

City Bridges

Spring 2005

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

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Spring Cleaning City Council Asks Merchants to Follow Rules for Signs



These photographs show a common code violation—temporary signs in the public right-of-way.



These are the standards for temporary signs on private property in the Albany Development Code.

STANDARDS BY SPECIAL SIGN FUNCTION

13.680 Temporary Promotional Business Displays. Temporary banner signs, A-frame signs, and inflatable signs may be used, but are limited to one sign on each street frontage for each separate business. The maximum total number of days for promotional display shall not exceed 60 days in any one calendar year. Each display period requires a separate permit, but the display duration can be from 7 days to 60 days. The area of such banner shall not exceed 50 square feet in the Central Business, Neighborhood Commercial, Historic District, Mixed Use Residential, Waterfront, Main Street, Lyon-Ellsworth, Elm Street, Transit District and Office Professional zones and 75 square feet in all other non-residential zones, or in the case of inflatable signs, 500 cubic feet. Inflatable signs can be no higher than free-standing signs allowed in the particular zone.

Any temporary A-frame, sandwich board or similar sign may be no larger than 16 square feet for one face or 32 square feet for two or more faces. If the sign is not attached to a building, the maximum height of the sign may not exceed 4 feet. All temporary signs must be anchored, may not be located within 10 feet of any public right-of-way, may not be attached to or placed inside a parked vehicle, and may not be placed within any vision clearance area. All signs shall be maintained in a safe, neat, clean and attractive condition.

Pennants, flags, and streamers may be used as part of an opening or promotional event subject to the above time constraints. Pennants and flags which are designed with no writing and have permanent mounting devices may be displayed for a longer period of time only upon approval of a Conditional Use Permit. (The American and Oregon flags are exempted from Sign Code regulations.) [Ord. 5446, 5/10/00]

13.685 Interior Lot Line Signs. A principal wall sign may be located on the side of a building facing an interior lot line if written consent of the abutting property owner is obtained for the erection of the sign or the sign is 50 feet or more from the abutting property. Sign and area for both the interior lot line sign and street frontage signs shall not exceed that allowed for the street frontage and shall not be in addition thereto.

The Albany City Council wants to display a clean and tidy Albany this spring. They have asked City staff to work with local businesses to help them comply with City ordinances that deal with signs.

City Hall receives numerous complaints about the growing number of signs on sidewalks, in curbside planter strips, on utility poles, and in landscaped street medians: all of those areas are public rights-of-way. City officials have contacted some businesses directly to let them know they were violating the sign code; business managers said they were unaware of the rules and, once informed, would comply.

The Albany sign code spells out how many signs can be posted on a property, what size they can be, and where they can be placed. Those who plan to use temporary signs, such as the A-frame or sandwich-board styles, must first get a permit from the Public Works Department.

The City Council has asked City staff to prepare a clean sweep of the rights-of-way. Staff plan to go through the commercial areas of Albany in early May to remove signs that are in public rights-of-way and

These Development Code sections apply to signs in a public street right-of-way.

13.330 Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited and may not be placed within the city of Albany:

- Signs in the public right-of-way except as listed in Section 13.310 ADC and Albany Municipal Code Chapter 13.33 (Temporary Right-of-Way Use Permits).
- **13.310 Standard Sign Exemptions.** No permit is necessary before placing, constructing, or erecting the following signs:
 - Governmental street signs, such as traffic signs or informational and directional signs as may be authorized by the City.
 - Signs of public utility companies indicating danger, or which serve as an aid to public safety, or which show the location of underground facilities or of public telephones.
 - Signs which are not meant to be visible off-site, such as signs in a stadium which are visible only to patrons, and signs on the interior of a mall or building not visible from a public right-of-way.
 - Official or legal signs which are erected by public officers performing official duties including those erected pursuant to law, administrative order, or court order.

to talk with business owners about the sign code. Businesses are encouraged to voluntarily remove illegal signs or move them to a legal location on private property, as the code would allow.

Excerpts from the most frequently violated portions of the code are printed here.

Those who need more information about the City's sign code should contact Senior Planner Don Donovan at 917-7561 or don.donovan@cityofalbany.net.

These regulations for uses in the public right-of-way are found in the Albany Municipal Code.

TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT

13.33.010 Permit required. No person or persons shall obstruct or make use of a public street, sidewalk, or other right-of-way for the purpose of a public or private gathering, parade or processional, display advertising, offering of services, food or other merchandise, promotional event or making use of a public right-of-way which would limit the unobstructed use of such by the general public, without first obtaining a temporary right-of-way permit. (Ord. 4525 § 1, 1982).

13.33.020 Application. Application for a temporary right-of-way use permit shall be made on the form provided by the City and shall contain:

- (1) The name of the person or organization requesting the permit; and
- (2) A description of the intended use, routes, size of display, and, if required, a drawing or site plan which indicates size, materials, and location of the intended use. (Ord. 4525 § 1, 1982).

13.33.030 Standards and conditions. The City Manager shall review each application with consideration to existing laws and ordinances, disruption of, or hazards to safe vehicle and pedestrian movement and authorize those activities which will be permitted. Should an application for a permit be denied, the applicant may appeal to the City Council. (Ord. 4525 § 1, 1982).

13.33.040 Fee. A fee will be charged for any permit which involves the promotion or sale of merchandise or services. (Ord. 5026 § 1, 1993; Ord. 4525 § 1, 1982).

13.33.050 Revocation - Renewal. The permit shall be valid for the period specified thereon and may be renewed annually. Permits may be revoked or renewal thereof denied for violation of conditions placed on the permit, or for any fraud or misrepresentation in the application. (Ord. 4525 § 1, 1982).

Aquatic Center Project on Schedule

Construction on the new Albany aquatic center at Swanson Park is progressing rapidly. The 70-car parking lot is finished and will be landscaped later this spring. The foundation for the new bathhouse has been poured, and its walls will be erected in March. Most exciting, one can easily see the shape of the new pool on the ground. The contractor will begin pouring concrete for the pool in April. The relatively warm and dry winter has allowed us to stay on schedule for a planned July 2005 opening.

Located on the site of the recently demolished Swanson Pool (built in 1938), the Albany aquatic center will offer a variety of recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. The facility will include 5,000 square feet of pool area, a large shallow area with interactive water play equipment and geysers for young children, a "float river," 22-foot tall water slide, deeper water for teens and adults, and 9,000 square feet of deck area with lounge furniture. The new bathhouse will be attached to the north end of the existing Swanson Fitness Center on Railroad Street. The bathhouse includes a small party room, which will be made available to the public for private parties or other events.

The aquatic center will have a maximum capacity of approximately 450 persons, who will pay daily ticket prices between \$2.00 for toddlers and \$4.00 for adults (nonresident prices will be higher). Family, season, and multivisit passes will also be available. Passes will go on sale this spring.

Albany Parks & Recreation will announce the name of the new water park in March. The new name will apply to the water park only; the Swanson Park name will continue in honor of World War II hero Tommy Swanson.



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

Jeff Christman 926-0528

City Manager:

Steve Bryant 917-7505

City Hall Phone Numbers

General Information 917-7500

Ambulance Billing 917-7710

Building Inspection 917-7553

City Council Message 917-7503

City Manager 917-7501

Downtown

Carnegie Library 917-7585

Engineering 917-7676

Finance Office 917-7520

Fire Department 917-7700

Human Resources 917-7501

Main Library 917-7580

Mayor's Message 917-7502

Municipal Court 917-7740

Parks & Recreation 917-7777

Planning and Zoning 917-7550

Police Department 917-7680

Public Information Office 917-7507

Senior Center 917-7760

Transit 917-7667

Water and Sewer Billing 917-7547

Water/Sewer/Streets 917-7600

Emergencies
(Fire, Police, Ambulance)
Dial 911

City Bridges Info

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

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Out of the Box Thinking Puts Us in the Mall

What do you do with 250 participants in fitness classes, ready to burn off holiday calories, and nowhere to teach them?

The City's Fitness Center is adjacent to the construction project at Swanson Park. With digging, plumbing, and paving going on all around it, the Fitness Center had to close from mid-December to mid-July. Finding a facility large enough to accommodate an active fitness program, youth tumbling and dance, and child care was a challenge—particularly when the building needed to be available from 5:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Often great partnerships and opportunities are discovered in the middle of great dilemmas. One of our staff members had met the marketing coordinator of Heritage Mall through a service club membership. A discussion of our problem opened doors we never had thought possible.

January through July is a slow season for the mall; we thought they might have a vacant storefront available. Heritage Mall liked the idea and was incredibly helpful in putting a partnership together. Excited to generate more visits to stores in the mall, they provided a low-cost option for the City with a high-return potential for them.

On January 31, Park Maintenance and Recreation teams moved all of our fitness equipment into a large comfortable space at Heritage Mall. Fitness classes began there on February 1, and participants give rave reviews to their temporary home.

Fitness classes will continue at the Mall through mid-July. For a complete schedule of classes, contact Albany Parks & Recreation at 917-7777 or look in the spring classes brochure, available online at www.cityofalbany.net or at City Hall, 333 Broadalbin SW.

Need Help Now? Call 9-1-1

The Albany Fire Department's administration office receives many non-emergency calls each day from citizens with a variety of complaints ranging from foul odors in the air or neighbors burning debris in their backyard to someone who has fallen and needs help getting back into bed.

While these calls may not initially appear to be emergencies, it is important for the Fire Department to respond to make certain there is nothing more serious happening. Many times, a more serious incident can be avoided because a citizen has taken the time to call and report it.

Calling 9-1-1 can be intimidating. Often, people are more comfortable dialing the nonemergency number to the Fire Department's administration office. While we depend on people taking the time to alert us to problems, the administration office is not able to notify emergency personnel to respond; this is done through the Linn County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Center. Dispatchers at the 9-1-1 Center are trained to take your information, determine the level of seriousness, and immediately dispatch fire and/or ambulance personnel to investigate the situation.

To ensure that everyone receives the best service quickly, it is best to call 9-1-1, whether you are reporting an emergency or you need police, fire, or ambulance assistance. You can do so two ways: you can dial 9-1-1; or to report something that is not an immediate threat to life or property, you can dial 967-4333, the nonemergency number to the Dispatch Center. Either way, your call will be answered by a dispatcher who can send the appropriate assistance to handle the incident.

Please call the Fire Department's Ambulance Billing office at 917-7710 with questions regarding an ambulance bill or FireMed. For other Fire Department business, call the administration office at 917-7700, and we will be happy to assist you.

Expanded Book Sale at Carnegie Library

The Friends of the Albany Public Library sponsor an ongoing used book sale in the basement of the restored Carnegie Library during business hours, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The inventory of quality used books turns over regularly, and every dollar spent at the sale goes directly to the Friends of the Library. The all-volunteer group plays a major role in the life of Albany's libraries. All money from dues, the book sale, and financial contributions supplements the Library budget and enhances Albany's very successful Summer Reading Program, as well as adult programs, publishing of the quarterly *ShelfLife* newsletter, purchase of quality tables and chairs for the public meeting room, and other items.

From cookbooks to bestsellers to kids' books and music CDs, you'll find information, education, and entertainment at the Carnegie bargain basement book sale. The book sale raised \$291 in the month of December alone.

If you're interested in donating books, time, or money to support the Friends of the Library, please call (541) 917-7585.

Best-Selling Author Phillip Margolin Kicks Off National Library Week

Portland attorney and novelist Phillip Margolin will highlight National Library Week with a reading April 12, at Albany City Hall, 333 Broadalbin Street SW.

Margolin has written nine novels, all of which went on to become *New York Times* bestsellers. *The Last Innocent Man* became an HBO movie; *Gone But Not Forgotten* is being made into a miniseries with Brooke Shields and Lou Diamond Phillips.

Margolin has been nominated for the prestigious Edgar Award for mystery writing and is an avid reader. His latest book, *Lost Lake* has just been released and is a featured selection of the Mystery Guild.



The author will do a reading and present a program at City Hall on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

National Library Week was first observed in 1957 in an effort to inspire Americans to "wake up and read." As television was coming into the nation's living rooms, with radio ever popular, some may have feared that people were investing too little time in reading.

Almost 50 years later, compact discs and MP3 have joined the competition, the Internet, video games, and DVDs. But public libraries are busier than ever; National Library Week now celebrates all things that are at your Library.

Liberty Fourth Graders Walk for the Library

In what may be the largest gift from children to the Albany Public Library in history, the fourth graders in Melissa Farver's class at Liberty Elementary School collected \$455 from a walk-a-thon in October and presented the money to Albany Public Library youth services department librarians Scott Keeney and Doris Hicks at an all-school meeting on November 22, 2004.

Library staff used the money to buy 40 new editions of Eyewitness history and science books for both Library branches. Each book has a bookplate inside the front cover commemorating the class's gift.

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005, Keeney brought the new books to Farver's classroom. Students signed and dated each donation before the books were displayed at the Library.



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

Keeping Our Kids Safe: Albany Police School Resource Officers

Within the Albany Police Department is the small but dedicated Community Resource Unit, made up of three School Resource Officers; two Community Service Officers, whose primary job is crime prevention; and one Sergeant who supervises them. These officers are focused on promoting safety and enforcing the law in and around school property and on formulating and implementing effective long-term solutions to community safety problems and community concerns.

Experienced Albany police officers are encouraged to request assignment to the Community Resource Unit on a rotational basis. To become a School Resource Officer, or SRO, police officers must be in good standing with the department. They must demonstrate exceptional verbal and written communication skills, the ability to work with minimal supervision, the ability to work with other agencies and organizations, and positive involvement in the community. Those selected are assigned to the unit for three years.

What does a School Resource Officer do?

The SRO provides a link between the Police Department and the schools and is a resource for school administrators, staff, students, and parents regarding law enforcement.

In addition to enforcing the law in and around school property, including traffic enforcement before, during and after school, the SRO coordinates with school faculty to provide presentations to students and teaches D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and child safety classes.

Albany's three School Resource Officers are Ken Fandrem, Jim Luebke, and Scott



Officer Jim Luebke with recent D.A.R.E. graduates.

McBride, supervised by Sergeant Chris Carter.

Officer Fandrem is assigned to South Albany High School and shares responsibility for Calapooia Middle School. Officer Luebke is assigned to West Albany High School and assists at Calapooia Middle School. Officer McBride is assigned to North Albany and Memorial Middle Schools. All three officers teach and make regular visits at Albany's 16 elementary schools. Together, these officers provide police services to more than 8,400 students and 450 teachers.

Why are they needed?

"Today's youth are confronted with pressures to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco and to go along with peers in breaking the law," says Sgt. Chris Carter. "Through the SRO program, the Albany school system and the Albany Police Department are working together to confront the problems students face today."

SROs have offices in the schools and high visibility on the school campuses. Often their presence alone will deter illegal behavior. Having an active law enforcement officer on duty, working with the school system, is an opportunity for problems to be

addressed quickly and for every student to feel safe when attending school.

What happens when school is not in session?

During school vacations, you'll find the Community Resource Unit patrolling the streets of Albany on specially equipped police bicycles.

The maneuverability of the bicycles makes it easier for the officers to patrol the numerous walking and biking paths throughout the city and to patrol congested community events such as the River Rhythms concerts.

"I feel being on the bike is a much better way to stay in contact with the public," says Officer Luebke. "It makes us more approachable."

And it has the added advantage that suspects often don't hear or see officers when they are on bicycles. This provides the officer an element of surprise in approaching and apprehending violators.

Whether on the bikes or in the schools, Albany's Community Resource Unit partners with the community to actively address issues of crime and to create a safe and secure learning environment for Albany's kids.

Conserving Water in a Healthy Lawn

Spring is here and as the weather warms, many people look forward to spending time outside, enjoying their yards and gardens. Those lush spaces often come with a price – a significant increase in water bills as we try to keep everything green through the heat of the summer. In this part of the country, irrigation is often needed if you want a green lawn; but there are things you can do now to help your grass – and your checkbook – survive the summer.

Train your lawn.

This does not require dog treats or a whistle, but merely withholding water from your grass early in spring. Throughout winter the water table rises and frequent rain keeps the root zones of most plants saturated. When the rain stops in the spring, it is tempting to start irrigating immediately but waiting to water until your lawn needs it encourages the plants to grow deeper roots. This deeper root system allows the plants to survive the summer with less frequent watering. So wait and help your plants become more drought-tolerant.

Establish a water-efficient irrigation schedule.

You'll know it is time to water by using the trample test. Walk on your grass; if the grass does not spring back and your footprints remain, it's time to water. When that time comes, follow these general rules:

- Water early in the morning on days when the air is calm and you will lose less water to evaporation.

- One inch is all you need! Established turf and other plants can survive well on only one inch of water a week, with two exceptions: water-efficient plants may need less, and in sustained hot weather (above 90 degrees F), plants may need up to one and a half inches of water. Over-watering encourages shallow roots, can leach fertilizers and nutrients out of the root zone and can cause disease.
- Deep but infrequent irrigation helps train the roots to grow more deeply, while more frequent irrigation encourages shallow roots. Deep roots can find more water and survive the heat of the summer with less irrigation. A good schedule provides half an inch of water twice a week. During times of sustained heat, you may need to add a third day of watering or extend your regular watering schedule but remember to return to your deep but infrequent schedule when the heat wave has passed.
- Use sprinklers that release large drops close to the ground rather than shooting high in the air or releasing small drops, both of which make it easier to lose water to evaporation. Use drip or soaker hoses wherever possible to maximize your irrigation efficiency.
- Concrete doesn't grow! Avoid over-spray onto sidewalks, driveways, or other hard surfaces. Any water that doesn't land on your lawn is a waste.
- Avoid runoff. If your soils contain a lot of clay, water may run off before you are finished watering. Clay soils absorb water quickly and swell, preventing further water from soaking in. Try the

cycle and soak approach – water until runoff begins, turn off the system in that area, and let it soak for 30 to 45 minutes, then water again until you meet your irrigation goal for that area.

Improve your soil.

Aerate your lawn to reduce compaction and allow better infiltration of water and nutrients. You can either leave the aeration plugs where they fall to supply nutrients back to your lawn or mow them to spread the wealth. If you have clay soils, try filling the aeration holes with sandy loam to help break up the compacted soil.

Not too much fertilizer.

Late May is a great time to fertilize, but be mindful of the needs of your landscape and fertilizer application rates. Many lawns are over-fertilized and the extra runs off into the gutter, wasting your money and polluting streams. Read the labels and follow the application rates to get the most bang for your buck.

The City of Albany offers a free irrigation audit to residents and businesses. The audit analyzes your irrigation practices and describes how long each area of your yard should be watered in order to reach the one-inch-a-week goal. To schedule your audit, or if you have questions, please contact Chris Bailey at 917-7629 or by e-mail at chris.bailey@cityofalbany.net. With a little work, you can have a healthy lawn and save money at the same time!

Think no waste!

Why to recycle has long been the focus of public education. However, as popular as recycling is, there are better ways to generate less waste – sometimes called the solid waste hierarchy or the three Rs. You may want to call it good common sense.

So, why reduce?

Buying fewer items means less demand on natural resources, less demand to transport and store materials, and less demand on collection and disposal services. Buying less means saving more.

So, why reuse?

Products that stay useful reduce the demand for new products and extend the time before the product needs to be discarded or recycled.

So, why recycle?

When discarded resources are properly prepared and desired by the manufacturers, those materials compete with natural resources in the marketplace rather than for space in the landfill. Manufacturers use the recyclables as raw materials to make new products. And, using recycled resources often allows manufacturers to use fewer natural resources.

Reduce

Plan ahead, shop smart, and reduce waste from the start. Some examples:

- Replace disposable items with durable ones, such as coffee mugs and rechargeable batteries.
- Use both sides of paper to cut usage in half.
- Make a shopping list to help you buy only the things you need.

Reuse

- Keep products "in action."
- Maintain and repair.
- Use it up.
- Donate, sell, or trade unwanted items that are in good condition.

Recycle

- Return the resources you use to the marketplace.
- Keep recycling clean.
- Keep glass separate.
- No plastic bags, Styrofoam, Tupperware, toys, or oil containers.

Call (541) 928-2551
for additional information.



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Albany's Urban Forest

Did you know you live in a forest? The trees in your yard, along streets, in the neighborhood park, and at the shopping center are each part of a valuable landscape called an urban forest. This forest helps to make our city more healthy, attractive, and prosperous.

The canopy of the urban forest is the whole area on the top of the trees that covers the ground below. This tree canopy provides shade, erosion control, reduces wind, and filters pollution. Other benefits include urban beautification, wildlife habitat, and enhanced property values.

Many people aren't aware that they live within such a forest or the benefits it provides; but the trees growing in the places we live, work, and play do create a forested canopy that enhances our quality of life.

Growing Tree Canopy

The quality and extent of tree canopy cover are valuable indicators of the health of the local environment. We measure tree canopy cover by the amount of area in the city covered by trees. A tree inventory assesses the condition of individual trees.

These provide a view of how well the urban forest is working.

Every community has an optimal level of tree canopy. This level is based on climate and the services and benefits the City expects to receive from its trees. Once an optimal canopy area is defined, the community should try to achieve it to get the most benefit from the urban forest.

Urban Forest Repair

Most trees in Albany are on private property.

This places a great responsibility on residents, institutions, and businesses. Young trees need routine care that includes watering, mulching, pruning, and sometimes fertilization and pest control. With proper planning and care, young trees will grow into mature trees that require less maintenance.

Much of Albany's urban forest was planted decades ago without much planning or maintenance. As these trees have matured, they have often conflicted with their surroundings. Many trees were planted in inappropriate spaces, may be

undesirable species for the urban environment, or are in a serious state of decline. The results are trees that have broken sidewalks and curbs, clogged pipes, grown into power lines, or are in a hazardous condition. Repairing these mistakes will take time and requires better planning, identification and assessment of poor tree conditions, and proper maintenance.

Growing and maintaining tree canopy on public property is a responsibility of the City's Urban Forestry Program. Publicly owned trees grow on public spaces. They

belong to all of us and are a part of the City's infrastructure, similar to streets, sidewalks, sewers, public buildings, and parks.

Public trees are a major capital asset. Their condition is critical to the health and attractiveness of the community. While the monetary value of buildings and equip-

ment may decline with age, the value of publicly owned trees often remains constant or can increase as years pass.

Community awareness and effective management are key factors to sustaining the value of our trees. This is a goal of urban forestry repair: it is best to improve the health of the forest now, so that we will increase the benefits from trees in the future.

Whether we realize it or not, trees play a large role in our lives. From the individual trees we plant in our yards to the great stands of oaks, firs, and maples found throughout the city, trees are part of our Willamette Valley heritage. To maintain and enhance this valuable natural

resource, we need a shared community vision. This vision will describe how we want this city to look and what benefits we expect from the urban forest.

A responsible urban forestry program recognizes the need for a shared vision and establishes responsive, ongoing tree care programs for the benefit of people, the urban environment, and the city. Encouraging awareness of and care for our urban forest can create a deeper relationship among people, their environment, and the community as a whole.

Urban Forestry Program Projects:

- Public Tree Inventory
- Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- Five year Strategic Plan including an Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Routine planting and maintenance throughout the city.

A Few City Tree Code Facts:

- Planting, pruning, or removal of a street tree requires a permit.
- Significant trees that merit preservation can be requested to be designated a Heritage Tree.
- Any tree six and one-half inches in circumference or greater requires a permit for removal.
- Removal of five trees or more eight inches in diameter or greater requires a site plan review.

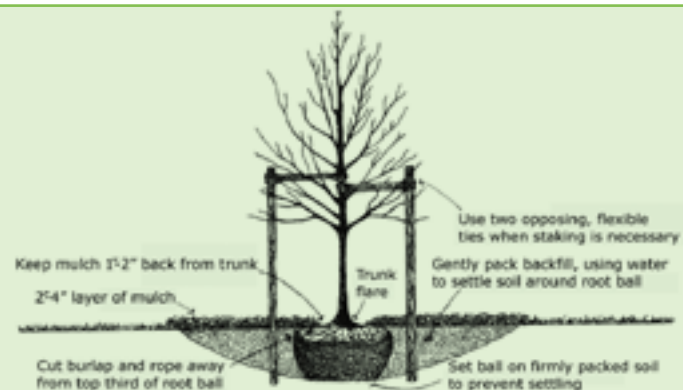
Join in during Arbor Week April 3-9

Arbor Week will be held throughout Oregon April 3-9, 2005.

The City of Albany has several events planned for that week including:

- A tree walk in Monteith Riverpark and adjacent neighborhoods,
- a tree giveaway,
- tree pruning and planting demonstrations,
- activities at local schools, and
- a community planting project along the Santiam-Albany Canal.

Art related to urban trees such as paintings, photographs, or wood carvings may be submitted for possible display at City Hall. Check the City Web site, www.cityofalbany.net, or the *Albany Democrat-Herald* for dates and times of Arbor Week activities.



Tree Planting and Care:

1. Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Make the hole wide, as much as three times the diameter of the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.
2. Identify the trunk flare. The trunk flare is where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted (see diagram). If the trunk flare is not partially visible, you may have to remove some soil from the top of the root ball. Find it so you can determine how deep the hole needs to be for proper planting.
3. Place the tree at the proper height. Before placing the tree in the hole, check to see that the hole has been dug to the proper depth and no more. The majority of the roots on the newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of soil. If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing due to a lack of oxygen. It is better to plant the tree a little high, 2-3 inches above the base of the trunk flare, than to plant it at or below the original growing level. This will allow for some settling (see diagram). To avoid damage when setting the tree in the hole, always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk.
4. Straighten the tree in the hole. Before you begin backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm the tree is straight. Once you begin backfilling it is difficult to reposition.
5. Fill the hole, gently but firmly. Fill the hole about one-third full and gently but firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Then, if the tree is balled and burlapped, cut and remove the string and wire from around the trunk and top third of the root ball (see diagram). Be careful not to damage the trunk or roots in the process. Fill the remainder of the hole taking care to firmly pack soil to eliminate air pockets that may cause roots to dry out. To avoid this problem, add the soil a few inches at a time and settle with water. Continue this process until the hole is filled and the tree is firmly planted. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at the time of planting.
6. Stake the tree, if necessary. If the tree is grown and dug properly at the nursery, staking for support is not necessary in most home landscape situations. However, protective staking may be required on sites where lawn mower damage, vandalism or windy conditions are concerns. If staking is necessary for support, two stakes used in conjunction with a wide flexible tie material will hold the tree upright, provide flexibility, and minimize injury to the trunk (see diagram). Remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.
7. Mulch the base of the tree. Mulch is simply organic matter applied to the area at the base of the tree. It acts as a blanket to hold moisture, moderate soil temperature extremes, both hot and cold, and reduces competition from grass and weeds. Some good choices are pine straw, shredded bark, or wood chips. A two- to four-inch layer is ideal. More than four inches may cause a problem with oxygen and moisture levels. When placing mulch, take care to not cover the trunk of the tree. This may cause decay of the living bark. A mulch-free area, one to two inches wide at the base of the tree, is sufficient to avoid moist bark conditions and prevent decay.
8. Follow-up care. Keep the soil moist but not soaked; overwatering will cause leaves to turn yellow or fall off. Water trees at least once a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot weather. When the soil is dry below the surface of the mulch, it is time to water. Continue until mid-fall, tapering off for lower temperatures that require less frequent watering.

Minor pruning may be needed on branches damaged during the planting process. Prune sparingly immediately after planting and wait to begin necessary corrective pruning until after a full season of growth in the new location.



For more information about the City of Albany's Urban Forestry Program go online to www.cityofalbany.net/urbanforest or call 917-7679.