

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
 ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

NEWSLETTER

Message from the City Manager

How Are We Doing?

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambiance, responding to the needs of a diverse community and providing a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment.

The question is, how are we doing? Take our [online survey](#) to give us your feedback.

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Albany has more than just a “sense” of community. How did this come to be? A recent news story caught my eye - it featured a number of activities that helped to build community, including:

- Voting
- Knowing Your Neighbors
- Volunteering

Voting: Every November of even-numbered years, Albany voters shape the direction of the City by casting ballots for elected leaders and voting on local measures that affect the city’s rules, policies, and funding. The City’s five City Council Members are each elected to four-year terms; these terms are staggered so that there is an election every two years.

This year there are three City Council seats up for election; two of the three are held by

Council Members who have served two consecutive terms and are not eligible to run for re-election. The City’s other elected position – City Treasurer – is also voted on every four years, and is on this year’s ballot.

As a charter city, you may see more ballot measures than you would in “general law” cities. This year the City has one ballot measure.

Knowing Your Neighbors: In a city of 1.7 square miles, even someone across town can be your neighbor! Neighbors can be found at City events - Dinner with Albany, Music in the Park, Clothing/Garden Swaps, July 4th, Pancake Breakfasts, National Night Out, Safety Palooza, Albany Citizens Academy, etc. Or through social media – [NextDoor](#), and [Around Your Block](#), or by walking, biking, and

saying hello.
Volunteering We have a stake in what we help make. Albany is full of educated folks with big hearts and loads of talent volunteering to create community. City volunteers – like Tennessee Gock and Helen Cameron – help with Albany special events. Volunteer Police Reserves add to our public safety. Other volunteers plant trees, weed, help with office tasks, and beautify the city. Appointees to the City’s commissions, committees, and boards analyze, and advise on topics ranging from dogs to development.

A Three-fer: the upcoming grant-funded San Pablo Avenue “Complete Streets” planning process provides for voting, knowing your neighbors and volunteering to all come together: join us in planning for a more “livable” San Pablo Avenue.

Help Build Complete Streets

How can we improve the safety of Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue for all users?

The City obtained a grant from Caltrans to develop a “Complete Streets” plan for Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue. A “Complete Street” aims to incorporate all modes of transportation

(pedestrians, bicycles, motor vehicles, etc. in a safe and functional manner).

A series of open studio sessions are planned for December 6-12, starting with the Kick-Off meeting, at 7:00pm Thursday, December 6th (Location TBD) - check our [website](#) for details.





**Albany Police
Department
525-7300**

Holiday Safety Tips

Fall is in the air! The days are growing shorter and the holidays are approaching. Unfortunately shorter days mean darkness comes sooner and stays longer; and holidays mean people are out and about with expensive purchases or cash in-hand.

The following safety tips can help keep you safe:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times. If someone or something looks suspicious, report it immediately.
- Always try to park your vehicle in a highly visible space.
- Lock your vehicle when driving and when parked.
- When walking to your car, have your car keys in your hand and be ready to open the car door immediately.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you must shop after dark, do it with family or friends.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your card is lost, stolen or misused. Thieves will use your stolen credit cards within minutes of the theft.
- If you keep any purchases or other valuables in your car, make sure they are hidden out of sight. Don't give thieves a reason to break into your car.
- Be aware of scams. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Vacation Watch services are available as a free service from the Albany Police Department.
- Use safety lights when traveling on bike after dark.

Did you know? The City of Albany is just over one square mile. Take advantage of the new safer routes around town and enjoy a walk or bike ride today

Traveling around Town

Safer Routes to School:

The City completed safety improvements to the Marin/Santa Fe intersection including a new traffic signal with protected left turns, more walking space for pedestrians, bike racks at Marin School and solar speed feedback signs on Marin Avenue.

Marin/Buchanan Bikeway:

A link between Marin Avenue bike lanes and the

Bay Trail is on its way! The City will start construction of a bikeway along Buchanan Street in late 2012.

New Bike Racks:

The City has partnered with merchants and the Albany School District to install bike racks at the Middle School, swimming pool, YMCA, Albany Community Center and Library, and on San Pablo Avenue. The City also

partnered with Albany Strollers & Rollers to install the bicycle-shaped bike racks along Solano and San Pablo Avenues.

Grant funds from several agencies helped us conduct these improvement projects.



Planner's Corner

The City of Albany will begin to update the City's General Plan in 2013. *What is a General Plan?* The General Plan guides a number of policy and development decisions within the City, and outlines the community's goals for land use, environment, and future growth. Community participation is an essential tool needed to help us create a General

Plan that works for all interests within the City. A number of public workshops, activities and communication tools will be announced shortly. Stay informed about this upcoming planning process:

- Visit our [website](#) for more information
- Also on the City's website you can sign up for the "e-notify"

category "General Plan Update" to receive email updates on this particular topic area.



Senior News

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Celebrate the holiday spirit with us! Enjoy great food, entertainment, and friendly company. Sign up at the front desk and pay at the door. Admission: \$5. Dinners are held from 4-5pm (Seniors Only).

Halloween Dinner
Wednesday, October 31

Thanksgiving Dinner
Wednesday, November 21

Holiday Dinner
Friday, December 21

Free Flu Shot Clinic for Seniors
Monday, November 5 9am-11:30am

Contact us to learn more about additional services for Seniors such as:

- **Taxi Subsidy Program**
For residents 80 +, and people with disabilities 18 years and over.
- **Door-to-Door Shopping**
Shuttle service for residents 60+ from home to nearby grocery stores.



Albany Senior Center
524-9122

Save the Date

Election Day - November 6, 2012.

Get out and Vote! Visit the Registrar of Voters website to confirm your [polling place and registration status](#).

For more information on City candidates and measure(s), please see or [website](#) or the Alameda County [Registrar of Voters Sample Ballot](#).

Veteran's Day Pancake Breakfast

Veteran's Memorial Building, Sunday, November 11, 9am-Noon.
\$6 for adults and children over 6 years. Free for Vets and children under 6.
Breakfast will be prepared by the Albany Fire Department.

Friends of Albany Seniors Holiday Market & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 1 9am-2pm
Albany Senior Center

Complete Streets Planning Workshops

December 6 - 12th - location TBA.

Need more information on a particular topic? The City's [website](#) has a search feature for finding background information on City issues.

Keep in Touch

Our [website](#) includes information on all City Happenings.

You can also sign up for [e-notify](#), which will provide email alerts to you on topics you want to know about: www.albanyca.org

We're on Facebook:

[City of Albany Recreation & Community Services](#)
[Police Department](#)
[Teen Center](#)
[Urban Forestry](#)
[Senior Center](#)
[Sustainability](#)

We're on Twitter:

[City of Albany Recreation & Community Services](#)
[Police Department](#)

Help build community and join your neighborhood online using Nextdoor.com.

Nextdoor is a free and private social networking site for your neighborhood that builds community by connecting neighbors to one another.



Watch for hydrant artwork around town as overseen by the City of Albany Arts Committee

Green Albany

FREE CURBSIDE COLLECTION FOR BATTERIES, CELL PHONES AND CFLS*

**Free to All Customers with Cart Service*

Directions for Battery and Cell Phone Collection:

- California prohibits the disposal of batteries in the trash.
- Household batteries (AAA, AA, B, C, D and small button batteries), including rechargeable and cell phone batteries, can be recycled.
- Place batteries in a clear plastic bag, seal shut and place on the top of the gray recyclables cart.
- Place old cell phones in a clear plastic bag, seal shut and place on top of the gray recyclables cart.



Directions for CFL Bulb Collections:

- Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs do not belong in your trash cart. They contain mercury and are a household hazardous waste.
- Call (510) 613-8710 for your free Vaporlok Foil Bag ("bag").
- Place up to 6 used, unbroken CFLs inside the bag, and keep sealed at all times.
- Place bag on top of the gray recyclables cart.

***For broken bulbs, follow the EPA's clean-up instructions: www.epa.gov/mercury/spills.*



For Information on Household Hazardous Waste and Other Drop-Off Locations, Visit www.household-hazwaste.org or www.albanyca.org

Nearest Drop-Off Location:

Oakland Facility
2100 East 7th Street
Oakland, CA 94606

Call (800) 606-6606 for dates and hours of operation.

WHAT TO DO WITH HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste (HHW) materials such as paints, pesticides, fertilizers, propane tanks and cleaners are not allowed in any of the trash, recycling or organics containers. These HHW materials can be dropped off at participating locations. As a new service, you can recycle batteries, CFL bulbs and cell phones curbside (see reverse for instructions). Visit www.household-hazwaste.org or call (800) 606-6606 for more information.

Materials Accepted

- Paint
- Motor Oil
- Pesticides
- Household Cleaners (including Bleach)
- Sharps
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Expired Medication

Who Can Come

Alameda County residents. Please bring proof of residency with you (driver's license, tax bill or utility bill).

How to Package

All materials must be packaged in sturdy, non-leaking, closed containers. No individual container may be greater than 5 gallons or 50 pounds in size. Do not mix different wastes in the same container.

How Much

State law limits the total amount you may transport in one vehicle to 125 pounds or 15 gallons. Wastes must be transported by a resident of the household which generated the waste.

Helpful Contacts

Website: www.albanyca.org

Emergency: 911

Fire & EMS: 528-5770
albanyfire@albanyca.org

Police: 525-7300
albanypolice@albanyca.org

Public Works: 524-9543
apworks@albanyca.org

Community Development: 528-5760
com-dev@albanyca.org

Recreation & Community Services: 524-9283
recinfo@albanyca.org

City Hall: 528-5710
cityhall@albanyca.org

Passport Office: 528-5720
Jobline: 528-5777

We're going even "greener" with solar powered recycling and trash containers now along Solano and San Pablo Avenues

