

City Bridges

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Spring 2007

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

CARA at Five – A Bright Future

Five years into its 20-year life, the Central Albany Revitalization Area (CARA), Albany's urban renewal district, is at an exciting point. Many great projects have been completed, and many more are on the horizon.

In a recent meeting, the CARA Advisory Board took a look back at the accomplishments of the last five years. Since 2001, the Board has assisted developers with three large construction projects including Willamette Community Bank on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Lyon Street; Jefferson Lofts apartments on Water Avenue; and the Ironworks project between Water and First Avenues on Montgomery Street. The Ironworks project is underway and will include a 10,000 square-foot office building, a loft-style apartment building, and seven townhomes. These developments add up to more than \$5.5 million in new construction in CARA.

The CARA Board has also administered a grant and loan program committing funds to more than 20 projects. These range from small grants for awnings or paint to upper floor renovations in downtown buildings and renovations and updates of some of Albany's most precious assets: the historic buildings in our

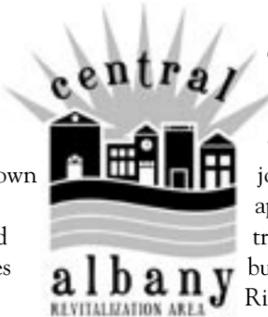


The Montgomery Park office building, part of the larger Ironworks project, is underway.

downtown core. One shining example is the partnership with Marc Manley, owner of the Flinn Block. Using CARA funds paired with his own investment, Manley was able to rehabilitate the interior and exterior of the Flinn and Ames Buildings on First Avenue.

These five years have also seen the completion of the First Avenue streetscape and the creation of a Riverfront Refinement plan.

At the Board's January 2007 meeting, they approved more than \$1.5 million for five new projects. These are as exciting as they are diverse: a 32-unit apartment building along the waterfront; 40 units



of senior housing along the Calapooia River; expansion of an industrial building to create 14 new family-wage jobs; rehabilitation of an historic apartment building and construction of a new companion building; and assisting the Brass Ring Carousel group to purchase property in the downtown core.

How does CARA get its money? Great question! Urban renewal districts are not an increase in taxes but are funded through what's called "tax increment." It works this way: in 2001, the tax-assessed values on the properties within the district were recorded as what's called the "frozen base." The money

from the frozen base continues to fund the taxing districts including the City, Linn County, the Albany school district, and Linn-Benton Community College. Through the 20-year life of the district, a portion of any increase in tax-assessed values goes to the district. The idea is for the district to use the funds to stimulate growth, eliminate blight, and create vitality in the area.

As the district's life continues, projects partially supported by tax-increment dollars begin to add to the increment, in some cases "paying back" the money that was used to complete them in the first place.

CARA has more plans to stimulate the development of our waterfront and a continued desire to fund projects that will revitalize the downtown core, including more residential opportunities, retail, and restaurants.

After five years, CARA is well on its way to meeting its key objectives of attracting new private investment, enhancing the value of existing private and public investment, and increasing economic vitality.

Want to learn more? Visit CARA's Web site at <http://cityofalbany.net/cara>, or contact Kate Porsche, Urban Renewal Coordinator, at (541) 497-6228.

New Veteran's Memorial at Timber Linn Memorial Park

For the past year, Albany Parks and Recreation has been working with the Linn County Veterans Memorial Association (LCVMA) to design, fund, and build a new Veterans Memorial at Albany's Timber Linn Memorial Park.

The new memorial is intended to recognize and honor Linn County residents who have been killed or declared missing in action during U.S. military conflict from the formation of Linn County through the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial will also present opportunities to commemorate Linn County veterans, other than KIAs and MIAs. It will be designed so that it can be expanded to recognize those who may be lost in future military conflicts.

The memorial will replace a smaller one erected by local veterans decades ago. The old memorial is a low stone wall with bronze plaques that commemorate Linn County veterans lost in military conflicts. The lists end with World War II, are incomplete, and the memorial cannot be enlarged.

The need for a new memorial surfaced during public meetings last year regarding a new master plan for Timber Linn Memorial Park. Many veterans and other citizens who attended those meetings felt the existing memorial was wholly inadequate. The new park plan calls for the new memorial on the site of the existing one,

with half an acre of land dedicated to it. The new memorial will also be accessible and oriented to be more prominent.

The Albany City Council adopted the Timber Linn plan in spring 2006. Since then, Parks and Recreation officials have been working with the LCVMA to develop plans and raise contributions for the project

The new memorial includes:

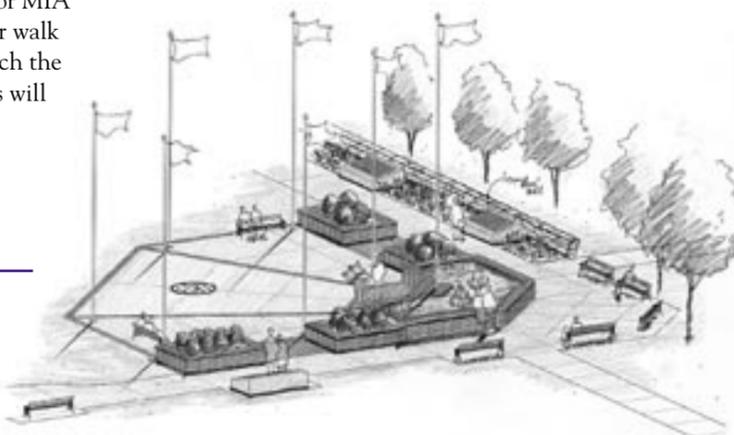
- A ceremonial plaza to accommodate up to 500 persons with flagpoles for the U.S. flag and each of the branches of military service
- Six custom-designed concrete monuments in the shape of Linn County on which names of KIAs and MIAs will be mounted
- Low concrete walls to hold bricks inscribed with names of veterans not listed KIA or MIA
- A perimeter walk around which the monuments will be placed

- Paved wheelchair-accessible parking and ADA-compliant concrete paths to the memorial
- Benches, lighting, and signs
- Irrigated lawn and landscaping

The improvements are estimated at \$500,000. The LCVMA is soliciting donations of money, services, materials, and labor. The organization has also applied for state of Oregon grant funds. The City of Albany has contributed the memorial site and paid approximately \$15,000 for design work by DLA, Inc., landscape architects, Eugene.

The project officially began in February with demolition of the park's old tennis courts. Construction could begin in May or June, depending on fund-raising. The project should be finished and dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2007.

Architect's rendering of the new Veterans Memorial at Timber Linn Memorial Park



How Tourists Help Albany

Did you know that the travel industry is possibly Oregon's largest industry? Each year Travel Oregon, the state's travel bureau, commissions a report from Dean Runyan and Associates to study the effects of tourism on the state's economy.

In the 2004 report (the most recent available), Runyan reported travel spending in Oregon at \$7.4 billion dollars, excluding lodging. In Linn County that year, travelers spent an impressive \$91.4 million dollars, excluding lodging.

What does this mean to our local community? Consider the recent Mid Winter Festival (square dance convention at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center.) This festival lasted four days and attracted 1,660 people, more than half from out of town. Travel Oregon reports that visitors spend an average of \$144 per person per day, excluding lodging -- well over half a million dollars in our community during those four days.

In addition to money spent by visitors, special events generate money in hotel stays, state and local taxes, and other expenses. With the impact one event has on Albany, it is easy to see that the tourism industry plays a vital role in the economic stability of our community.

If you belong to an organization that holds conferences, district or statewide conventions, ask what it would take to bring that event to Albany. Then call the Albany Visitors Association, 541-928-0911, so we can bid on the event and possibly bring it home to help build our local economy.

City of Albany Directory

Mayor

Doug Killin 926-6829

Ward I Councilors

Dick Olsen 926-7348

Dan Bedore 812-1426

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

General Information 917-7500

Ambulance Billing 917-7710

Building Inspection 917-7553

City Council Message 917-7503

City Manager 917-7500

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'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

John Burton • Ed Gallagher • Kathy Grosso
Matt Harrington • Lynn Hinrichs • Ed Hodney
Jimmie Lucht • Diane Moody • Kate Porsche
Jeni Richardson • Sandy Roberts
Heather Slocum • Marilyn Smith
Michael Trabue • Claudia Zahorcak



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

How to Get from Here to There

Open House on March 22

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 road map for our future.

So far we have:

- Determined where future jobs and households will be located in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Plan;
- Projected increases in the number of vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and buses for families and businesses in 2030; and
- Identified which existing transportation facilities (roads, bus system, etc.) cannot handle community growth in 2030.

The next step is to look for transportation solutions. First, we want to share what we've learned so you can help us develop the plan.

You are invited and encouraged to come to an open house from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 22, 2007, in the cafeteria at North Albany Middle School. You will have the chance to look at maps that show projected transportation problem areas. There will also be an opportunity for you to identify potential solutions and tell City staff if we've overlooked or missed anything.

You can come and go as you please during the three-hour period. Staff will give a brief presentation at the beginning of each hour, leaving plenty of time to look at maps and other displays and for you to ask questions.

Here is a sneak preview of what we see as problem areas in 2006 and 2030.

For more information, visit www.cityofalbany.net/tmp or contact Jeni Richardson at jeni.richardson@cityofalbany.net.



OPEN HOUSE

Please Join Us!

March 22 • 4–7 p.m.
North Albany Middle School
Cafeteria
1205 North Albany Road NW

Invest in Home Security

A small investment of time and money can make your home more secure and can reduce your chances of being a victim of burglary, assault, or vandalism. In almost half of all residential burglaries, thieves walk in through an unlocked door or crawl through an unlocked window.

Check the locks

- Make sure every external door has at least a one-inch bolt that can provide protection against picking, drilling, and other forms of physical attack.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially-available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door against intruders. Insert a pin in a hole drilled in the sliding door frame that goes through the fixed frame to prevent anyone from lifting the door off its tracks.
- Secure double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash and part way through the outside sash. Secure basement windows as well.
- Don't hide keys in mailboxes, planters, or under doormats. Give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- If you have recently moved into a new house or apartment, rekey the locks and consider whether you need to upgrade to a high-security lock.
- Whenever possible, purchase keys that are protected against unauthorized duplication.

Check the outside

To discourage burglars from selecting your home as their target of opportunity, make sure to:

- Prune back shrubbery that hides doors or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb into windows.
- Light porches, entrances, and yards front and back. Consider timers that turn on outside lights or install motion detectors.
- Keep your yard tidy and well-maintained. Store ladders and tools inside your locked garage, basement, or storage shed when you're not using them.
- Clearly display your house number so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.
- Help the neighborhood stay in good shape. Dark alleys, broken street lights, abandoned cars, vacant buildings, graffiti, litter, and run-down areas attract crime. Work with the City and neighbors to organize community cleanup days.
- Put lights and radios on timers to create the illusion that someone is at home when you go away. Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions. Stop the mail and newspapers or ask a neighbor to take them in.
- Update your home inventory, listing things like electronic and sports equipment and computers. Take photos or make videos of items, list descriptions and serial numbers. Check with law enforcement about Operation Identification for engraving your valuables. If your home is burglarized, this can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

What about alarms?

If you have valuables in your home or live in an isolated area or a neighborhood vulnerable to break-ins, consider an alarm system. Before you invest in alarms:

- Check with several companies and decide what type and level of security you need and can afford. Sources of information include Albany Public Library and the Better Business Bureau.
- Look for an established company and check references before signing up.
- Learn how to use your system properly. If you continually set off false alarms, your neighbors will ignore the noise and you could be fined.

Look beyond your own home

- Join a Neighborhood Watch group. If one doesn't exist, ask the Police Department to help you start one. Get to know your neighbors. Watchful neighbors who look out for you as well as themselves are a frontline defense against crime.
- Look around for things that could contribute to crime: poor street lighting, abandoned cars, vacant lots, homes that elderly owners have trouble maintaining. Help organize a cleanup/fix-up day.

For more information regarding Albany's Neighborhood Watch program, home security, or other crime prevention programs, please call Lynn Hinrichs at the Albany Police Department at 917-3208.

If you live within the Albany city limits and are age 55 or older, you qualify to receive a free home security inspection from our Safe And Secure Seniors Independent (SASSI) program. For more information, please contact Sandy Roberts at 917-3206 or e-mail at sandy.roberts@cityofalbany.net.

Meet Michael Trabue, Albany Fire Marshal

Albany's new Fire Marshal, Michael Trabue, has been on the job since October 2006.

Trabue has 30 years in the fire service, starting with Corvallis Fire Department in 1977 as a live-in student volunteer while attending Oregon State University. He has worked as a professional firefighter/emergency medical technician, fire investigator, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Fire & Life Safety Plans Examiner.

Before coming to Albany, he served the Redmond, Washington, Fire Department for 13 years, where he was part of a 13-person Fire Prevention team. The last eight years with Redmond, Trabue was Assistant Fire Marshal, overseeing program management of fire maintenance inspections and fire investigations.

Trabue now works in the Fire Department Administrative offices on the second floor of City Hall where he leads a team of Deputy Fire Marshals and Fire

Investigators dedicated to look out for fire and life safety concerns of the citizens of Albany and those who work in and visit the city.

"My goal in coming to and becoming part of this community is to work with my team to provide the highest practical level of fire safety for our citizens," said Trabue. "I expect to achieve this by working with our citizens and our business community to find solutions to fire and life safety issues that affect them directly and the community as a whole."

Trabue has also worked in private business doing fire protection engineering. He was also team leader/coordinator for King County, Washington's multiagency Eastside HazMat Team and is familiar with hazardous material response and code-related issues. He was an instructor at Bellevue, Washington, Community College and for the King County Fire Officer's Training Association's nation-

ally accredited "Officer Development Academy."

He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an associate's degree in Fire Administration and is nationally certified as a Building Plans Examiner, Fire Inspector II, Fire Plans Examiner, Fire Investigator, and Fire Service Instructor.

Trabue describes himself as a well-traveled camp follower of his dad Earl, also an OSU grad, who grew up in Eugene and is a 30-year retired Army veteran. Though enamored of his work, Trabue enjoys time away from the office practicing photography, making big pieces of wood into smaller ones, and spending time with Lou Ann, his wife of 21 years. The Trabues' daughter Nicole attends Gonzaga University.

Contact Trabue at 541-917-7703 or mike.trabue@cityofalbany.net if you have any fire or life safety questions or concerns.

New Park for 53rd Avenue Neighborhoods

Southwest Albany will have a new neighborhood park by this fall to serve an area of more than 700 homes.

Albany Parks and Recreation has been working with residents in the 53rd Avenue area, also known as Oak Creek Meadows, to plan this newest public park. Planning included a survey of all area residents and several open meetings. A task force of selected residents guided selection of playground equipment.

Located at the intersection of Deer Run Street and Black Bear Avenue, the two-acre site was purchased for \$300,000 in 2005 with money collected through the Parks System Development Charges program (Parks SDCs). Construction should begin later this spring, also funded by about \$340,000 from Parks SDCs.

The new park will include a children's playground, a perimeter walk, junior-sized basketball court, adult basketball court, irrigated lawn, benches, and picnic tables.

DLA, Inc., landscape architects, of Eugene designed the park. For more information, contact Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director, at 917-7769.

Arbor Week April 2-8, 2007

See <http://www.cityofalbany.net/trees>, or call 917-7679 for more information.

Santiam-Albany Canal Protecting a Unique Resource

In 1884, the *Albany Democrat-Herald* noted:

"No institution has ever done so much for Albany as the Santiam Ditch...not only has it been in the past a monument to our city, but it is now, and will be in the future..."

Do you ever wonder about the smaller canals through town, such as Thurston Street or Eighth Avenue? These are remnants of a complex set of smaller offshoots from the Santiam-Albany Canal, dug in 1871 to bring South Santiam River flow to a variety of mills and businesses along Albany's busy waterfront.

Water power was a key ingredient to the success of early Albany. The original canal owners hoped to use the canal to transport goods and materials from Lebanon to Albany (Albany founders Thomas and Walter Monteith came from Albany, New York, the outlet of the Erie Canal); but swift currents made pulling empty barges back to Lebanon too costly.

The Santiam-Albany Canal is one of few that provide drinking water. Albany's canal was hand-dug by immigrant laborers. It appears to be a natural stream, coursing past the back yards of Lebanon homes, across fields and pastures in rural Linn County, then past Albany homes and through downtown to the historic Vine Street Water Treatment Plant, built in 1912. But it's not a natural stream—it's a drinking water supply canal that needs to be protected and maintained. That's the job of the City's Public Works Department Operations Division.

With cooperation from the City of Lebanon, the City of Albany owns and maintains the canal and its various control

structures. The system has provided both communities with drinking water for over 130 years. In October 2005, Albany began using the Santiam River as the primary drinking water source, treated at the Albany-Millersburg Joint Water Treatment Plant. No longer relying entirely on the canal, Albany has a great opportunity to invest some attention there.

As Albany grows, we will need both water treatment plants to be fully operational. The City has a five- to seven-year plan for canal improvements to meet the City's anticipated demands by 2015.

The first challenge, met last summer, was to make major improvements to the head of the canal: the South Santiam River diversion dam, fish screen, and canal headgates. Next, we need to restore the canal to carry the volume of water for which it was originally built. This is important to deliver water to the various water rights holders (besides ourselves), prevent flooding downtown and to help with the restoration of hydroelectric power generation at Vine Street treatment plant, a system that will generate "green" power.

In September 2006, we tested the flow by increasing rates from the low levels that were maintained throughout the headworks construction (about 70 cubic feet per second (cfs)) toward about 190 cfs, the goal for the power facility. Albany, Linn County, and Lebanon residents along the canal received a letter asking them to look for problems and to report damp areas outside the banks or places that might overflow due to blocked culverts or other obstructions. City staff were assigned to observation posts and made measurements

as the canal water level rose over the three-day test.

What we learned reinforced staff observation over the last several years: that some locations on the canal levee allow water to seep into private yards, even at low flow volume, and sediment deposits in other areas restrict flow. These need to be addressed before we can deliver a steady 190 cfs.

As part of this year's capital improvement program, we have assembled a team of experts in hydraulics, streambank protection, and geotechnical sciences who will study canal conditions and help City staff identify the causes of flow restrictions. Major repairs and improvements will begin in 2008. The goal is to stabilize the soft canal banks, remove sediment or other blockages, and restore the canal to be stable and free-flowing.

While the study is underway, residents are urged to be part of the City's ears and eyes by watching for problems along the canal. Remember – the canal is still our drinking water. The Vine Street plant still treats and delivers water to the distribution system. Never to dispose of debris, even organics like grass clippings, in the canal or to allow chemicals to drain into it.

Report any problems or incidents of dumping at once by calling Jim Young, Water Distribution Supervisor, at (541) 917-7609, or e-mail jim.young@cityofalbany.net. Leave your name, phone number, the date and time of the call, and the location and description of the area of concern. Give specific information so that City crews can respond quickly.



Down By the Riverside Cleanup May 19

The City of Albany is coordinating "Down by the Riverside," the 10th annual spring cleanup of Albany-area rivers and creeks, on Saturday, May 19, 2007.

Volunteers should meet at Bryant Park at 9:00 a.m. After collecting trash and debris at various sites around Albany, volunteers will return to the park at noon for a pizza lunch. Prizes will be awarded for the largest and the most unusual items found.

Volunteers will receive instructions, maps, garbage bags, and latex gloves. Volunteers 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.

Groups with more than five people must call Heather Slocum at 917-7600, ext.4645, or send e-mail to heather.slocum@cityofalbany.net by Wednesday, May 16. 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.

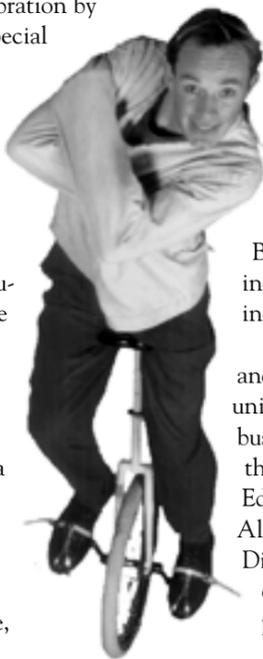
Down By the Riverside is a statewide riverside cleanup and project day, coordinated by local communities and Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV).

Come together @ APL for National Library Week April 15-21, 2007

National Library Week is a time to celebrate the contributions of libraries, librarians, and library workers in schools, campuses, and communities nationwide and the perfect time for the community to come together @ your library.

The Albany Public Library is celebrating National Library Week with programs for the whole family and for the entire community. Join the celebration by attending some of these special events:

- Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.: Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services with Ken Smith. Valuable information and opportunities for first-time home buyers.
- Monday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.: Oregon Council for the Humanities Chautauqua "Sojourners, Settlers, and New Immigrants: Mexicanos in Oregon."
- Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.: Henrik Bothe,



juggler and magician, family show. You won't believe your eyes!

- Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Banquet for the Brain -- an opportunity to learn more about computer resources available through the library. Hands-on and demonstrations for beginners and advanced users.

- Thursday, April 19, 3:00 p.m.: You've heard about it, now you can see it. Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." Discussion follows.

- Saturday, April 21, 1:00 p.m.: Anime Club
- Saturday, April 21, 2:00 p.m.: Civil War reenactment with Sons of Union Veterans Camp Baker.

This living history event includes displays of period weapons including an 800-pound cannon.

"Everyday, libraries in big cities and small towns, colleges and universities, schools, and businesses help transform their communities," said Ed Gallagher, Albany Library Director. "At our Library, people of all



backgrounds can come together for community meetings, lectures and programs, to do research with the assistance of trained profession-

als, to find a job, or to get homework help. Information is the currency of the 21st Century; the Library is your information resource."

For more information, visit the Albany Public Library, call 541-917-7580, or see the Web site at <http://library.cityofalbany.net>.

Library Needs Volunteers!

Are you a Library lover or someone with a few spare hours to contribute time and energy to a great cause?

The Albany Public Library needs for volunteers to shelve the hundreds of books and other items that patrons return to the Library every day. Volunteers are the workers who do most of the work putting items back on the shelves in the correct order.

Adults can obtain a volunteer registration packet at either branch of the Library or from the Library's Web page, <http://library.cityofalbany.net>. The Library will provide training. Those who live outside the Albany city limits can earn a Library card by volunteering 12 hours and maintaining 12 additional volunteer hours every three months.

Call the Library for more information at 917-7580.

"You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

— WINSTON CHURCHILL



Can't Google It? Library It!

A recent survey of computer savvy information seekers found that most people begin a search with a search engine (84%). They 'Google it' (72%). In this survey, only 1% of the respondents started their information quest at a library Web site. Libraries have an image problem. They do not market their services very well, and yet, libraries provide resources that just are not Googleable. The discriminating 1% has a serious information advantage over those who limit themselves to popular search engines. Information seekers need to learn to 'Library it.'

Libraries are information places. They should be everyone's starting point, not their point of last resort. Several times a year, patrons ask for an article from Consumer Reports. Library staff hop on the computer and 'library it' for them. They are amazed. They have 'Googled' it from home but were stopped by the requirement to pay for access. They don't know that the Library has access to more than 11,000 magazine titles and their archived back issues. It is like having a very large attic with stacks of old magazines to the rafters. Those who 'Googled' Consumer Reports don't know that if they had 'librariated' it, they could have

Consumer Reports delivered to their personal e-mail account when the next issue comes out. They don't know that if they had 'librariated' information on diabetes, for example, they could 'tell' the Library to let them know whenever a new article is published about diabetes. Their mailbox will fill up with the very latest information.

Libraries are digital information places. The Albany Public Library has a 'telephone' book that can be searched by first name, by county, or by the number of employees in a business. Unlike the free 'Googleable' telephone books that can drive one to digital distraction, Reference USA is friendly and very powerful. It is fast and easy, provides a mapping feature, can generate a list of restaurants within a certain distance of any location (or list of antique stores, etc.), provides a credit rating, names the manager, and provides a photo of the actual business. People desperate to find lost relatives, former employers, classmates for a reunion, and old Army buddies should be 'librariating it,' which they can do from home with their Library card.

The Albany Public Library provides access to over 30 databases that are not Googleable. These resources are licensed by the Library for cardholders to use.

The cost to the Library is significant yet reasonable. Its 'phone book' is the most expensive resource that the Library purchases; it is that good! In years past, phone books were free; today they are expensive and take up space that libraries don't have. They cannot afford even a regional telephone book collection, so Reference USA is a great and powerful value. EBSCOHOST, a periodical database, has over 11,000 'subscriptions' neatly organized, readily accessible, and requires no storage or management. It costs about 20 cents per subscription. Each of these is available to patrons on their desktops.

But there is more. All patrons have access to the current Encyclopedia Britannica -- the one with audio, video, and live links to relevant periodical articles. The auto repair database (one of three available) has comprehensive information about most vehicles back to the early 1980s. With an extension cord or a laptop, you can take the information to your car or truck and have it right there. (Try 'Googling' car repair information). And music? The complete works of Bach or Pete Seeger, for example, are not Googleable -- try 'librariating' them.

Food for Fines Nets Nearly a Ton for Fish

Thanks to all for the success of the 2007 Food for Fines Drive at the Albany Public Library in January. In the week in which fines were forgiven in lieu of food donated, 1,714 items of food were collected. The benefactor of the community's generosity, Fish of Albany, was appropriately delighted.

