

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: July 21, 2008

Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** “Dinner with Albany” Centennial Celebration, Saturday,  
September 27, 2008

**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

- (1) Approve Solano Avenue Road closure on September 27, 2008 from San Pablo to Stannage from 6:00am-midnight, and from Stannage to Masonic from noon-midnight.
- (2) Designate one or two Council members to serve as liaisons to the Centennial Event planning process

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

On September 27, 2008, as the last official Centennial event, the City is planning a sit down dinner along Solano Avenue and the entire City of Albany is invited. “Dinner with Albany” will provide an opportunity for residents to visit with one another and share a meal with friends and family. To add to the excitement, *The Shots* will perform live with after dinner dancing in the street. The theme for the event is Friends, Family, and Alumni. City staff is working with volunteers to launch an alumni promotion to encourage Albany High School alumni, former teachers, and former city and school district officials to join Albany in celebrating the its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Participants can share a meal with friends and family in a number of ways:

1. Reserve one or more tables with six chairs per table or,
2. Reserve a space and bring your own table(s) and chairs, or
3. Make reservations at one of the participating restaurants that will be offering sidewalk dining.

Participants may bring their own food or purchase food from one of the food vendors. A list of food vendors and participating restaurants will be available on the City website by September 2, 2008, or participants may pick up a list at the Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. Staff is in the process of working with business owners, restaurant owners, the Albany Unified School District, Solano Avenue Association, Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society, and other Albany organizations in an effort to make this a truly community event.

The event opens at 5:30pm and ends at 9:30pm. A dinner bell will be rung at 6:45pm for all to sit down and have dinner together. There will be a short ceremony after all are seated for dinner, followed by live music and dancing.

As a liaison to the planning process, Council members would assist staff in spreading the word about the event and possibly meet with community groups to encourage them to reserve sections of tables. The Council member liaison would also assist in encouraging former Council and School Board members to attend the event.

Staff has met with the Police Chief to work through safety issues and each department has a representative working on the Centennial Committee to ensure that planning for the event is thorough.

Regarding the road closure, the Albany Master Fee Schedule requires an Encroachment Permit for any work or activity that occurs within the public-right-of-way. A specific reference in the Master fee Schedule states that, "*Group permits for special activities in the City r-o-w, (Solano Stroll, etc). Note: Permit requires Council approval.*" The street will be closed to allow more room for food booths, a stage, and tables/chairs for dining. Staff will be posting the area for "No Parking" in advance of the event. Police officials and Fire officials have been notified of the street closure.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The 2008-10 Budget includes up to \$10,000 for the City Centennial and will cover the costs for this event. Since this is a city-sponsored event, staff recommends waiving the \$26.00 Encroachment Permit Fee.