

Patch Article – September 2012

### Going Local

I might not know you personally, and you might not be aware of [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com), but I'm willing to wager that one of the primary reasons you chose to live in Albany is related to its high ranking on [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com).

Walkscore.com is a website that rates locations based on "walkability." Locations with high Walk Scores have essential goods and services in close proximity. Walk Score is a number between 0 and 100 that measures the walkability of any address. According to [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com):

- People in walkable neighborhoods weigh 6-10 lbs less.
- Walkable places make you happier and healthier.
- Short commutes reduce stress and increase community involvement.
- 82% of CO2 emissions are from burning fossil fuels. Your feet are zero-pollution transportation machines!

Albany as a city receives a Walk Score of 86, which is considered "Very Walkable". To put that in perspective, the 2,500 largest cities in the U.S. have an average Walk Score half that of Albany (43). None of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. have a Walk Score higher than Albany, though the top two ranking large cities (New York and San Francisco) are hovering around 85. In fact, Albany has the second highest Walk Score of any city in California – only West Hollywood ranks higher. Not gloating enough yet? Well, Albany has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest walk score of any city in the U.S. That might not surprise the urban planners of northern Alameda County. But who knew that New Jersey was home to the top three most walkable cities in the U.S.?

September is a great month take advantage of everything there is to walk to in Albany. The annual [Music in the Park](#) series is underway, so pack your picnic dinner each Wednesday in September and enjoy our fine weather. Be sure to participate in [Albany Local Week](#) from September 22-28. The person undertaking the most local activities (scorecard available for download [here](#)) will get their name on the UBER ALBANY LOCAL CUP, displayed at the Albany Community Center, and will be honored at the annual [Dinner with Albany](#) on September 29.

Participating in local events is a great way to meet neighbors and build community. Supporting local businesses helps the local economy and can have a positive environmental impact. Who knows - perhaps if we all do our part to shop locally, we'll edge out Union City, NJ and take the top spot on [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com).