

MAY 2013

# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY  
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE  
ALBANY, CA 94706  
[www.AlbanyCA.org](http://www.AlbanyCA.org)

## Citywide Newsletter

### Summary of Recent City Council Activity

**Strategic Planning.** The City Council held a Strategic Planning Workshop on April 22 to identify goals for the City and developing “an even better story” for Albany. The strategic themes that emerged from the workshop were:

Creating *more park and open space* citywide including shoreline



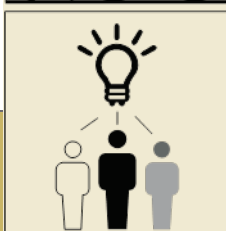
Promoting *vital and accessible commercial areas*



Create a more *walkable, bikeable, climate friendly community*



*Engaging our diverse community* to enhance small town ambience



The City Council will consider adopting these strategic themes on May 20, when it will also review goals and metrics drafted by City staff and give direction regarding next steps.

**Pierce Street Park.** In 2011 the City purchased a 4.5 acre parcel to include a new park on Pierce Street. After a public planning process, the City Council authorized moving forward with a phased approach to the development. In April the Council approved developing a design for Phase 1 of the project including a playground, grading for a field, and accessible pathways.

### Community Media: Watch online!

City Council meetings and other City meetings are televised on KALB Channel 33. Meetings are also streamed on the [City's website](#).

Televised meetings are also archived and available for playback.

### Keep in Touch

Please [sign up for e-notify](#) to receive email updates from the City and/or check the [City's website](#) for the most current information including meeting agendas, events and other programming.

The **Citywide Newsletter** is sent out monthly and intended to provide a summary of recent/upcoming items before the City Council, information about upcoming City events, programs and other community happenings.

## City Department News

### Community Development

- **General Plan Update** the City's General Plan covers land use policy and environmental management within the City. The General Plan is currently being updated, and is intended to identify goals/policy/programs to help define our City for the next 25 years. Get involved by visiting [www.albany2035.org](http://www.albany2035.org) to watch our introductory You Tube video, learn more about the basics of a General Plan, find upcoming public meeting dates, get connected, and voice your thoughts.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission items** the Commission held a study session on the UC Village project on May 8. The Project includes a senior housing development and retail space including a neighborhood shopping area. On May 22, the Commission will review a proposal for a child after school program at the corner of Kains and Washington.
- **Sustainability Committee items** the Committee recently received a presentation regarding "Community Choice Aggregation" in which the City could switch energy service providers in the interest of utilizing a "greener" energy system including renewable energy.

### Police

- **Neighborhood Watch Update** several neighborhood blocks within the City have initiated neighborhood watch programs to help ensure vigilant neighborhoods. The Albany Police Department will come to your neighborhood, provide training on personal safety and home security, answer your questions, communicate with you regularly and help you understand your role in keeping your neighborhood as safe as possible. [Contact us for more information.](#)
- **Disaster Preparedness** learn what to do and how to help your community in the event of a disaster. The City offers a "Community Emergency Response Team" (CERT) training course to help empower residents regarding disaster preparedness. [Visit our website for more information.](#)
- **Tweetcast** the Albany Police Department held a "tweetcast" where they live-tweeted police activity throughout a 10 hour period. 72 tweets were made, and the number of twitter followers grew by over 70.

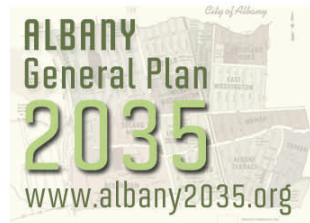
### Recreation & Community Services

- **Recreation guide** time to sign up for summer camps, programs and classes. The [Summer Recreation Guide](#) was recently sent out citywide, and is available on our website. A number of new classes are being offered.
- **@theCenter** join us for this new program series at the Community Center. [@theCenter](#) offers a range of events including live music, movies, demonstrations, lectures and events right here [@theCenter](#). Upcoming events include:

**PechaKucha Night™ 20 x 20**  
Friday, June 28 • 6:45–8:20 pm

**Ants: The Invisible Majority**  
Friday, May 31 • 6:45–8 pm

**Mixology with Jessica Maria from the Hotsy Totsy Club**  
Friday, July 26 • 6:45–8:45 pm



### E-notify

Receive email updates on City projects, events, meetings, things going on around your block, and other items.

[Sign up for e-notify now!](#)



## Save the Date

### Albany Relay For Life

Saturday, May 18-19, 2013 at Cougar Field. To join the event, donate, or get more information visit [Albany Relay for Life](#). The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that helps our community celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.

### APAL Bike Rodeo

Saturday, May 18, 10-1pm at Cornell Elementary School. This is a free event focused on bike safety and confidence. For more information visit: [www.albanypal.net](http://www.albanypal.net)

### Arts & Green Festival

Sunday, May 19, 11-3pm Memorial Park.

The event includes a compost giveaway for residents, informational booths on environmental topics, and new this year, local food trucks! [For more information](#)

### Albany Local Garden Swap

Begins May 28 at 6:30, and is held every Tuesday Night

### Albany Tool Pool

We are now accepting donations of hand tools, gardening tools and working power tools for our community "tool pool". Drop off items at the Albany Senior Center, Sundays between 10 am-1 pm.

### Run Around Town (RAT)

Meets every Sunday at Suzette Crepe Café at 8 am. Short & long routes each week-join up with about 30 runners every Sunday. The RATs have a team of runners running in the Bay to Breakers on May 19.

*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

## Keep in Touch

**We're on Facebook - "like" us to stay connected:**

[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](#)

### Get Connected with your Neighborhood without leaving home!

**Nextdoor** is a neighbor to neighbor online community network that allows you to stay in touch with your immediate neighborhood.

Help build community and join your neighborhood online using [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com).

### Albany Farmer's Market Every Wednesday

Enjoy a weekly community market with a focus on local, organic produce and goods. The market is managed by the Berkeley Ecology Center, and held every Wednesday (April-December) from 3pm-7pm on Solano Avenue between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street.

## Monthly Update

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**540 Cleveland Avenue/Western Forge & Flange.** A City-owned public works facility has been an ongoing goal for the City as our existing facility is leased. The City Council authorized entering into a purchase agreement for 540 Cleveland Avenue as a site for this facility.

**Recreation & Community Services Reorganization.** The Council approved the remodel of the “Senior Center House” located adjacent to the City’s Senior Center. The site will be utilized for a Teen program and expanded programs for seniors. In addition, a second child care program will be developed at Memorial Park.

**UC Village Mixed Use Project.** The Council approved a modification to the mitigation measures associated with the UC Village Mixed Use Project as the result of a legal settlement agreement. The amendment clarifies the requirements for connecting the project with the City’s larger bicycle/pedestrian network and creation of renewable energy as part of the project. The current project including a Senior Housing development and a mixed use retail area including a grocery store is now under review with the City’s Planning & Zoning Commission.

**Homeless Task Force.** The City Council received a second interim update from the City’s Homeless Task Force regarding options for ending homelessness within the City. The City Council authorized the following actions regarding this matter:

1. Suggest Homeless Task Force Members become advocates for the homeless through a community based organization;
2. Direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct outreach and engagement services to people that are homeless. The outreach would be conducted for a period of three months, and funded by City Council discretionary funds in the amount of approximately \$30,000. City staff will report back to the City Council on June 17 with regard to the most competitive proposal;
3. Ask the Police Department to enforce the City’s no camping ordinance as of October 2013; and
4. That the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Manager meet with East Bay Regional Park District and State Parks to begin a process to make the Bulb area a public park.

## Advisory Bodies

**Get involved!** Did you know the City has a number of “Advisory Bodies” regarding City matters?

All meetings are open to the public, and public participation is highly welcomed. Here is a summary of our active Advisory Bodies:

[Arts Committee](#) Advises the City Council on cultural and artistic activities within the City and sponsors arts programs and activities, as well as fundraising events to support these programs.

[Charter Review Committee](#) Advises the City Council on proposed changes to the City Charter.

[Civil Service Board](#) Formulates rules and regulations governing the selection, promotion, reinstatement, reemployment and transfer of those employees in the Classified Service of the City.

[Community Media Access Committee](#) Advise the City Council on matters related to the City’s Cable Television Station KALB

[Library Board](#) Advises the City Council on matters relating to the Albany branch of the Alameda County Library system.

[Parks & Recreation Commission](#) Advises the City Council on all matters of public recreation, public park facilities and public landscaping.

[Planning & Zoning Commission](#) Makes recommendations to the City Council regarding all provisions of the General Plan, advises the City Council regarding the physical development of the City, and exercises functions with respect to land subdivisions, planning, and zoning.

[Social & Economic Justice Commission](#) Research, analyze, discuss and evaluate a broad range of data and opinions on social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of the residents of Albany.

[Sustainability Committee](#) Advise the City Council on policies, programs, and issues promoting environmental sustainability.

[Traffic & Safety Commission](#) Advises the City Council on matters relating to traffic flow, traffic safety, traffic management, and transportation policy.

[Waterfront Committee](#) Advises the City Council on issues related to the preservation and enhancement of the Albany waterfront.

## Helpful Contacts

**Website:** [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org)

**Emergency:** 911

**Fire & EMS:** 528-5770  
[albanyfire@albanyca.org](mailto:albanyfire@albanyca.org)

**Police:** 525-7300  
[albanypolice@albanyca.org](mailto:albanypolice@albanyca.org)

**Public Works:** 524-9543  
[apworks@albanyca.org](mailto:apworks@albanyca.org)

**Community Development:** 528-5760  
[com-dev@albanyca.org](mailto:com-dev@albanyca.org)

**Recreation & Community Services:** 524-9283  
[recinfo@albanyca.org](mailto:recinfo@albanyca.org)

**City Hall:** 528-5710  
[cityhall@albanyca.org](mailto:cityhall@albanyca.org)

**Passport Office:** 528-5720  
**Jobline:** 528-5777