

City Bridges

WINTER 2009

News to keep you connected to Albany City government

This Issue

This issue of *City Bridges* features the Albany Public Library

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Albany Moves to Main Street

In September 2008, Governor Ted Kulongoski announced that Albany had been selected to participate in the Oregon Main Street program. The Main Street™ program, developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, includes over 1,600 cities in 40 states. In its 25-year history, the program has a strong record of success in its comprehensive approach that emphasizes community organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring to create healthy downtown commercial districts.

In announcing the selection, the governor said, “Small businesses are our economic foundation. With the Main Street program, we join together to retain and grow small businesses throughout Oregon. These partnerships help Oregon move forward and represent investments we should be making in difficult economic times.”

The Main Street method is a tool kit for communities, using an incremental approach that advocates a return to community self-reliance and the rebuilding of commercial districts based on traditional



assets, unique architecture, personal service, local ownership, and sense of community. The Oregon Main Street program was reestablished through the efforts of the Main Street Task Force and approved by the state Legislature in 2007.

“We believe that the Main Street program will help the downtown area capitalize on the rehabilitation efforts already underway, many of which were funded by CARA, the Central Albany Revitalization Area,” said Kate Porsche, Urban Renewal Manager for the City of Albany. “The Main Street approach will allow our community to participate in training, receive technical assistance and grants, and, most importantly,

tap into the 1,200 other communities to share best practices—it’s the perfect complement to our urban renewal efforts downtown.”

The National Trust for Historic Preservation reports that, between 1980 and 2007, the Main Street program helped more than 2,212 communities across the nation. These communities saw over \$44.9 billion dollars reinvested in their downtowns, an average of over \$11 million dollars per community. The Main Street program also has brought a total of 82,909 new businesses to these communities, and 370,000 jobs and has rehabilitated more than 199,000 buildings.



Green power update: Albany’s hydropower facility is almost ready

The City of Albany’s newly installed generator at the historic Vine Street Water Treatment Plant has begun its testing phase and has successfully generated power!

Albany’s Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, issued in 1998, set October 23, 2008, as a target for power to be produced; and it happened that week. Engineers are fine-tuning operations and controls to safely transfer power to the Pacific Power grid. City staff were trained in November in how to operate the generator; we anticipate full-time operation in December. The facility will operate year-round except for a few months each summer.

A formal dedication ceremony is planned in February to coincide with Oregon’s 150th birthday celebration. Staff from the Oregon Energy Trust and FERC plans to attend. The facility will be open to the public, and Water Department staff will guide tours of the power facility and the water treatment plant.

The City’s hydropower water right dates to 1874, earlier than its municipal water right. By 1878, at least 14 manufacturing plants in Albany used water power from the Santiam-Albany Canal; and by 1888, the canal was generating electricity.

The hydropower facility was decommissioned in the early 1990s. Since then, the City has made award-winning improvements to the canal’s intake structure on the South Santiam River and designed a new, efficient generator system at the Vine Street plant to restore power production. Using gravity to generate power is in keeping with Oregon’s renewable energy goals.

The canal, an 18-mile open channel, includes headworks, control structures, and diversions to provide irrigation water to adjacent properties. As Albany’s original water supply, it is protected to provide safe drinking water to citizens of Lebanon and Albany. To protect water quality and downstream habitat and prevent damage to equipment, citizens are cautioned never to throw any items, including grass clippings, leaves, or building waste, into the canal.

Speaker to address mental illness, mental health

Ross Szabo, director of youth outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign, will talk about aspects of mental illness and mental health in young adults in a series of presentations Monday, February 9, 2009, on the Oregon State University campus.

The Corvallis talks are sponsored by OSU and the City of Albany Human Relations Commission. The City sponsorship is part of Mayor Dan Bedore’s charge to the Commission to help educate Albany residents about mental illness. Bedore became concerned about the public views of the mentally ill while attending a public forum last spring at Linn-Benton Community College to discuss the possible placement of a group home for the chronically mentally ill in a South Albany neighborhood. “After the community meeting, it became apparent to me that

there was a negative public perception in regard to mental illness,” Bedore said. “I asked the Human Relations Commission to undertake an effort to provide factual information to try to dispel some of the negative stereotypes that have resulted from mass media depictions of mental illness. I greatly appreciate their efforts.”

Szabo has been speaking publicly about mental health issues since he was 17. A popular student leader and athlete, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder while he was in high school. After graduating cum laude with a B.A. in psychology from American University in 2002, he set out on a full-time mission to speak out about mental health issues in an effort to reach young people who are struggling to deal with their problems and eradicate needless stereotypes. He has a regular blog on leadership-21.blogspot.com.

His new book, *Behind Happy Faces: Taking Charge of Your Mental Health*, cowritten by Melanie Hall, was released in August 2007.

All talks are free and open to the public:

9:00-10:30 a.m.

“Mixed Drinks, Mixed Emotions: Alcohol Abuse and Mental Health”
Call 737-0715 for information

11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

“Behind Happy Faces: Taking Charge of Your Mental Health- a guide for young adults.” Book discussion.
Memorial Union Lounge

7:00-9:00 p.m.

“What Happy Faces are Hiding: Talk about Depression”
Memorial Union Ballroom

Albany Elects First Woman Mayor

Long-time City Councilor Sharon Konopa was elected mayor of Albany in the November 4, 2008 general election. Konopa, 51, defeated incumbent Mayor Dan Bedore and challenger Charlie Smith by substantial margins. She is the first woman to become Albany’s mayor since the city was incorporated in 1864.

A graduate of South Albany High School, Konopa has served on the City Council for 12 years and is currently the Council President. Konopa, a full-time community volunteer, lives in South Albany with her husband Steve.



Corvallis Mayor Charlie Tomlinson and Albany Mayor-elect Sharon Konopa at the 2008 City Hall Day.

In City Council races, Ward I Councilor Floyd Collins won election to his first four-year term. Collins was appointed to the City Council in January 2008 to fill the remainder of Bedore’s term when Bedore was

appointed mayor. Collins, retired Albany Public Works Director, lives in North Albany with his wife Peggy.

Bill Coburn won election to his first term representing Ward II in the seat vacated by Konopa. Coburn manages the traffic signal department for the E C Company. He and his wife Margaret live in Southwest Albany.

Ward III Councilor Jeff Christman won reelection to a second four-year term. Christman is chief financial officer for Central Willamette Community Credit Union. He and his wife Lynda live in South Albany.

Questions? Contact Jim Young,
Water Superintendent, at:
541-917-7609 or
jim.young@cityofalbany.net.

City of Albany Directory

Mayor

Dan Bedore 812-1426

Ward I Councilors

Dick Olsen 926-7348
Floyd Collins 928-2961

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.

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Since you asked

The City of Albany commissioned a community opinion survey in March 2008. More than 800 individuals participated and nearly every one added a comment or question. This feature of City Bridges attempts to answer those questions, dispel myths or rumors, and provide other information to help you understand City government and enjoy living in Albany.

Comment: "I resent my tax dollars being used to support libraries that allow people to access pornography on library computers. People can access that garbage at home and if they don't have a computer they can do it the old-fashioned way and buy Playboy."

Response: The Library's policy is to call the police when staff receives a complaint or witnesses the onscreen display of obscene material, as it is defined by Oregon law. We have had no such incidents in the past ten years. We get the occasional complaints about objectionable pictures onscreen, and our policy is to immediately inform the patron that there's been a complaint, ask them to cease, and they do comply.
—Ed Gallagher, Library Director

Comment: "Lower any/all taxes to senior citizens whose total yearly income is less than \$26,000 and whose prescription drugs amount to more than \$2,000 a year after insurance provider's payments;" "We pay too many, too much in taxes now. Our utility bills keep rising (with taxes on them). Government must not realize seniors are on fixed incomes. Why don't they consider giving seniors a break on taxes?"

Response: The state of Oregon provides property tax relief for qualified senior citizens. To qualify — An individual must be age 62 years or older on or before April 15 of the year you file the claim. If you are married and apply jointly with your spouse, you both must be 62 years old on or before April 15. If only one spouse is 62, you must file your application as an individual.

Joint owners — Two or more people may apply for deferral as joint applicants. Both must be 62 years or older. You must own or be buying the property. You must have a recorded deed to the property. Or, you must be buying the property under a recorded sales contract. You may have a revocable trust.

You are not eligible for deferral if you have a life estate interest in the property.

All applicants must live on the property; however, you may live away from the property due to medical reasons. You must send a medical statement on letterhead from your health care provider to the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Household income must be less than \$37,500 for income tax year 2007. This includes taxable and nontaxable income including Social Security and pensions. This is not the federal adjusted income (FAGI) amount. This income limit may change each year.

To apply: <http://www.oregon.gov/DOR/PTD/docs/490-015.pdf>
—Marilyn Smith, Public Information Officer

Street to Albany Avenue; 34th Avenue from Waverly Drive to Marion Street; Elm Street from Queen Avenue to Fifth Avenue; and Santiam Road from Cleveland Street to Main Street. These projects were completed under budget allowing additional streets to be fixed. These projects included Fifth Avenue from Elm to Washington Street; North Albany Road from Highway 20 to the railroad tracks; Hill Street from 9th Avenue to Queen; and Clay Street, 14th Avenue and Geary Street around the Heritage Mall.

Albany voters rejected a second bond measure for funding additional street projects in 2000. The street system utility has been shelved.
—Mark Shepard, Assistant Public Works Director

Comment: "I sat on a mayor committee 12 years ago about how to fund street repairs and as far as I'm concerned it was a waste of my time as nothing came of it."

Response: In 1996, Mayor Chuck McLaran appointed citizens to a Street Maintenance Funding Task Force, which estimated that Albany needed to spend more than \$36 million to repair all the neglected streets. At that time, the City was well short each year of the amount of money needed to keep just the good streets in good condition. Streets were not being repaired on time; and, over time, more and more would need to be completely rebuilt rather than just periodically maintained.

- They made two recommendations:
1. Ask voters for a \$10 million general obligation bond to rebuild some of the worst streets.
 2. Create a street system utility which would charge users a fee based on their use of City streets with those fees being used for ongoing street maintenance.

In 1998, Albany voters approved the \$10 million street bond. The money from the bond was to be spent on four street projects; Salem Avenue from Lake

Comment: "I would like to see Albany improve shopping. We have plenty of dollar stores/discount stores. Encourage new business away from mall area. It is turning into the Lancaster Drive area of Salem."

Response: The City's Comprehensive Plan provides for two new Village Centers, one east of Interstate 5 and one in the south part of town. These are intended to provide neighborhood-level shopping opportunities, much like the new Ray's center in North Albany.

In addition, the City staff is working closely with the Albany Downtown Association to bring new and better shopping to the downtown. Several buildings are undergoing major renovations and have new tenants, including restaurants and boutique shops. In November, the City Council approved the development of a new shopping center on Goldfish Farm Road east of I-5. Most of these developments, however, will depend on a recovering national economy. We believe that we are well positioned to take advantage of that recovery.

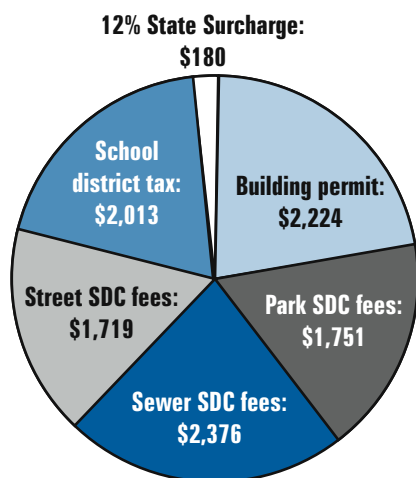
—Greg Byrne, Community Development Director, and Kate Porsche, Urban Renewal Manager



Building Permit Fee Increase Proposed

As this issue of City Bridges goes to press, the Albany City Council is considering a proposed increase in fees for building permits. The City's Building Division is supported entirely by permit fees; it does not receive taxpayer dollars from the City's General Fund. This fee change has been proposed to bring Albany's fee schedule in line with Oregon Administrative Rules and also to recover increases to overhead since the last fee change in 2001. For more information, please go to: <http://www.cityofalbany.net/comdev/building/>

Average City of Albany fees for construction of a new 2,500 sq ft home



Albany Police switch to E-tickets

Albany Police Traffic Officer Buck Pearce, right, demonstrates one of APD's 10 handheld electronic ticketing devices, which police have been using since spring 2008.



Officer Buck Pearce

Here's how they work: During a traffic stop, the officer scans the driver's license with the device or manually enters the information, adding factors such as the driver's speed. Officers are also able to check a driver's record through the Department of Motor Vehicles and Law Enforcement Data System and include that information. DMV records include a photo of the driver. The officer prints the ticket from a portable printer while data are electronically uploaded for police and court records. The resulting traffic ticket looks like a shopping receipt. Drivers who get tickets still must go to court or pay the fine; resolving the ticket can't be done online.

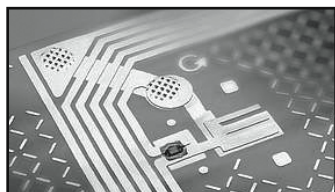
Police and Albany Municipal Court together paid about \$70,000 for six of the devices and the Oregon Department of Transportation contributed another \$75,000 for software and another four devices.

Police estimate the new method will save nearly 350 hours per year in data entry time and more than \$10,000 in personnel costs.

What's RFID?

When the Library moves to its new building at 2450 14th Avenue SE, it will become the second public library in Oregon to use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to manage its inventory.

RFID starts with a tiny radio circuit and memory chip embedded into a two-inch square, paper-thin label placed inside each library item that is available for loan to patrons. When a patron checks out a book, video, or other item in the collection, he or she will use their library card to activate a computer screen and then may place up to five items at a time near the RFID antenna. The antenna will read the code information and turn off security chips in each one. The patron will get a receipt and take the items to use.



When items are returned through the library book drop slot, an RFID antenna will read the embedded tags, check the item off the patron's list, and turn the security chip back on. Returned items will be sorted into bins for Library workers to re-shelve. The RFID tags will make it easier for Library staff to locate requested materials, shelf-read, and take inventory. Library cards will not be fitted with RFID tags. Tags in Library collection items will not interfere with wireless

hotspots, pacemakers, cell phones, or other security mechanisms.

The Eugene Public Library has been using RFID technology for several years, and the Lebanon Public Library plans to acquire it in the near future. Salt Lake County, Utah, Library Systems use RFID technology and report a dramatic increase in circulation. They have found that self-check accounts for 93 percent of their circulation and are saving \$75,600 per year with the system.

Albany Public Library is installing RFID to streamline checking materials in and out, and hopes to speed up the process and improve accuracy in inventory. With machines doing that job, staff will be able to spend more time providing direct customer service to patrons.

Albany's system is being provided by Sirsi/Dynix and Integrated Technology Group (ITG). The system cost \$352,710, paid for by the Scharpf Albany Library Endowment. Sirsi/Dynix has worked with libraries for more than 30 years in a variety of services, ITG for over 10 years. Albany Library staff is confident that the companies' experience will help to make the changes as seamless as possible.

Leave your mark at the new Library

When you walk through the doors of a public library, you walk into possibility. A library changes lives. It becomes a community living room. It witnesses children grow into adults. It makes a lasting impression.

The library is a cultural beacon in the community. As we prepare to move to a new Main Library in January, Albany patrons have an opportunity to support the library and leave a mark by adopting a room, naming a table, or choosing any of several other naming opportunities.

If you want to honor a friend, recognize an important book or author, remember a loved one or make a dedication for yourself, the Albany Public Library has many options for you to make a lasting contribution. Naming opportunities start at \$500. A complete list of options and donation pledge forms are available on the City's Web site:

<http://library.cityofalbany.net/namingopportunities.swf>, or by calling Library Director Ed Gallagher at 917-7589.

Gifts are tax-deductible.

Linn Genealogical Society comes home

Several years ago, the Albany Public Library ran out of space, forcing the Linn Genealogical Society to move its library to the basement of the Linn County Courthouse. The Genealogical Society and its collections will return to Albany Public Library this winter when the Library moves to its new and much larger building at 2450 14th Avenue SE.

Library patrons will once again be able to browse these archives and benefit from the corps of knowledgeable genealogists who will be available to assist and support local historians and others with their own research.

Keep up with the Library building project. Check out our blog! <http://albanypubliclibrary.blogspot.com/>

Both Libraries will close for move

Both branches of the Albany Public Library will close for at least two weeks in mid-January 2009 while the Main branch moves more than 200,000 items and settles in 2450 14th Avenue SE.

At the new Main branch, staff will be setting up offices; receiving furniture; testing the equipment and infrastructure, including the new RFID technology; planning and training staff and volunteers for new work flows; and coordinating with vendors. A few projects are planned at the Downtown Carnegie branch at the same time, according to Ed Gallagher, Library Director.

Patrons' patience will be rewarded with the new building. Watch for a grand opening in March 2009.

Librarian recognized for outstanding work



Albany Reference Librarian, Diane Moody (center) is congratulated by Oregon Libraries Network coordinators Emily Papagni and Caleb Tucker for Internet help to library patrons across the U.S.

Reference Librarian Diane Moody was recently recognized by the Oregon Library Network for her exemplary work as a 'virtual' librarian. For several years, the Albany Public Library participated in L Net, a virtual reference service. L-Net, available 24 hours a day in Oregon, a few other states, and now the United Kingdom, allows individuals to "chat" with a librarian in real time. Librarians field questions and attempt to answer them while helping the person with the question through the process of finding the answer themselves. Transcripts of

these sessions are reviewed for quality control and training purposes. Moody was recognized for her assistance to a library user in New Jersey who was looking for information about an early New Jersey baseball league called the Potters League. The enthusiastic patron appreciated of the information that Moody provided and very surprised that she was not from New Jersey.

If you have a question at home or work, you too can contact L-Net and get some real help, right now at <http://www.oregonlibraries.net/>.



Library Friends' Book Store

The Friends of the Albany Public Library will expand their annual book sale to make items available year-round in a space just off the lobby of the new Main branch when the Library moves in January.

The Friends' annual sale, held at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center, continues

to grow, with this year's event netting \$7,840. Proceeds are used by the Friends to support children's programming and special purchases for the library.

If you own books that you would like to recycle to the Friends' sale, drop them off at the Main Library or call 917-7580 to ask for a volunteer to pick them up.

Simple holiday tips to keep your family safe

Candles

- Use a sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic candleholder.
- Never burn candles near a Christmas tree or decorations that can burn.
- Keep candles away from curtains or anything that can burn.
- Never leave candles unattended or within reach of small children or pets.
- Always put a candle out before leaving a room.

Christmas trees

- Choose a fresh tree. Needles should be green and hard to pull back and should not break if the tree is freshly cut. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long.
- Trunk should be sticky to the touch
- When you get your tree home, cut the trunk at an angle and put it in a tree stand that won't tip over and will hold water.

- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Keep the tree away from fireplaces, heaters, and exits in your home.

Holiday lights

- Check cords to make sure they are not frayed, have no bare spots, gaps in the insulation, or broken or cracked sockets. The weather and garage storage can weaken cords, creating a fire hazard. Throw damaged lights away.
- Do not overload electrical sockets or put rugs over cords.
- Make sure that extension cords are not pinched behind or under furniture.
- Unplug lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.

Having a holiday party?

- Provide a proper container to dispose of cigarette butts. If someone is drinking and



Holidays are a great time to get together with family and friends, but it's also a time when we bring some things into our home that can put us at risk if we don't use some precautions.

smoking, keep an eye on them. Ashes in upholstery can smolder for awhile before a fire starts.

- Make sure children are supervised. Keep matches and lighters up and out of their reach. Watch them around the fireplaces, candles, and space heaters.
- Space heaters should be at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

Preventing a fire is the best thing you can do for your family's safety. Make sure that you have working smoke alarms in every level of your house, outside of each sleeping area as well as in the bedrooms.

Each family should have a home fire escape plan. Practice so that everyone in your family knows what to do in case of a fire. If you need help planning escape routes or need smoke alarms or fire escape ladders, contact Wanda Omdahl at 917-7734.

It's winter: time to check your winter travel kit

Every vehicle should be equipped with an emergency kit and some basic supplies you can rely upon in the event of a disaster, mechanical failure, weather emergency, or even operator error (empty gas tank).

If you're a hiker, snowmobiler, cross-country skier, or horseback rider, it's not a bad idea to carry an empty backpack with your vehicle emergency kit: before you set out, transfer appropriate supplies from your vehicle emergency kit into your backpack, then return them to the main kit when you come back to the car. This is particularly true during inclement weather when cold, wet and low visibility conditions can make an inconvenience a serious situation.



Before you travel:

Make sure your vehicle emergency kit is stocked and complete, let someone know where you're headed and what route you'll take, and check road and weather conditions before you leave.

For more information, contact the Albany Fire Department at 917-7700.

Here are some recommended items to keep in your vehicle emergency kit:

- Maps
- Compass
- Gloves, sturdy shoes, and extra socks
- Water and food
- First-aid kit
- Necessary medications
- Flares
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Blankets for warmth, including "space blankets"
- Rain gear and extra clothing
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ABC-type fire extinguisher
- Light sticks, matches, and candles (tea lights are good for fire starting)
- Shovel
- Booster or jumper cables
- Chains, traction mats
- Hand warmers

Other suggestions include: kitty litter for ballast* or traction; spare fuses; extra cell phone battery; books or travel games; and any job-specific supplies that you might need if you had to report to work in an emergency.

*You may need to adjust your vehicle headlights if you are significantly changing the load distribution. Improperly adjusted headlights are a serious safety hazard for other drivers, particularly in inclement weather.

Recession blues? Go to the Library

While the economy looks bleak, consider one consistent, reliable bargain that offers much for little – the library. The public library traditionally serves as a haven in hard times. It provides a welcoming environment regardless of circumstance with a host of activities and services for all ages:

- Books, movies, audio books, magazines, and public computer access.
- Programs for kids.
- Opportunities for adults to meet in a safe environment.
- A recreational reading room.

Professional library staff are resources who can help patrons find legal forms, learn to use computers, write resumes, identify job opportunities, or sell something on the Internet.

Regardless of age, a library is a learning center. If you haven't visited a library for awhile, you may be surprised at how much they have changed and the power that they can put into your hands. Information may not be everything, but it does provide some security in rough times.

Take a break from watching the stock market: enjoy a movie or step into a good novel. Let the library help you bridge the rough patch. Come on in.

Mango database teaches travelers new languages

Learning a new language can be daunting and, if English is your second language, that's difficult, too. The Mango Languages electronic database, now available to patrons of the Albany Public Library, can help users learn nine languages: Mandarin, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, Greek, French, Russian, German, or Portuguese.

The Mango system is designed to teach phrases through repetition at the student's own pace. It includes 100 lessons and students will learn 2,200 words in the new languages. The system gives phonetic pronunciations of words and phrases through sound with written phonetic pronunciations provided. Parts of speech are color-coded in English and the new language so that the user can compare their use.

Native speakers of Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, and Polish will find English as a Second Language courses in Mango. The ESL courses focus on pronunciation and phrases rather than grammar.

Mango uses idiomatic language designed primarily for individuals who travel for business or pleasure, focusing on good pronunciation. Students can build a large vocabulary and learn phrases to help with currency exchange.

The language lessons are conversational and relate to travel and everyday topics. The content is practical, useful information. The lessons are complete, including the written language, which can help travelers learn to read signs in the countries they visit.

Library patrons can access Mango via the Internet at <http://library.cityofalbany.net/reference/db.php>.



Officer Luebke collects cycling medals at western States Games

Albany Police Officer Jim Luebke received five medals this summer in bicycling events at the Western States Police and Fire Games in Boise, Idaho. Luebke, one of APD's bicycle officers and the department's official bike mechanic, competed in the Grand Master B Division (age 55-59), taking gold in the road race, silver in time trial, silver in the hill climb, and bronze in the criterium. He also won gold in the individual stage race which is the total time for all four events.

The Western States Police and Fire Games began as the California Police Olympics in

San Diego in 1967. Firefighters were invited to compete for the first time in 2000, and the name was changed to include other states in 2005.

Luebke was among 2,500 police officers and firefighters from 12 states competing in more than 60 sports at this year's games.

