

Updated Transportation System Plan Adopted

The Albany City Council has adopted the 2010 Transportation System Plan (TSP), completing a four-year community process to define how the transportation system will function for the next 20 years.

Albany's population is projected to grow by almost 15,000 people by 2030. The TSP examined the impacts of this growth and recommends a wide range of projects to strengthen the road network and develop an effective bike and pedestrian network. Projects ranked among top priorities by the Council and the general public include:

- Adding turn lanes to busy intersections along state highways to improve traffic flow and safety
- Extending Oak Street from Ninth Avenue to Pacific Boulevard to improve couplet circulation
- Constructing a portion of the Albany-to-Corvallis multiuse path from Spring Hill Drive west to the Albany urban growth boundary
- Installing bike lanes on both sides of Jackson Street between 9th and 13th Avenues and retaining on-street parking
- Conducting a study of the Highway 20 corridor and downtown refinement plan that extends to Interstate 5 and looks at regional bridge needs and potential location for new bridges



- Realigning Salem Avenue with Third Avenue at Main Street and installing a roundabout to improve efficiency and capacity

Approval of the 2010 TSP does not mean that action on individual projects is final. Major projects will return to the Council for further action at key milestones in the planning, environmental and project development process.

The next step will be to build a financial plan for the capital projects and to take a look at the annual cost to maintain and operate the existing transportation system, including local residential streets.

Funding for transportation projects is increasingly scarce while existing infrastructure ages and transportation demands increase. Historic funding sources will be reviewed during the development of the financial plan, and any shortfall will be addressed by delaying construction of projects as well as considering revenues from potential new sources.

The TSP document will be made available to the public on CD for \$5 and can be downloaded for free at www.cityofalbany.net/tmp.

If you have questions or comments, contact Jeni Richardson at jeni.richardson@cityofalbany.net.



Albany Police mark 150 years of service

On January 1, 2010, the Albany Police Department began a year-long celebration of 150 years of 'Excellence through Service.' Law enforcement began in the City of Albany in 1860 with just two people; today, there are nearly 93 positions.

"Not a lot of organizations get to 150 years," said Police Chief Ed Boyd. "It's a great thing to commemorate how far we've come."

Although it was known that law enforcement had been around a long time in Albany, no one knew exactly how long until about two years ago. While researching the department's history, staff found evidence of a "Town Marshal" and a "Watchman" in documents from 1860.

Chief Boyd said there was likely some sort of law enforcement before then; they just couldn't prove it.

"The state of Oregon became a state just one year before we became a police department," Chief Boyd added.

Along with the anniversary came a commemorative badge for police personnel. The commemorative badge features the Oregon seal in the middle of a five-point star. A ribbon-style banner displays the badge owner's name, rank, and badge number.

All the commemorative badges were personal purchases made by Albany Police Department members; no taxpayer dollars were used. The badges were manufactured by SymbolArts in Ogden, Utah.

Chief Boyd said almost everyone in the Department purchased a 150-year badge, with several people buying two — one to wear and one to display. Commemorative badges can be worn from January 1, 2010, until December 31, 2010.

"We are all only here for a short time," Chief Boyd said. "The Albany Police Department will be here for many years after we're all gone."



Join the City of Albany and Allied Waste for **The Big Pickup: Albany Community Action Day**

Saturday, May 15, 2010
8 a.m. – noon

Call 541-917-7507 or 541-917-3208 for more information.

Albany springs forth with a new community garden

Through the efforts of community residents and the City of Albany, a new community garden is on its way. A small group of Albany citizens proposed the idea last fall, and Albany's downtown renewal agency, CARA, eagerly signed on with support.

Albany's Community Development Department has provided \$20,000 for garden fencing, a shed, water connections, and a parking area for the site at the northeast corner of Main Street and Front Avenue NE.

The garden will provide residents the opportunity to grow some of their own fruits and vegetables under the expert guidance of several Master Gardeners provided by Oregon State University's Extension Service. Lyla Heyman, Cheryl Casteen, and Paul Westerberg have volunteered those

skills and training to getting the garden launched in 2010.

The garden will have approximately 40 individual plots or gardens on which residents may try their hand at growing spinach, corn, beets, and other delicious vegetables and fruits. The plots will include a number of raised beds for easier planting and routine maintenance, including several wheelchair-accessible garden beds. These plots should be available to any Albany resident who signs up to utilize one.

The garden will serve as a gathering area for the community along the waterfront and the Dave Clark Path that borders the Willamette River. The City of Albany is finishing site improvements in preparation for opening the garden later this spring. Watch for more news concerning the Albany Community Garden this spring.



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Portable basketball hoops, trash bins, recycling bins, and yard debris carts each have a use and a rightful place – and it's not on a public street. Be a good neighbor; please do not leave your hoops, bins, and carts where they will take up a parking space, block a sidewalk, driveway, or mailbox.

Water Heater Safety

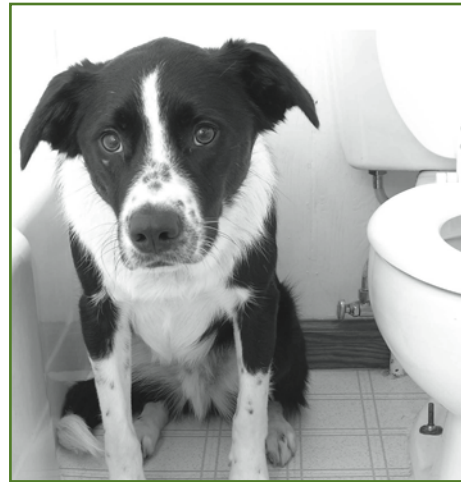
Your gas water heater might look safe; but if it's improperly installed or maintained, it's a potential ballistic missile that could erupt with enough force to lift your house off its foundation. Every year, a few water heaters explode with devastating results. To make sure yours is safe, follow these simple steps:

- Keep the water heater clean. Remove paper, accumulated dust, or other combustibles from the heater enclosure.
- Extinguish the pilot light before using flammable liquids or setting off aerosol bug bombs near the unit. Never store combustibles close to your water heater.
- If the water heater is in the garage, raise it so the pilot light and/or electrical contacts are 18 inches above the floor. This can help prevent ignition of gasoline vapors that collect near the floor and is a code requirement.
- Inspect the flue for breaks or gaps, other than right on top of the water heater, which could leak deadly exhaust gas. In a natural draft water heater, it is normal to have a gap of 2–3 inches between the water heater top and the start of the exhaust duct. The transition connection between the water heater and the exhaust duct directs the combustion exhaust to the duct.
- Check the temperature pressure-relief valve, a faucet-like device mounted on the top or side of the heater. Excessively high temperature or pressure causes this valve to open, relieving pressure and preventing a steam explosion.

Maintenance

A water heater can last 30 years but most fail in about 10, due largely to neglect. Perform the following tasks annually; or hire a plumber or HVAC professional to do them, and you'll save your heater from a premature end.

- Drain and refill the water heater tank until the water runs clear. If there's lots of sediment, drain tank twice a year.
- Inspect the pressure-relief valve for corrosion. If rusty, have a plumber replace it right away.
- On a gas or oil-fired unit, check combustion chamber and flue vent for rust, corrosion, and obstructions. On an electric heater, remove and check heating elements, but first shut off power and drain the tank.
- Remove and inspect anode rod (or rods) on top of the tank. Replace if six inches or more of the rod's core wire is exposed.
- Keep water temperature 120 - 130 degrees. (Check with a thermometer under the tap.) Higher temperatures speed corrosion.



- Bag the waste and put it in the trash. Each pile of dog waste is one small amount of pollution; but added together across Albany, it creates a much larger problem. Pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly. If you leave dog waste in your yard to decay, be sure it does not reach nearby streams, ditches, or wells. Cleaning up after our pets is one easy way to keep Albany clean.

What to do – and not do – with dog doo

Although there isn't a dog census available for Albany, an educated guess by the American Veterinary Medical Association puts the pet population in the city at about 12,000 dogs. People who study such things estimate that each dog produces a third of a pound of solid waste per day, resulting in an estimated 3,960 pounds of dog waste per day throughout Albany.

Dog waste, like any animal waste, contains bacteria and other microorganisms that can cause problems for human health and the environment. Studies have found that children in particular are vulnerable to infection from these organisms. Because they often play in the same places that dogs use as a bathroom, children are more likely to be exposed to diseases and parasites such as cryptosporidium or roundworms.

Animal waste also affects water quality in local streams when it is washed into ditches and storm drain pipes. Stormwater in Albany is not treated at the wastewater treatment plant but flows directly to the closest creek or river. Once in the water,

the pet waste can release ammonia, contribute extra nutrients that encourage unwanted algae growth, and can cause oxygen levels in the water to drop. Animal waste in stormwater also means that the river may become unsafe for swimming. Studies around the country have found that almost 20 percent of bacteria found in waterways can be traced back to dogs.

Leaving dog waste on the ground may be convenient, but it creates loads of problems for the community. The good news is that cleaning up dog waste is simple. Here are three easy options:

- Flush dog waste down the toilet. This insures it will be treated at the wastewater treatment plant like the rest of the waste from the community. Be sure not to flush rocks, sticks, plastic bags, or anything else that may clog the sewer pipes.
- Bury the waste in your yard. Dig a hole about five inches deep, away from gardens, ditches, or wells, and cover the waste with topsoil. Microorganisms in the soil will break down the waste over time.

Q: Do all Albany water customers pay the same rate?

Albany water rates are based on three customer classes: residential, multifamily, and nonresidential. Within the customer classes, each customer pays the same rate for water use.

The base rate for access to service depends on the meter size, and all customers pay the same base rate for the same size meter. For example, all customers, regardless of classification, pay the same base rate for a one-inch meter. The base charge increases as the size of the meter increases so that a customer with a two-inch meter will pay a higher base charge than a customer with a one-inch meter.

The usage charges within each customer class are also the same. For example, every residential customer pays the same rate per unit of water used. However, the usage charges for multifamily and nonresidential customers are lower than the usage charge for residential customers. This lower usage rate reflects the somewhat lower impact these types of customers have on the water system.

Albany also has a low-income assistance program for qualifying water customers. If approved, senior or disabled low-income water customers can receive a credit of up to four units of water use each month. To find out if you qualify for assistance on your City of Albany utility bill, contact utilitybilling@cityofalbany.net or call 541-917-7547.

CITY OF ALBANY Directory

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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

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Wes Hare 541-917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 541-917-7500

Ambulance Billing 541-917-7710

Building Inspection 541-917-7553

City Manager 541-917-7500

Downtown Carnegie Library 541-917-7585

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

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Play, stay, spend: fun, games affect Albany's economy

Tourism is an important sector of Albany's economy and in 2009, the Albany Parks & Recreation Department conducted economic impact studies in its aquatic program and during softball tournament rentals that prove it. The results are in and the numbers are impressive!

Aquatic activities such as swim meets, water polo games, and pool rentals brought 7,527 athletes and 12,202 spectators to Albany in 2009. Those visitors used 189 motel rooms during their stay. The result: \$986,450 in economic impact from tourism for the Albany community.

In 2009, softball tournaments held in Albany brought 1,820 athletes and 3,219 spectators to the city. These 5,039 spectators had an economic impact of \$768,300.

In order to arrive at an average for Albany, participants and spectators were surveyed to determine how far they trav-

elled, where they stayed and how much it cost, if they ate out and what they spent, if they purchased gasoline or groceries and how much they anticipated spending on both. The average was \$50 per person per day and \$70 per person per day if the person stayed in a hotel room.

According to a report by the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC), the average spending per person per day is approximately \$146.89 across the United States. Those same spectators would have brought \$3,712,475 into Albany using the national average.

Using volunteers and summer staff, Albany conducted the impact study with in-person interviews. This summer, Albany plans to use staff on site at all major events with computerized surveys and prizes to gather information for 2010.



Library Launches Second Book Club

The Albany Public Library is launching a second book club beginning Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at noon at the Main Library, 2450 14th Avenue SE. The club's first selection is "The Crying Tree" by Naseem Rakha of Silverton.

The Modern Voices Reading and Discussion Group is being formed by popular demand from readers who want to participate in a daytime group. The Library started a monthly reading group that meets in the evening in 2009. The evening group routinely attracts 25-30 participants.

Modern Voices will meet monthly on the third Tuesday at noon. The group will read and discuss books that deal with globalism, world cultures, place and community, and current events. Everyone is welcome to bring a brown bag lunch and join the discussion.

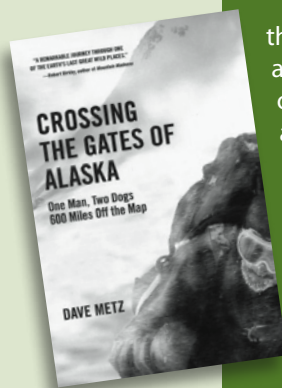
Every month, 20 copies of the current selection will be available for book club attendees. Book club kits become available the week after the book discussion groups have finished with the title. The kits

contain 15-20 copies of the title, author biography, and a reading guide. The kits may be checked out for one month.

Both book discussion groups will continue to read and discuss fiction and nonfiction. The Modern Voices group will also feature author visits and readings.

The Modern Voices group is made possible in part by a grant from the Oregon Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds the grant program, and the Friends of the Albany Public Library.

For more information, contact LaRee Bates, Library Resources Coordinator, at 541-791-0112, or laree.bates@cityofalbany.net



Philomath Author Dave Metz Speaks at the Library

Dave Metz, a fish biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will share stories of his death-defying, passionate journey through Alaska's Arctic outback at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Avenue SE.

Metz, who lives in Philomath, has been to Alaska over a dozen times in the last 20 years. "Crossing the Gates of Alaska: One Man, Two Dogs, 600 Miles off the Map," is his book about a three-month trek across Alaska with his two Airedales. The story is one of survival, determination, and a lifetime of reverence for the world's wild places.

For more information, contact LaRee Bates at 541-791-0112 or laree.bates@cityofalbany.net

Spring Events for Kids at Albany Public Library

Marine mammals, science magic, mask crafts, a workshop about computers and TV called "What Are They Watching?" and the 26th annual Clever Cooks Contest will all visit the Albany Public Library, 2450 14th Avenue SE, this spring in five free programs. Seating may be limited for some events.

Young dancers from Legacy Ballet will perform excerpts from "Coppelia" at ballet story time on Saturday, March 20, 2010, with shows at 10:30 a.m. and noon for an audience of all ages. Heather Hill is the dance director.

Corvallis illusionist, author, and scientist Curt Nelson will present "Go Wild!" at 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2010, with a program full of magic, humor, and animal science. Mask-making crafts will follow at 3:00 p.m. Both programs welcome school-age children; preschoolers will not be admitted. All materials will be provided.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium will bring a marine mammals show at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2010, for school-age children only. Life-size inflatables and several tables of ocean artifacts and creatures' body parts will be on display.

The 26th annual Clever Cooks Contest, open to children of all ages, will fill the Library with wonderful smells and tastes from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2010. Entry blanks with registration information will be available at both libraries in early April.

"What Are They Watching?" is a free workshop about kids' screen time on computers and TVs at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 8, 2010, at the Main Library. This Growing Families Together event seeks to teach families about the effects of TV and computer games plus strategies to cope with kids' screen time. Community agencies offering summer programming for children will host several resource tables in the Library. Child care and refreshments will be offered.

For more information, contact Scott Keeney, Children's Librarian, at 541-917-7591.

Library adds to eBooks collection

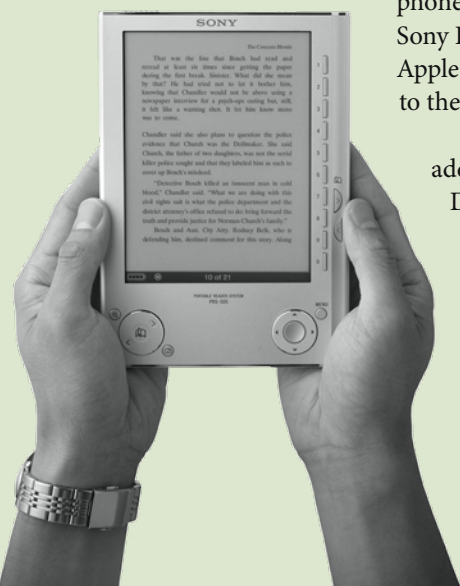
The Albany Public Library has added about 5,000 downloadable eBooks to its collection through its membership in the Oregon Digital Library Consortium, also called Library2Go.

Library cardholders can browse the collection, check out and download eBooks, audiobooks, and video 24 hours a day via the Internet. Once downloaded, digital media can be enjoyed on a computer and transferred to popular devices such as MP3 players, iPods, smartphones, and e-reading devices such as the Sony Reader, Barnes & Noble nook, or Apple iPad. At the end of the lending period, titles automatically expire and are returned to the collection. Users may 'return' eBooks early.

"eBooks are growing in popularity, and we are excited to offer this new format in addition to thousands of audiobooks and videos currently available," said Library Director Ed Gallagher. "We have purchased hundreds of best-selling and classic titles, all of which can be read on your computer or compatible portable reading device."

The Oregon Digital Library Consortium was formed in 2005 to deliver electronic resources such as downloadable audiobooks, video, and eBooks to participating libraries statewide. Library2Go is supported in whole or part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library.

For more information, contact the Albany Public Library Reference desk, 541-917-7582, visit the Library, or <http://library.cityofalbany.net>.



Retiree leaves legacy of accounting excellence

After more than 33 years working for the City of Albany, Assistant Finance Director John Stahl will retire at the end of June. Stahl, who holds a business degree from the University of Washington, has been the City's primary accountant during his tenure and has seen City Hall move from having no computers at all to acquiring a couple the size of appliances, to a computer on every desk. For many years, the City didn't employ computer professionals; so Stahl wrote programs for the City's accounting, payroll, and records management systems. In the last few years, he has supervised the conversion of those legacy systems to packaged software.

For 26 consecutive years, the City has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government

Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This prestigious award is a result of Stahl's consistency and leadership in accounting, in part by ensuring that the City conforms to current accounting regulations in its financial reporting and documentation. He helps to maintain the City's excellent credit record which keeps interest rates on bonds and loans low.

Albany is audited every year by an independent accounting firm. Albany's audits are generally rated very high, another feather in Stahl's hat. In 2009, Albany's audit was essentially deemed spotless in a management letter issued by auditors Boldt, Carlisle & Smith. This is the result of a lot of work by a lot of people following Stahl's leadership and pursuit of excellence in accounting.

In his spare time, Stahl is a talented potter; and his wife Patricia is a well-known fiber artist. Son George is a computer programmer in Nevada and daughter Kirstin teaches school in Klamath Falls. Stahl says when he retires, he plans to continue with his pottery, photography, making jewelry, golfing, traveling, rock hounding, and reading. Patricia, already retired, likes to travel, too; so it will be easier to get away together.

Asked what he will miss the most from his City job, Stahl said "The people in the Finance Department." The feeling is mutual! Finance Department employees, directors of other departments and many, many other City employees, are very sad to see John go, though we recognize that he deserves a break. We wish him well.

Employee Budget Task Force helps identify spending cuts

City Manager Wes Hare knew this was going to be a tough year financially. He also knew that some of the best ideas for meeting the challenge might come from the City's own employees. He envisioned an employee task force as a good way to tap the wealth of wisdom inside the agency and to communicate accurate information about the current state of the City's budget. Hare wanted and needed employee participation; so he asked Finance Director Stewart Taylor to facilitate a task force of employees with representatives from each City department.

The Employee Budget Task Force included 18 employees and met every two weeks from early September to late December. A myriad of cost-saving ideas were considered and recorded, even those that seemed far-fetched or not politically acceptable. The goal was to be as thorough as possible.

The work of the task force included an employee survey to measure interest in different cost-saving ideas, especially those affecting wages, and to elicit additional ideas. Following the survey, employee budget information meetings were held at City Hall, the Main Library, and Public Works Operations. All employees were invited to hear about the survey results and the Task Force's recommendations. Lots of good ideas were generated with this brainstorming approach, including a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP).

The list of cost-saving ideas was presented to the City department directors for use in constructing their budgets and to the Budget Committee at its meeting in January. Many of the ideas are already being implemented. The full list reflects the time and effort made by the Task Force and will be a valuable tool for preparing the budget for 2010-11.

Ten Questions, Ten Minutes Fill out your 2010 Census form

In March 2010, U.S. Census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, answer the ten short questions, then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. All personal data you provide is protected under federal law and remains confidential.

Data collected by the Census help determine the number of seats Oregon has in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 2010 Census will help communities like Albany receive federal funds each year for things such as hospitals, emergency services, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels, and other public works projects.

The 2010 Census is a portrait of America. It's required by the Constitution to take place every ten years. For more information visit www.2010census.gov.

Talking Water Gardens:

a unique municipal/industrial water reclamation project

Business, government, and community leaders gathered on February 12, 2010, to break ground for the nation's first public/private engineering project of its kind: an engineered wetlands system to treat municipal and industrial wastewater.

Albany-Millersburg Talking Water Gardens sits on the 50-acre former Simpson lumber mill site which is being transformed into a natural water treatment facility that will double as a public recreation area.

The engineered wetlands facility is a collaboration of the Cities of Albany and Millersburg and metals manufacturer ATI Wah Chang. The cities joined forces with the company in response to new environmental guidelines for lowering the temperature of treated wastewater reentering the Willamette River.

Talking Water Gardens will include a series of hydrological features that replicate natural processes. Fed by treated wastewater from the Albany-Millersburg Water Reclamation Facility and ATI Wah Chang, the site will consist of:

- Waterfalls and weirs for aeration, mixing and sound – the "talking water."
- Wetland cells one to five feet deep containing vegetation to help filter the water.
- Plantings of indigenous wetland flora to prevent erosion and provide shade to help lower water temperatures.
- Trails, signage and other features for public recreation and education about the natural water treatment processes at work.

Engineering crews will complete the construction phase by December 2010.

Community groups will be invited to participate in the planting phase which will require an additional year to mature before the facility's official opening as a public recreation area in March 2012. The total public and private investment is estimated at \$19 million.

Learn more about this innovative project at www.talkingwatergardens.com.

Police say thank you

The Albany Police Benevolent Association would like to thank these businesses and individuals for their generous donations in 2009. You make our events a huge success!

Tan Republic
14th Avenue Salon
Les Schwab Tire Center
WAHS Booster Club
Seattle Mariners
Dutch Brothers
Albany Fire Department FireMed
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Inn at Spanish Head
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Spirit Mountain Casino, an enterprise of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Marshall Lynn
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Cassandra Hunter
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Aaron
Missy Wilson

Thanks
for your
support!



The City of Albany United Way Committee would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their generous donations in 2009. You made our campaign a record-breaker!

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Corvallis Knights
Costco
Les Schwab
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Oregon State University
Salem Keizer Volcanoes
Shilo Inn
Sprint Boat Races - Albany Field of Dreams
The Mill Casino & Resort