by the Y and Albany Parks & Recreation Director Ed Hodney in November. The move would make better use of the underutilized park and would allow the YMCA to provide recreational activities on a larger site than it currently occupies at 3311 Pacific Boulevard SW.

The YMCA move is an early step in an overall reassessment of Timber Linn Park, which Hodney is coordinating. Members of the public will be participating over the next several months to draw up a new master plan for the 100-acre park. The park is the primary venue for the Northwest Art & Air Festival in August. Facilities there include the Oregon Amphitheater, which can seat up to 12,000.

YMCA Executive Director Jim Asleson said that his organization would like to open a new YMCA facility in 2007 or 2008. The Y board of directors is raising money for the project now.

The Y hopes to build a 56,000-square-foot facility on two acres at the north end of the park on Dogwood Avenue across from the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. The existing Y building is 60 years old and once housed a tractor and farm implement business. Y leaders want to sell their present site and have encouraged the City to rezone the property from industrial to commercial.

The Y has more than 3,100 members and has outgrown its current building and grounds.

The City and the YMCA held several community meetings this fall to find out what people thought of the idea.

"Overall, the public reaction to the YMCA relocating has been quite favorable," said Hodney.

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
Glenda Fleming 791-5244
(until December 31, 2004)
Jeff Christman 926-0528
(after January 1, 2005)

City Manager:

Steve Bryant 917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 917-7500
Ambulance Billing 917-7710
Building Inspection 917-7553
City Council Message 917-7503
City Manager 917-7501
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 Center 917-7760
Transit 917-7667
Water and Sewer Billing 917-7547
Water/Sewer/Streets 917-7600

Emergencies
(Fire, Police, Ambulance)
Dial 911

City Bridges Info

City Bridges is published by an editorial team from the City of Albany. Questions and input about this newsletter can be directed to the City Manager's Office, 333 Broadalbin SW, P.O. Box 490, Albany, OR 97321-0144.

Contributors

Chris Bailey • Pete Brandstetter
Rich Catlin • Matt Harrington
Steve Hausotter • Lorri Headrick
Doris Hicks • Ed Hodney
Sherri Jacobson • Marilyn Smith



333 Broadalbin SW, Albany, OR 97321
www.cityofalbany.net

Jeff Christman Elected to Ward III Council Post

For the fourth time in three years, Albany residents in City Council Ward III have a new representative following the November 2 General Election. Jeff Christman, 49, was elected to the position over incumbent Glenda Fleming.

Christman works as chief financial officer of Linn-Co Federal Credit Union in Lebanon. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State Polytechnic University and has attended Western CUNA Management School.

He has served on the Mayor's Water Task Force, which recently completed a long-range plan for the City drinking water treatment and distribution system.

He and his wife Lynda have two grown children and two grandchildren. The Christmans live in South Albany.

Christman campaigned on a platform of controlled and balanced growth. He said that Albany needs to be friendly to busi-



ness and that City officials need to make it known that Albany wants businesses to locate here. He favors redevelopment of the downtown area, including preservation of historic resources with a broader mix of residential and commercial development along the riverfront.

He has also said that he believes the Council should prioritize spending and wants to make sure that public safety and infrastructure are considered first.

Fleming had been appointed to the Council in July following the resignation of Leonard Smith. Smith was appointed to the position in January 2002 to fill the unexpired term of Jim Linhart, who died in late November 2001.

Bessie Johnson fills the second Ward III seat on the Council. She was elected in November 2002.

In other November races, incumbents Doug Killin and Sharon Konopa were reelected to four-year terms from Wards I and II, respectively. Mayor Chuck McLaran, who ran unopposed, was elected to a record sixth 2-year term.

Voters rejected the City's measure requesting \$12 million in general obligation bonds to expand and renovate the Main Library.

New Faces in the Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Division



Deputy Fire Marshal I Michelle Brenden and Cinder the dalmatian visit students at Memorial Middle School.

The Albany Fire Department has hired three new employees in the Fire & Life Safety Division in the last several months. Here is an opportunity to get to know them better.

Jason Sharer
Deputy Fire Marshal II (Fire Inspector)

Sharer took over the position previously held by Traci Cooper, who moved on to become the City of Redmond's Fire Marshal.

Before coming to Albany, Sharer was a volunteer firefighter/emergency medical technician with the Amity Fire Department. He had also worked for the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office as a Fire & Life Safety Specialist and for the Bend Fire Department as a Fire Inspector.

He started with the City of Albany by volunteering with the Fire & Life Safety Division in August 2003 and was hired full-time in January 2004.

Sharer's duties and responsibilities include new construction preapplications and plan review; occupancy inspections with the responsibility for annual high-hazard inspections at Wah Chang, Pacific Cast Technologies, OreMet, and

Absorbent Technologies; coordinating the fire alarm system maintenance program; arranging tours of high-hazard occupancies for emergency responders; assisting with fire investigations, fairground inspections, and car seat safety inspections; and coordinating special and unique projects, as assigned.

Russell Perry and Michelle Brenden hold positions of Deputy Fire Marshal I. They were hired to fill positions from the Public Safety Levy, which Albany voters approved in 2002. Adding these positions to the Fire & Life Safety Division brought staffing back to the level of 1998 before budget cuts eliminated the two positions.

Russell Perry
Deputy Fire Marshal I (Fire Inspector)

Perry spent 20 years in the United States Coast Guard prior to coming to the City of Albany.

He began work as a subcontractor here in October 2002, conducting fire and life safety inspections. He was hired full-time in June 2004.

Perry's duties and responsibilities include all types of occupancy inspections;

coordinating monthly inspections of "big-box" stores; annual high-hazard occupancy inspections at Weyerhaeuser, Duraflake, Custom Products LVL, Georgia Pacific, and Synthetech; coordinating sprinkler system maintenance in all applicable occupancies; inspecting daycare facilities; coordination and inspection of all activities at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center; coordinating restaurant inspections; and the annual tall grass abatement program.

Michelle Brenden
Deputy Fire Marshal I (Public Educator)

Brenden was an elementary school teacher for 16 years in fifth and sixth grades prior to coming to the City of Albany. She worked as a subcontractor for the City in September 2003 developing training materials, then began teaching fire and life safety classes in Albany elementary schools in January 2004. She was hired full-time in July 2004.

Brenden's duties and responsibilities are fire and life safety education in Albany's sixth, seventh, and eighth grades; coordinating senior adult programs; and assisting with the Residential Safety Program.

What is a watershed and why do we care?

The term “watershed” is rapidly becoming part of our everyday language as our society works to better manage our natural resources. But what is a watershed, and why is it important to people who live in a city?

A watershed is generally defined as an area of land that drains water downslope to the lowest point. This drainage can be underground or on the surface in streams and rivers that become larger until they ultimately empty into the ocean.

The easiest way to picture a watershed is from ridgetop to ridgetop. That means for streams, lakes, and other surface water sources, the watershed is the land between the highest points surrounding the water body and extending from headwaters to the mouth of the stream or lake. Other similar terms you may hear to describe this concept are “catchment” or “basin.” In areas without mountains, such as the relatively flat Willamette Valley, defining the watershed is more difficult. In these cases, small variations in elevation often define the watershed.

Watersheds can also be described at different geographic scales based on their area. For example, all of the land that drains into the Willamette River is said to be the Willamette Watershed, but within that are several smaller watersheds such as the Calapooia, the South Santiam, and even the Periwinkle Creek watersheds. These smaller watersheds are often called “subbasins” or “subwatersheds.”

Watersheds cross political boundaries such as city limits and state lines, and include much more than just water. Everything that happens in the watershed is important to its health, including land use, transportation corridors, and wildlife populations.

Albany is part of several watersheds. At a large scale, we live in the Mid-Willamette Watershed. Moving down a notch, those who live in the southwestern portion of the city live in the Calapooia River Watershed. The remainder of the southern and eastern portions of the city are not within a large river watershed, but can roughly be divided into the Periwinkle Creek, Cox Creek, Burkhart Creek, Truax Creek, and Murder Creek watersheds.

Residents of North Albany may live in the Thornton Lake or Horseshoe Lake watersheds.

Watershed health is often seen as an indicator of the overall environmental health of a region. Water is a critical resource for all living creatures. The water in our streams, rivers, and underground aquifers connects headwaters with estuaries and tells the story of what is happening on the land. Impacts radiate up and downstream, and the concept of a watershed provides a framework within which to work to solve problems that affect everyone tied together by the water. Because water is the central factor in defining a watershed, it makes sense to use the watershed as the geographic area in which to study and make improvements designed to improve water quality, flood control, and fish habitat.

This concept of watershed-based management has become very popular in recent years. Watershed management requires consideration of all of the factors that affect watershed health. For instance, if the priority is to increase salmon populations, managers may look at water temperature, pollutants, fish passage both upstream and downstream, the impact of hatcheries, and where appropriate spawning habitat exists, among other factors. Watershed management will lead to a comprehensive strategy that addresses each of these factors in an effort to restore native salmon populations.

Because everyone within a watershed has an impact, we can all help to sustain or improve our watershed’s health. Local groups, such as local watershed councils, work to protect and restore watersheds. In our area, active watershed councils include the Calapooia, South Santiam, North Santiam, Marys River, and Luckiamute Watershed Councils, among others. A full list of watershed councils in Oregon is available on the internet at http://www.oweb.state.or.us/groups/WSC_List.shtml.

Watershed councils are groups of volunteers, usually people who live, work, or grow crops in the watershed. They are not regulatory and have no authority to govern land or water use, but they often create consensus among their members to implement restoration projects or management principles. Watershed councils give local people a means to have a say in the management of natural resources in their area and can have a significant voice in how local decisions are made. Councils also have access to funding for watershed



Sample watershed.

projects and can help residents get technical help from such agencies as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Geological Survey.

The City of Albany works with the Calapooia, South Santiam, and North Santiam watershed councils. Each relationship is different. The City plays a major role in the Calapooia Watershed by impacting the river as it travels through part of the city and receives stormwater runoff and possibly other pollutants. Conversely, the City is on the receiving end of the water in the South and North Santiam Rivers because they serve (or will soon serve) as the source of our drinking water. In this case, the actions of various landowners upstream of the city can have a significant impact on our quality of life through subsequent changes in water quality.

Oregon leads the nation in developing and implementing watershed-based management plans. The watershed concept is unique in that it tries to look across political boundaries and bring together all those who have an interest in the products and services a watershed can provide. From this, comprehensive management plans can be developed that allow us to use our natural resources more wisely.

If you would like more information on watersheds, local watershed councils, their activities, or find out how you can become involved, contact Chris Bailey, Public Works Community Outreach Program Coordinator, at 917-7629.

Heating for the Winter Without Getting Burned

Accidents involving fireplaces and heating equipment are a major cause of home fires, and most can be prevented. You can help safeguard your home by following these guidelines:

- All fueled heaters must be vented to prevent dangerous carbon monoxide buildup in your home.
- Provide at least three feet between space heaters and any walls, curtains, furniture, or anything that could burn.
- Inspect electrical cords on heaters and have an electrician replace any frayed, cracked, or damaged cords.
- When burning in a fireplace, make sure dampers are open and use a sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass fire screen.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Burn only wood in wood stoves and fireplaces.
- If a space heater runs on liquid fuel, like kerosene, let the heater cool down before adding more fuel. Adding fuel to a hot heater can cause the fuel to ignite. Be sure to refuel the heater outside.
- Never put gasoline in any space heater.
- Test your smoke detectors regularly.

To help safeguard your family in case of a fire, make sure everyone in your home knows:

- A plan for how to escape;
- To crawl low in smoke;
- Stop, Drop, and Roll; and to
- Get out and stay out.

For additional information, contact the Fire & Life Safety Division of the Albany Fire Department at 917-7700.

How to Avoid Flood Hazards

Property Protection Measures: FEMA’s Homeowner’s Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding is on FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes/rfit.shtm>.

Flood Insurance: FEMA has the latest information about flood insurance policies and premiums at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/cost1.shtm> and at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/fiprobysr.shtm>. FEMA’s answers to questions about the National Flood Insurance Program can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/qanda.shtm>.

Revising FEMA Maps: If your home is above the 100-year flood elevation, you may qualify for an exemption to flood insurance. For more details, visit the FEMA website for Letters of Map Amendment at http://www.fema.gov/fhm/fmc_loma.shtm.

City Flood Services: Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the Albany Public Library. You can also visit the Community Development Department on the second floor of City Hall. They can help you estimate the flood hazard in your area, find ways to

reduce or prevent flood damage to your property, or select a contractor to repair flood damage. These services are free.

Property Protection. Do not dump or throw anything in the ditches, creeks, or drains. Dumping is a violation of the Albany Municipal Code. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. If you see dumping or debris in ditches, creeks or drains, contact the Public Works Department at 917-7550.

Always check with the Building Department before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties. If you see construction work without a building permit posted, contact the Building Department at 917-7553.

Flood Insurance. If you don’t have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner’s insurance **DOES NOT** cover flood damage, and disaster relief funds cover only a small portion of flood damage. You can purchase a separate flood insurance policy because

Albany is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program. And those premiums are discounted because Albany is a partner in the Community Rating System. At last count, less than half of all homes in the floodplain were covered by flood insurance.

Flood Safety. Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the No. 1 cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of water can knock you off your feet.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Again, currents can be deceptive.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The No. 2 flood killer, after drowning, is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water.

Listen for flood warnings. Stay tuned to local radio stations for weather news and flood forecasts. For flooding along the Willamette River, you will receive

What are the Odds?

| Event | Odds |
|--|----------------|
| Structure in the 100-year floodplain being flooded in any given year | 1 in 100 |
| Matching four numbers in the Oregon Megabucks lottery | 1 in 475 |
| Structure in the 500-year floodplain being flooded in any given year | 1 in 500 |
| Annual chance of being killed in a car accident if you drive 10,000 miles a year | 1 in 4,200 |
| Annual chance of being struck by lightning | 1 in 800,000 |
| Matching all six numbers in the Oregon Megabucks lottery | 1 in 6,135,756 |

evacuation information in advance.

If you know your home will be flooded, you should turn off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs or place them as high off the floor as possible.

Albany Showing Growth East of Interstate-5

(This is the first in a series in City Bridges about development activity in Albany. The focus in this article is the area east of Interstate 5.)

The City of Albany has been laying the planning groundwork for development east of Interstate 5 for several years.

- The East I-5 Vision (1994) positioned this area for future growth and expansion.
- The East I-5 Infrastructure Study (1997) looked at the sewer, water, and street

improvements needed to carry out the Vision.

- The Balanced Development Patterns Project and the East I-5 Refinement Plan (both 2001) produced a detailed land use plan, including a new village center and more employment areas.

Residential developers have recently been very busy. When completed, these projects east of I-5 will contain 737 new homes.

- Clover Ridge Station was the first residential development. The first phase of this five-phase subdivision has been built, and homes are under construction.
- The first phase of Wind in the Willows is also constructed. A second phase is planned.
- The first phase of Bridle Springs is also underway. The developer is DR Horton, a nationwide homebuilder.
- Streets and underground utilities for Coastal Crossings are in. This is the

first subdivision in this area with alleys. The first building permits have been issued.

- In Somerset Meadows, construction of streets and utilities is underway.

Other development over the past few years includes four hotels, a home improvement store, and an apartment complex.

Greater Albany Public Schools has also taken notice. They are interested in a site for a grade school and middle school to the north of Knox Butte Road. Albany Parks & Recreation is interested in developing a neighborhood park next to the schools.

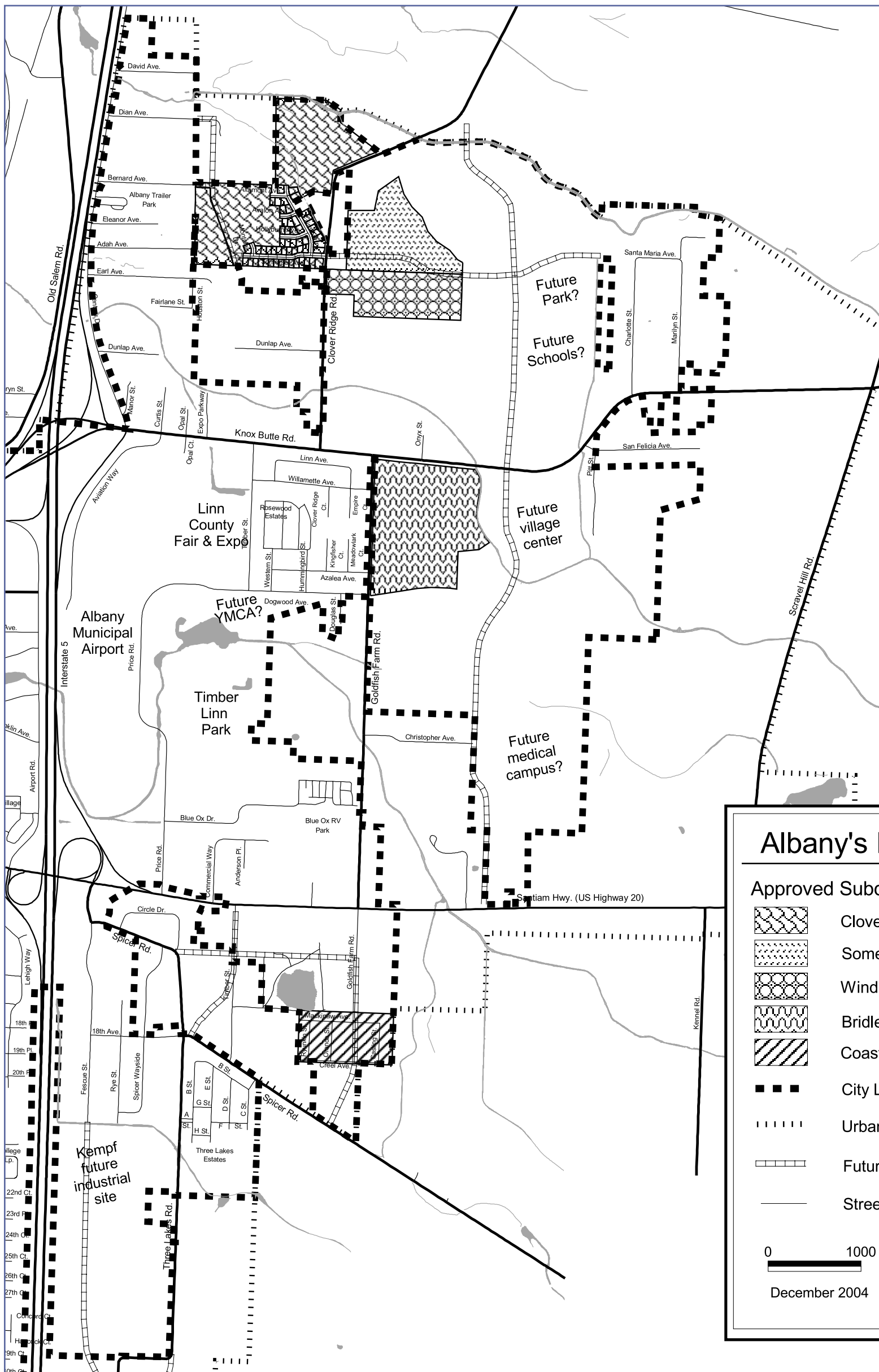
Samaritan Health Services owns land north of Santiam Highway for a future medical campus. There are no plans for the site at this time.

The Kempf property is on the state's list of "opportunity" sites under the Governor's Industrial Lands Program. Certification draws the attention of businesses interested in locating in Oregon.

Albany Parks & Recreation is updating long-term plans for Timber Linn Park. On the list of potential changes: relocating the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA to the park from its current location at Pacific Boulevard and 34th Avenue.

Public investment over the past decade includes:

- The Linn County Fair & Expo Center.
- The Oregon Amphitheater in Timber Linn Park.
- Fire station on Three Lakes Road.
- Clover Ridge Road and Price Road.
- Sewer and water under I-5 to the Kempf property.
- The Santiam Highway overpass over I-5.
- The Joint Water Project with the City of Millersburg.
- Improvements to facilities and navigational aids at the Albany Municipal Airport.



Albany's East I-5 Area

Approved Subdivisions (2001-2004)

- Clover Ridge Station (226 lots)
- Somerset Meadows (103 lots)
- Wind in the Willows (95 lots)
- Bridle Springs (211 lots)
- Coastal Crossings (102 lots)

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Future Streets
- Street

0 1000 Feet

December 2004

