

# City

# Bridges

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

Spring 2004

## Survey Shows Support for Library, Parks, Better Streets



More than 1,500 Albany residents responded to a community attitude survey that they received by mail in December 2003. The City Council commissioned the survey to help determine community support for a number of pending capital projects.

In a tabulated sample of 447 survey forms, 71 percent of those who responded said they supported repairs and improvements to deteriorated city streets, primarily Hill Street, Main Street and Jackson Street. However, when given a choice of four options for paying for street repairs — a citywide fuel tax, regional fuel tax, monthly fee on homes and businesses, or a property tax increase — they rejected them all.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents said they could support expansion of the Main Branch of Albany Public Library, and 56 percent said they could support improvements to city parks.

Some 53 percent said they support replacement or renovation of the downtown Fire Station, and the same number

supports repair or improvements to the storm drainage system. Only 46 percent said they support replacing and expanding the Police Station.

The survey asked what people like best about living in Albany. The top five responses were:

1. Small town atmosphere
2. Location and accessibility
3. People and neighborhoods
4. Parks and recreation activities
5. Downtown/shopping

They were also asked what they would change about Albany:

1. Lack of shopping, restaurants, and entertainment opportunities
2. City Council, management, and staff
3. Law enforcement/crime
4. High cost of taxes, rates, and fees for city services
5. Traffic

Respondents said they get most of their information about City government from the *Albany Democrat-Herald*, followed by *City Bridges*, the quarterly

Parks & Recreation brochure, and local radio.

Of those who responded, 79 percent had lived in Albany 10 years or longer; and 56 percent had lived here for more than 20 years. Fifty-two percent were women. Sixty-eight percent were age 45 or older, and 32 percent were over age 64. The survey asked 16 questions and provided space for other comments.

Members of the City Council and staff are reviewing the final results of the survey to help make decisions affecting the City Budget, property taxes and fees for city services. They have been provided with copies of all the hand-written comments of respondents on the survey forms as well. A follow-up survey may be conducted by phone this spring.

The December survey was mailed to 5,000 registered voters in Albany who had voted in at least three of the last six elections.

The survey was conducted by Western Attitudes, Inc., of West Linn, at a cost of \$5,000.

## City Council Sets Broad, Long-Term Goals

The Albany City Council spent Monday, January 19, 2004, in its annual meeting with the City's top managers, mapping out a course for the City's future.

The outcome of this year's goal-setting retreat is a focus on six different areas of community "capital":

- Physical capital
- Economic capital
- Social capital
- Political capital
- Environmental capital
- Human capital

The Council fleshed out those areas in the following goals:

1. To maintain and improve the City's physical capital through the active management and sustainability of public infrastructure.
2. To strengthen our economic capital by capitalizing on Albany's unique advantages, developing and promoting a strategic economic plan, and leveraging public and private resources to maintain and attract family-wage jobs.
3. To raise Albany's social capital by enabling civic leadership and community involvement.
4. To build political capital to meet the broader long-range public service needs of Albany and the surrounding region.
5. To protect and enhance environmental capital through strategic management of our natural resources.
6. To safeguard and enhance the human capital of our organization as an important building block necessary to achieve the other goals.

These goals will serve as general guidelines for the City Budget and strategic work plans for this year and into the near future.

Millersburg Mayor Clayton Wood, Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, and Albany Mayor Chuck McLaran at water project groundbreaking.



## City Plans Arbor Week Events

Oregon celebrates Arbor Week each year during the first full week of April; and the City of Albany will join that celebration again this year beginning Saturday, April 3, 2004.

Arbor Week celebrates the importance of trees in our daily lives. Most Oregonians recognize the value of trees for the products, habitat, and services they provide. We are fortunate to have diverse forests and some of the largest and most beautiful trees in the world right here in Oregon.

The City is helping several groups plant street trees throughout the community during Arbor Week. The tentative schedule includes:

**Saturday, April 3:** Covey Run neighborhood, North Albany Road NW at Olivia Circle NW. Planting will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 6:** White Cliff neighborhood, 1900 block of White Cliff Avenue NW. Activities will last from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Thursday, April 8:** First Baptist Church, 420 Third Avenue SE. Planting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups or would like more information, call Herb Hoffer, Environmental Services Supervisor, at 917-7631.

## This Issue

Laws for Scooters .....	2
Chinese Acrobats .....	3
Wastewater Plant Improvements...	3
Volunteers Needed!.....	3
Celebrate with Public Works.....	4
Construction Update .....	4

## Sidebar

### Twenty Years Later, Path Bears Clark's Name



In 1984, Dave Clark, Albany Parks & Recreation Director, dreamed of creating a riverfront path that would connect downtown Albany to the outlying parks near Interstate 5.

Twenty years later, the City of Albany Parks & Recreation Department has completed a vital section of that path, which now bears Clark's name.

The multiuse Dave Clark Riverfront Path extends along the Willamette River from the east end of Monteith Riverpark to the west end of Front Avenue. It is designed to serve walkers, joggers, bicyclists, in-line skaters, and the physically handicapped.

A local government grant from the state of Oregon helped to fund the construction. The City was awarded \$320,000 for the new path after competing with more than 60 other applicants. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on March 1, 2004, when the Dave Clark Riverfront Path was dedicated.

The path project includes approximately 2,750 feet of 10-foot wide concrete paving, a 250-foot boardwalk, a three-block section of bike lane along Front Avenue, retaining walls, and fencing. Years of working with business owners and residents along the route to create a continuous path was both labor-intensive and rewarding for Clark and for Shaun Cooper, Park Development Coordinator.

Residents of Albany have been enjoying portions of the Dave Clark Riverfront Path for several years. It is not unusual to see walkers, joggers, and bicyclists every day in the spring and summer.

Clark died of cancer in October 2002 and did not see the fruition of this vision, but many Albany residents will enjoy this scenic path for years to come. As you walk beside the river, you pass through several beautiful parks that were a huge part of his dream.

## 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

Leonard Smith 791-9540

### 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 Citizens 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.

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## Motorized Scooters

Before we know it, the rain will be gone and the sun will return. This means more outdoor activities. One of the new outdoor toys for adults and children is the motorized scooter. The Albany Police Department is receiving many calls asking about the laws that pertain to these vehicles.

A "motor-assisted scooter" is a vehicle that:

- is designed to be operated on the ground with not more than three wheels;
- has handlebars and a foot support or seat for the operator's use;
- can be propelled by motor or human propulsion;

• is equipped with a power source that is incapable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of greater than 24 miles per hour on level ground; and

• if the power source is a combustion engine, has a piston or rotor displacement of 35 cubic centimeters or less, regardless of the number of chambers in the power source; or

• if the power source is electric, has a power output of not more than 1,000 watts.

✗ *If the motorized scooter has a combustion engine greater than 35 cubic centimeters, then it becomes a "moped" and a separate set of laws apply, including it must have a seat or saddle and the rider must wear a motorcycle-approved helmet.*

Most parents have not checked the law to see if their child can legally ride a motorized scooter. Oregon law allows only persons 16 years or older to ride a motorized scooter on a public roadway. Anyone riding a motorized scooter on a public roadway must wear a helmet

approved for bicycle riding, meeting the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Snell, or United States Department of Transportation (DOT).

Similar to many after-market accessories and equipment sold for vehicles, not all motorized scooters are legal for the Oregon roadways. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) regarding motorized scooter use state:

• The scooter may not be ridden on sidewalks. (ORS 814.524)

• It must be ridden in bicycle lanes where available. (ORS 814.514)

• Use is limited to streets posted at 25 mph and under or in a bike lane. (ORS 814.518)

• It may not carry passengers. (ORS 814.530)

• An operator of a motor-assisted scooter upon a public way is subject to the provisions applicable to, and has the same rights and duties as, the operator of any other vehicle operating on highways, including that they must have approved lighting and reflectors if riding at night. (ORS 814.510)

• The vehicle may not exceed 15 mph at any time. (ORS 814.512)

✗ *Many electric- and gas-powered scooters are capable of exceeding 15 mph.*



## Legal or Not?

• Scooter operators may not be under 16 years old. (ORS 814.512)

• A parent may be cited for allowing the unlawful use of a motorized scooter. (ORS 814.536)

This year, the law has changed for users of in-line skates, nonmotorized scooters, and skateboards. Most parents know that every child under the age of 16 must wear an approved helmet when riding a bicycle. Effective January 1, 2004, that law was extended to children under 16 who use in-line skates, nonmotorized scooters, and skateboards, as well as bicycles. If a child is under 12, the law allows for the parent or guardian to be cited if the child is in violation. If the child is between 12 and 15, either the parent or child may be cited.

Helmets save lives and reduce the extent of injuries for those who are involved in crashes. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), of all motorized scooter-related deaths in 2001, none of the operators was wearing protective head gear. The CPSC reported 4,390 total injuries in 2000 associated with motorized scooters. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has begun tracking motorized scooter-related data in 2003. Results should be known this spring.

The Albany Police Department encourages everyone to wear protective gear and an approved helmet when operating motorized and nonmotorized transportation on the public roadways. For more information or questions, please contact the Albany Police Department Community Resource Unit at (541) 917-7683.

## Revealed: Downtown Library's Secret Treasure

You will find a secret treasure in the Rotary Room of the Downtown Carnegie Library: an on-going book sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Volumes of popular nonfiction, fiction, and children's books, hardback and paperback, are kept in the Rotary Room, priced to sell. The on-going book sale helps to generate funds that the Friends use to purchase many items for the Library.

The Friends of the Library are the same people who put on the once-a-year book-buying extravaganza at the Main Library. The last book sale generated over \$6,000. Portions of those funds will help purchase a new display rack for the front entrance of the Main Library, the subscription service to the Online Book Club available from any Internet connection, and a new public address system for the meeting room of the Main Library.

Please pass on the location of the secret treasure—the success of the on-going book sale does a lot to support the libraries that you love.

## Life Vests Float... People Don't

When the sun comes out after many months of cool, rainy weather, Oregonians are lured to local waterways. Sounds like fun, but it's risky, too. Conditions on the water are much more dangerous than people realize, and the number of deaths due to drowning increases with the arrival of warm weather.

The Albany Fire Department (AFD) in cooperation with Albany Fire Fighters Community Assistance Fund (AFFCAF) wants to increase awareness about life vest use at local waterways, pools, and around any open water to ensure the safety of those who enter waterways in our community. AFD and AFFCAF are joining the ranks of over 300 groups supported by Boat U.S. Foundation (Boatus.com) to keep children and adults safe when venturing near the water.

AFFCAF has applied for a grant to help establish a free life vest loan program that will provide infant, child, and youth-sized life vests. AFFCAF will supplement the vest inventory with adult sizes as well. The goal is to have the vests available to anyone for use spring through summer each year. Borrowers would go to Albany's Main Fire Station on Sixth Avenue and borrow a life vest at no charge. Borrowers will be asked to provide contact information and fill out a release form prior to borrowing a vest. The check-out area will not be supervised, and vests will be loaned out on an honor system.

It is AFD's goal to never have a drowning death in our community again. Please join us in our efforts and take advantage of the Life Vest Loan Program.

## Chinese Acrobats are coming!



Albany Parks & Recreation Department will present the Chinese Acrobats at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 17, 2004, in the Activity Center at Linn-Benton Community College.

The performance is open to the public, and admission is free. It is part of the annual Children's Performing Arts Series. This is the fourth year that the troupe of acrobats has performed in Albany.

The Chinese Acrobats' nationwide tour began in September 2003. They bring with them years of experience in the art of performance acrobatics. Their feats of grace and balance appeal to all ages.

The Children's Performing Arts Series is sponsored by Albany Parks & Recreation, AFSCME Albany City Employees Local 2909, Albany Democrat-Herald, First American Title Company, Portland & Western Railroad, Target Stores, Albany-Lebanon Sanitation Co., Fred Meyer, Greater Albany Rotary Club, Take-A-Ticket, and Linn-Benton Community College.

# Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Planned

The City of Albany has begun planning for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The project will be financed by a loan from the state of Oregon, which will be repaid through wastewater rates and System Development Charges. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has agreed to provide the City with a State Revolving Fund loan for up to \$60 million. The 20-year loan has an interest rate of 3.14 percent. The City will begin repayment of the loan after the project is completed.

Sewer rates will increase to help pay for the project. Rate increases for 2005–2006 through 2009–2010 are scheduled to be approximately nine percent for all customer classes. The City is also seeking grant money for the project.

The plant will be expanded and upgraded to allow it to comply with state clean-water regulations. Two factors have roles.

First, DEQ has ordered the City to reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) by January 1, 2010. The order is a regula-

tory requirement placed on the City by DEQ. Changes at the plant must follow DEQ rules, or the City will face fines and penalties that could prohibit new homes, businesses, or industries from connecting to the wastewater system.

In order to meet DEQ's requirement, the City must expand the plant's capacity to handle the greater flow that occurs during wet weather months. A sanitary sewer overflow happens when untreated sewage is discharged into a waterway. In Albany, this happens most often as a result of moderate to heavy rainfall. Rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system through cross-connections between storm drains and the sanitary sewers, roof downspouts, and flooded manhole covers. When the soil becomes saturated, groundwater enters the sanitary sewers through cracks in pipes, misaligned joints, and other openings in the collection system. Excess water overloads the treatment plant, and part of the diluted raw sewage overflows directly to the river.

The second reason for improving the plant stems from new DEQ regulations that require the plant to produce cleaner water. Specifically, the plant must lower the concentrations of total suspended solids (TSS) and carbonaceous biological oxygen demand (CBOD) in the effluent that is discharged to the Willamette River. DEQ has set strict new limits on TSS and CBOD in an effort to improve water quality in the Willamette River. This state requirement would have to be met even if expansion was not also required.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant will be expanded from a current dry weather capacity of approximately 8.7 million gallons per day (mgd) and peak wet weather capacity of about 20 mgd to meet current and future treatment needs. The current peak wet weather demand is estimated at 55 mgd, far greater than the capacity of the existing plant. Expanded capacities will be about 9.3 mgd in dry weather and about 68 mgd in wet weather. This expansion is expected to meet projected wastewater flows until 2030.

## Evening Story Time Added

Albany Public Library has scheduled another weekly Story Time to accommodate those who are unable to come to the library during the day.

The new time is 7:00 p.m. every Tuesday. The evening time slot will include a variety of activities such as puppet shows, flannel board stories, songs, and creative dramatics for all ages.

The program on the last Tuesday of each month will feature stories and activities in Spanish and English. This bilingual story time is designed for native speakers of Spanish and for English speakers who would like to learn to speak and understand Spanish.

For more information, please call Librarian Doris Hicks at 917-7580, extension 4704.

## Join the Club!

Join the club – the Albany Online Book Club, that is.

Every day, you will receive an installment of a book in your e-mail. The first installment comes on Monday; and, by the end of the week, you will know whether you want to finish the book you have been reading.

A project of the Friends of the Library, the Online Book Club is actually 11 separate clubs based on genre of reading interests. Genres range from business to horror to romance to good news, and include an audio club and a teen club.

Joining is free and provides an opportunity to discuss the books being read on an on-line forum. Of course, if you find a book that interests you, you can request the rest of the story from the Albany Public Library. Sign up now at <http://library.cityofalbany.net> and discover new authors, new books, and new friends. Come read with us!

## Library Catalog Kicked Up!

The Library Card Catalog is just not what it used to be. More than a tool to locate materials, it has become a destination of its own.

The Library's new catalog has been kicked up by adding book jackets, summaries, tables of content, reviews, author biographies, and even some first chapters. The change is an effort to make the catalog a more intuitive aid to finding what patrons are actually looking for and less of an adventure in terms and terminology.

"You really may be able to judge a book by its cover," says Library Director Ed Gallagher.

With about half of the Library's collection now visible in the catalog with book jackets and added content summaries, borrowers can make more informed decisions and selections. Many of the children's materials, for example, are identifiable by their covers, with summaries provide reading level information.

The enhancement is a joint effort between the public libraries in Albany and Lebanon to make the Library catalog as accessible and useful as possible. The catalog will soon be accessible from the City of Albany Web site or <http://library.cityofalbany.net>.

Check it out!

## Down By The Riverside Cleanup May 22



The City of Albany is sponsoring a river cleanup on Saturday, May 22, 2004, in conjunction with the statewide "Down by the Riverside" program.

Previous cleanups have been very successful both for the amount of debris collected and the number of volunteers who have turned out to pitch in.

Each spring since 2000, the City has hosted a river cleanup, which is designed to remove debris from along the streams and rivers in the city. At the last river cleanup, over 100 volunteers removed almost 3,000 pounds of garbage and debris. Since beginning the program, Albany volunteers have removed about 34,000 pounds — 17 tons — of trash from area streams.

Stream cleaning events such as Down by the Riverside offer citizens of all ages a chance to help make Albany a safer

and more beautiful place to live. This event is also an excellent project for area students who may need to fulfill community service credit requirements.

Large groups interested in participating and anyone with questions should contact Chris Bailey at 917-7629.

Preregistration for groups smaller than five is appreciated but not required. Volunteers should meet Saturday morning, May 22, at 9:00 a.m. under the shelter at Bryant Park. Equipment and snacks will be provided. A free pizza party is planned at the conclusion of the cleanup with prizes given for unique and interesting items found during the cleanup. The activities will be complete by 1:00 p.m.

"Down by the Riverside" is organized by Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV).

## Protect Your Identity From Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, affecting approximately 500,000 new victims each year. Identity thieves use your personal information — from Social Security and bank account numbers, insurance forms, canceled checks, bank statements, or receipts — to get credit accounts and ruin your credit history.

You can reduce the risks:

- Keep your Social Security card in a secure place and give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary.
- Limit the identification information and the number of credit and debit cards that you carry to what you'll actually need.
- Tear up or shred charge receipts, copies of credit applications, old checks, and other financial documents.
- Be cautious about where you leave personal information and with whom.
- Keep your purse or wallet in a safe place at work.

### Consider Your Computer

Your computer can be a goldmine of personal information to an identity thief. However, you can safeguard your

computer and the personal information it stores:

- Update your virus protection software regularly.
- Don't download files from strangers or click on hyperlinks from people you don't know.
- Use a firewall, especially if you have a high-speed or "always on" connection to the Internet.
- Try not to store financial information on your laptop unless absolutely necessary.
- Delete any personal information stored on your computer before you dispose of it.

### If Your Identity Is Stolen

Take the following steps right away:

- Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.
- Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 1-877-IDTHEFT.

For more information, contact the Albany Police Department at 917-7680.



## Spring/Summer 2004 Construction Projects

### 1. WL-03-01, Valley View Area West- Water Line Replacement

This project will replace the following water lines:

- 900 lineal feet of 8-inch on Sunny Lane from Valley View to the end of Sunny Lane
- 700 lineal feet of 8-inch on Valley View between Pine View and Scenic Drive.
- 375 lineal feet of 6-inch on Pineview Place.

These improvements will replace service lines, hydrants, and will improve system reliability and fire flows for the area.

### 2. ST-03-05, North Albany Road LID (This project is still under review by City Council.)

This project will construct approximately 700 feet of new roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks. Improvements will include a new roundabout intersection.

### 3. WL-03-02, 5th Ave: Main to Ellsworth Street

This project will replace existing deteriorated 4-inch and 2-inch wrought iron lines along 5th Ave between Main Street and Ellsworth Street, along with a short segment on Madison between 4th and 5th Ave. with approximately 3,650 linear feet of 12-inch water line. These improvements will replace service lines, hydrants, and will improve system reliability and fire flows for the area.

### 4. SS-03-02, Salem Avenue and Geary Street Railroad Crossing

This project will replace approximately 400 lineal feet of sanitary sewer in Geary Street. A portion of this sewer main runs under the railroad tracks at Salem Avenue.

### 5. SS-02-01/WL-02-05, Clover Ridge Sewer and Water line extensions

This project will construct new 8-inch sewer and 8-inch water lines. This work is being completed in association with Linn County's improvement to Clover Ridge Road to avoid cutting into the new street in the future.

### 6. SS-02-02, 14th to Queen/Geary to Oak Sewer Replacement

This project will replace failing sanitary sewer lines with new 8-inch sewer lines. Sewer laterals will be replaced with this project.

### 7. MS-98-02, Regional Multimodal Center

This project will remodel and redevelop the existing train station to provide a multimodal hub for trains, buses, cars, bikes, and pedestrians.

### 8. ST-03-06, Hill Street

This project will rehabilitate Hill Street between 9th and Queen Avenue. Utility lines that are in poor condition will be replaced. Overhead power and phone lines will be moved into underground conduit and street trees will be planted in curbside landscape strips.

### 9. ST-03-07, Oremet Pedestrian Island

This project will construct a concrete median island on 34th Avenue west of the Albany & Eastern Railroad crossing. The island will bring the crossing into compliance with state railroad safety regulations.

### 10. ST-98-01, 53rd Avenue LID

This project will improve 53rd Avenue to City standards, raise the street above the flood level, construct a new bridge, and add a traffic signal at 53rd and Hwy. 99. Additionally, a new 8-inch sewer line will be constructed.

# Update on Construction Projects

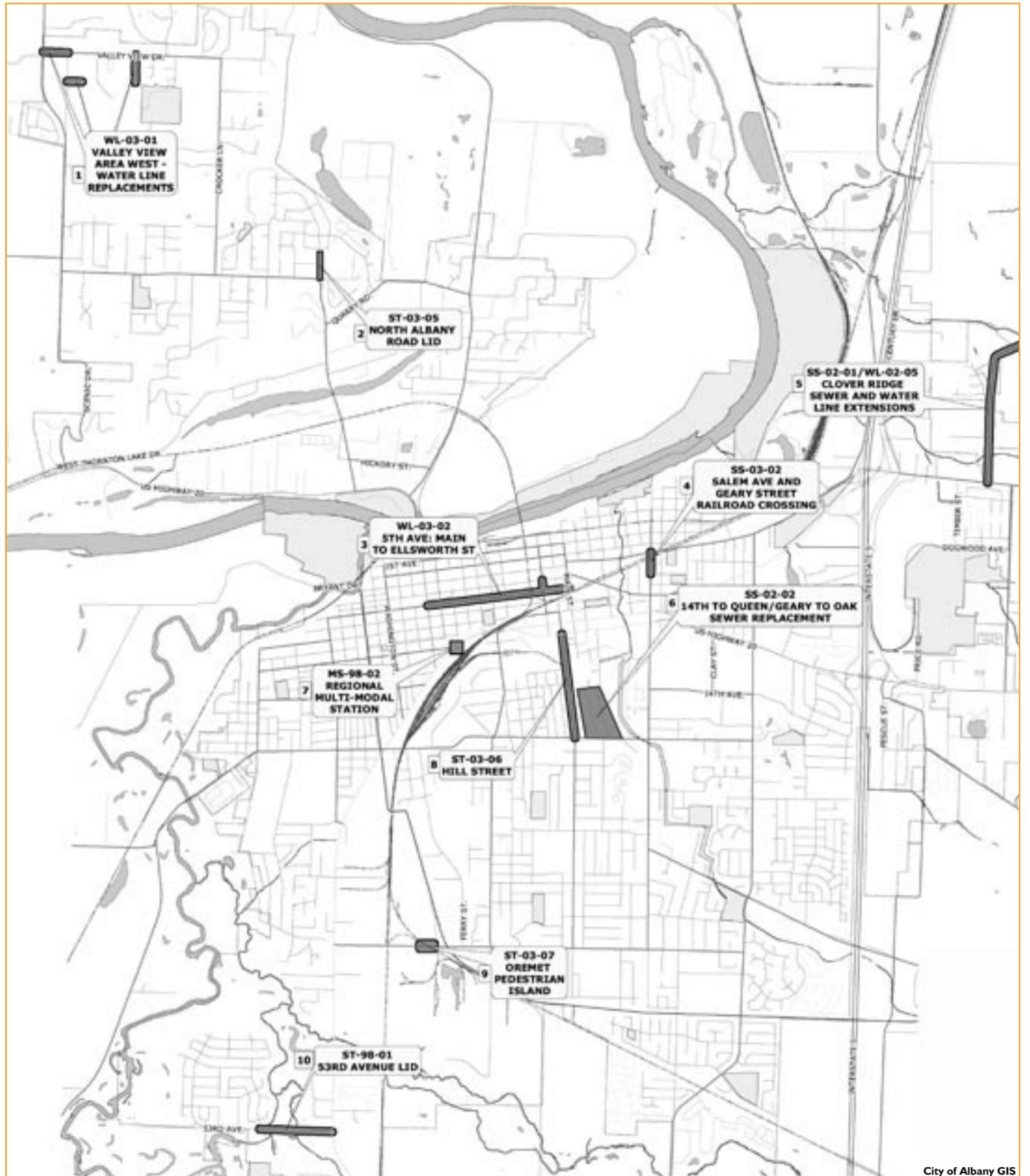
The City of Albany will be working on several water, sewer, and street projects this spring and summer.

The largest project is the construction of the new Joint Water Project (JWP) in conjunction with the City of Millersburg.

The JWP includes a new water intake on the Santiam River, a new water treatment plant at Cox Quarry, and a series of pipes to connect the new plant to the existing water lines in Albany and Millersburg. Construction was to begin in early March

and continue for 18 to 24 months. The new water plant should be operating in late 2005 or early 2006.

Look at the map below to see where other projects will be happening around the city.



City of Albany GIS

## Public Works Celebrates

Two events this May will recognize the important jobs performed daily by members of the City's Public Works Department.

The American Water Works Association is sponsoring its annual recognition of drinking water utilities during Drinking Water Week, May 2-8, 2004. For over 30 years, the AWWA has promoted the development of safe drinking water across the country through Drinking Water Week programs. The theme this year is "The Wonder of Water."

Albany's Water Treatment Plant has been in continuous operation since 1912 and provides all of the drinking water needs for both Albany and Millersburg.

The City supports all of the steps required to provide each resident with top quality water.

The process begins at a diversion dam on the South Santiam River east of Lebanon. Water is funneled from the river into the Santiam-Albany Canal, delivered to the treatment facility at Third Avenue

and Vine Street, purified and cleaned, transported to reservoirs, and delivered to customers through 220 miles of underground pipes.

The clean and tasty water produced here in Albany costs residential customers less than half a penny per gallon. For that price, you are assured of clean, safe water that has been through a rigorous treatment process and is delivered to your home anytime you need it.

The nation recognizes the work of all public works employees during National Public Works Week, May 16-22, 2004. The American Public Works Association held the first National Public Works Week in 1960 as a means to raise awareness of public works issues in everyday life and recognize the important work of public works employees. This year's theme is "24/7 Focused on Our Community."

The Albany Public Works Department ensures the safety of the public by maintaining the City's streets, water treatment and distribution system, and sewer collec-

tion and treatment system. The Public Works Department also operates the Albany Transit System and Linn-Benton Loop buses, manages Albany Municipal Airport, installs street signs, issues permits, maintains city-owned trees, provides engineering services, maintains many of the City's buildings, and supplies mapping services to all city departments.

Albany's Public Works staff performs a myriad of duties that keep the City functioning smoothly and efficiently 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With a staff of approximately 100 dedicated men and women, Albany Public Works provides essential services to a city with over 43,000 residents. The department works to comply with increasingly complex federal and state regulations regarding water, wastewater, and environmental issues as part of its daily mission to provide many of the services upon which Albany depends. The City is happy to recognize these important employees for their hard work and dedication to serving the public in often unrewarding jobs.

## We Want You!

Albany Parks & Recreation Department is looking for a few good men and women to help with three special community events this summer.

We need volunteers to help at River Rhythms concerts, during the Northwest Art & Air Festival, and Fun in the Park. Committees are forming now.

We need volunteers for painting, woodworking, passing donation baskets, art booth sitters, balloon crews, set up and take down, children's art activities, and artist check-in. These events provide many opportunities to help and make Albany a better place to live and work as a result.

For more information, call Albany Parks & Recreation at 917-7777 or visit our Website at [www.cityofalbany.net/parks](http://www.cityofalbany.net/parks).

## Save gas money.

Help us make your city's Web site better!

Fill out a short survey at [www.cityofalbany.net/survey](http://www.cityofalbany.net/survey)