

Meet The Neighbors: “Historic” Businesses

Being Historic Preservation Month, we are showcasing some of the business that have been around the longest in Downtown Albany. Existing for over 50 years makes a building historic, so we're using that as our mark for Downtown “historic” businesses.

Albany Democrat-Herald - 157 years
600 Lyon Street SW - Est. 1865

While the first Albany newspaper, the Oregon Democrat, was published on November 1, 1859, it is the State Rights Democrat, launched on August 1, 1865, to which the Albany Democrat-Herald traces its roots. In 1888, the paper was retitled as the Albany Democrat.

In 1879, a rival Republican newspaper was launched, the Albany Herald. The newspapers battled for market share for nearly half a century until on February 24, 1925, the Albany Democrat took over the Albany Herald. For about six weeks it was called the Albany Democrat & Albany Herald and became the Albany Democrat-Herald, in mid-April 1925.

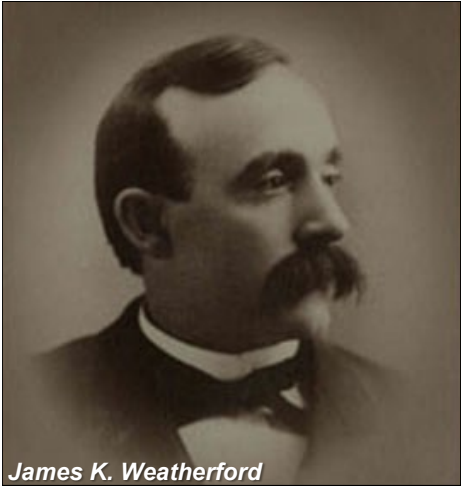
The DH is currently owned by the Iowa-based Lee Enterprises.



Weatherford Thompson - 147 years
130 1st Ave. W - Est. 1875

In July 1874, James K. Weatherford, a Missouri native, started his law practice in Albany. Born in 1848, orphaned in 1862 and reaching Oregon via wagon train in 1864, James graduated from Corvallis College - the precursor to Oregon State University - in 1872.

Today, James' great-great-grandson, Mike Cowgill, and his son, Scott G. Cow-



gill, continue the tradition into the fifth generation. The firm is the state's oldest with continuous family participation.

Fisher Funeral Home - 110 years
306 Washington St. SW - Est. 1912

Established in 1912 as Fisher-Braden Furniture and Undertakers in Downtown Albany, Oregon founders Able & Mary Fisher, E.C. & Hazel Fisher, and



Sam & Ethel Fisher Braden formed a company to satisfy a need in the Albany community.

Through six generations, this longtime Albany family continues to serve the needs of the mid-valley community with caring and compassion. Services include traditional, memorial, and graveside services, prearrangement.

Albany Civic Theater - 71 years
130 1st Ave. W - Est.

Currently in its 71st season, Albany Civic Theater is one of the oldest continuously active theaters in Oregon. It is an all volunteer organization. There are no paid positions.

Organized in 1950 as Albany Little Theater, its first production opened in March 1951. In 1963, Albany Little Theater rented the Rialto Movie Theater for productions in 1963 and 1964. In 1967, Albany Little Theater merged with the Albany Choristers and became Albany Civic Theater. The next year in 1968, Albany Civic Theater purchased the Rialto at 111 First Ave. W., for \$12,000 and remains at this site today.

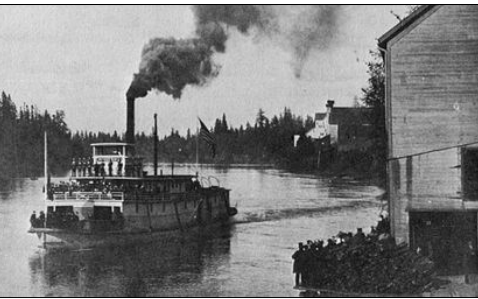
Heath Laundry - 69 years
521 3rd Ave. SW - Est. 1953

Heath Laundry provides commercial laundry services and textile rentals serving healthcare, hospitality, educational, consumer and commercial customers. Heath Laundry offers daily delivery of high-quality laundry, uniforms, linens and textiles.

Sid Stevens Jewelers - 52 years
140 1st Ave. W - Est. 1968

Sid Stevens has been in the jewelry business since 1968 and is the 5th generation of his family to work in the industry. Starting their own jewelry store in 1986, Sid and Susan Stevens pride themselves on the care and detailed attention they give each of their clients.

Sid Stevens Jewelers specialize in custom designed and created jewelry, fine jewelry repair and personalized service.



Historic Preservation Month
From page 1

Self Guided Tours
Check out the Albany Explorer app or pick up a copy of “It Seems Like Old Times” at the Albany Visitors Association or Albany Downtown Association to learn about Albany's rich history on your own schedule.

More Preservation Activities
Check our Downtown Newsletter calendar on this page and the Oscar Hult story on page 4 for more activities.

Want more? Go to the Albany Visitor Association website for even more fun, educational offerings in Albany during National Historic Preservation Month.
www.visitalbany.com



Meters in Downtown Albany



Did you know there once were parking meters in Downtown Albany? Here's a photo of meters in the 1940s near what is now The Pix Theatre.

Each month ParkWise awards a month of free parking to a lease space or employee permit holder.

Our May parking winner is...
Arielle Simmons
Massage Studio

May Events

May - National Historic Preservation Month
Watch for in-person tours, live events, virtual presentations and fun activities all month long. See stories pages 1 and 4.

May - Historic Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt
Stroll the streets of historic Downtown Albany and spot these unique features on Downtown buildings. Sponsored by The Natty Dresser & Albany Downtown Assoc. See article page 4

Saturdays - Albany Farmers' Market
Each week head to the Albany Farmers' Market for fresh local produce, meats, baked goods, seafood, plants, flowers and more. Hours: 9 am-1 pm in the Albany City Hall parking lot (corner of 4th & Ellsworth). www.locallygrown.com

Saturdays - The Monteith House
The Monteith House is said to be the most authentically restored Pioneer Era home in Oregon and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This antiques-filled home built by pioneer brothers in 1849 offers tours & special events. The museum is currently open from 11-3 pm on Saturdays. If you would like to come by another day or time, please contact the museum at info@monteithhouse.org or (541) 220-0421 for an appointment.

Friday, May 6 - Albany Downtown Wine Walk
Sample the best our region has to offer at the Albany Downtown Wine Walk. This popular Albany Rotary Club fundraiser features 20+ wineries at 20+ locations throughout Historic Downtown Albany. The event is from 4-8 pm. Advance tickets will be on sale (cash & check only) at the Albany Visitors Assoc. office, 110 3rd Ave. SE through Thursday, May 5. Watch Facebook for more info on wineries and host locations.

Friday, May 6 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany
Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music and other fun. Watch Facebook for more info.

Sat., May 7 - Kentucky Derby - A Night at The Races
SOLD OUT - Albany Historic Carousel & Museum presents an evening of Kentucky Derby-style fun. For more info and reservations, visit www.albanycarousel.com.

Sun., May 8 - Mother's Day Ride
Celebrate Mother's Day at the carousel where all moms ride free and the first 100 moms get a lovely carnation! 11 am - 4 pm, Historic Carousel & Museum, 503 1st Ave W.

Wed., May 11 - History Bites: Aviation in Albany & the Airport Historic District
This monthly event is hosted by Albany Regional Museum. 12-1 pm. For details, call (541) 967-7122 or visit www.armuseum.com. See article page 1.

Sat., May 14 - Albany Tweed Ride
Don your best tweed cycling attire and join The Natty Dresser for a ride through Albany's Historic Districts. Join the ride at 10 am at The Natty Dresser. For info, see The Natty Dresser Facebook page or call (541) 248-3561. See article page 4

May 14 - Albany Vintage Bicycle Show & Swap Meet 2022
Enjoy more than 75 vintage bicycles from 1 to 5 p.m. at this annual event, sponsored by the Deluxe Brewing Company. Admission is free. Enter your vintage bike or have fun seeing someone else's while you enjoy great beer and cool vendors! To register your bike visit: www.sinisterdeluxe.com. Deluxe Brewing is located at 635 Water Ave. NE.

May 15-31 - Downtown History Hunt
Albany Downtown Association invites families to stroll downtown and peek in store windows on a hunt to find posters with items from days gone by. Learn a little about how things used to be and enter your findings on the entry form. Turn in your form by Tuesday, May 31 for a chance to win a fun prize. Find details at www.albanydowntown.com/events or call (541) 928-2469.

Sunday, May 15 - Downtown Flower Basket Hanging Day.
Join ADA and community volunteers to hang Downtown Albany's beautiful flower baskets. 9 am-12 noon. We need ladders, pick-ups and a mix of strong and tall people. RSVP by Friday, May 13 so we may organize routes. 17 spots. Hosted by the Design Committee. To RSVP, call (541) 928-2469 or message us on FB. See article page 1.

Friday, June 3 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany
Mark your calendar for Albany's monthly 1st Friday celebration in Historic Downtown Albany. Look for sales, fun and music. Watch Facebook for more info.

For info on these and other events, visit AlbanyDowntown.com



ALBANY

DOWNTOWN

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Albany Downtown Association

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(541) 928-2469

Subscription: Email free. Mail \$6/yr.

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Downtown Albany Offers Mother’s Day Gifts, Treats, Dining & Fun

By Erica Reitman, Volunteer

It’s nearly time for Mother’s Day. May 8th will be here before you know it. Have you done your shopping yet? Have you made any fun plans for the family or reserved a fantastic brunch or dinner to celebrate Mom’s day? Downtown Albany is the place to go, our merchants have special gifts and dining ideas for your wonderful mom.

Start the mother’s day gift giving right, with a beautiful gift of flowers from Bill’s Flower Tree. Look at ordering early to have them delivered mid-week for extended Mother’s Day fun.

Boutiques are also offering Mother’s Day gifts for anyone looking to purchase from a small business this year. A lot of Downtown stores will showcase fun gift ideas on May 6th during 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany.

Hult’s Dedication to Historic Preservation Shines in May

When you think of Historic Preservation one Downtown merchant rises to the top, the ever-enthusiastic Oscar Hult.



Quoting from the Albany Downtown Association’s nomination of Oscar for the National Main Street’s 2021 Mary Means Leadership Award:

“Oscar Hult has a vision for the future and is a tireless champion of Downtown Albany. Oscar’s efforts leading friends and neighbors in the revitalization of once-blighted Downtown Albany have made an immeasurable impact over the past 30+ years.”

As Julie Jackson, Republic Services Municipal Manager and former ADA Director, shared in her letter of recommendation for the MML award:

“He is also actively involved in and has great vision for the future of Downtown

Want to take Mom out for a fun night without the little ones? The Wine Walk is on May 6th from 4-6 pm hosted by the Rotary Club of Albany. Another option, the Albany Carousel is hosting The Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 7th.



On Sunday, come Downtown and celebrate with the whole family. Stop by for breakfast or brunch at Brick & Mortar Cafe, Jo Jo Mac’s Restaurant, Loafer’s

Albany. The contributions made by Oscar and his wife, Tamalynne over the last 34 years are immeasurable.”

Oscar continues to share his love of Historic Downtown Albany, frequently hosting tours for visiting groups. Each year Oscar, Tamalynne and their business, The Natty Dresser, host numerous events during National Historic Preservation Month.

The following events are hosted by The Natty Dresser:

- **Historic Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt** - Stroll the streets of historic Downtown Albany and spot these unique features on Downtown buildings. Complete the entry form and drop it at The Natty Dresser. Winner will be drawn from the correct entries. Entry form available online and at The Natty Dresser, ADA and AVA. Sponsored by The Natty Dresser and Albany Downtown Assoc.
- **Historic Downtown Walking Tours** Learn about Albany’s historic architecture & history through this pair of Downtown Walking Tours. The tour starts promptly at 6 PM and will be approximately 1 hour in length. Meet at Burkhart Square (corner of 1st Ave. and Lyons St.). Suggested \$5 donation per person, to benefit the Monteith Historical Society.
 - Tues., May 10 - 1st Ave. Tour
 - Wed., May 11 - 2nd Ave. Tour
- **Albany Tweed Ride** - On Saturday, May 14, don your best tweed cycling

Station or Little Wuesten Cafe.

Moms get a free ride on the Carousel from 11 am to 4 pm. Enjoy family time with a movie at The Pix. Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is showing at 12:30 pm, 3:45 pm and 7 pm.

For unique family fun, make a reservation at Enigma Escape Experience or Splatter Box. Painting at Surefire or games at Citadel Oasis are other fun ideas.

After the fun activities, take mom out for a quick meal or family dinner. These Downtown restaurants and cafes are open on Sunday evenings...Calapooia Brewing Company, Citadel Oasis, Gamberetti’s, The Garage and Taqueria Alonzo.

These recommendations should be enough to get you thinking. You can look at the Albany Downtown Association Facebook page for more ideas.

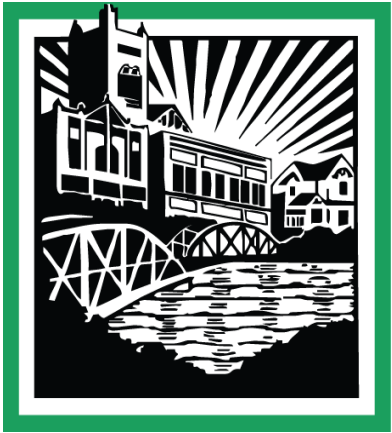
attire and join The Natty Dresser for a ride through Albany’s Historic Districts. Join the ride at 10 am at The Natty Dresser.

- **S.E. Young Building Tour** - On Monday, May 16 join this behind-the-scenes tour of the S.E. Young Building, 124 Broadalbin St. SW, which has been recently renovated and houses The Natty Dresser. There will be three tours (11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm). RSVP request by calling (541) 248-3561. Wear comfortable shoes as there are a LOT of stairs, and meet five minutes prior to the tour at the Broadalbin St. entrance to The Natty Dresser.

Check out one or all of these fun informative activities and you will find Oscar’s love for Downtown is infectious. For more info on these events, see their Facebook page or call (541) 248-3561.



Photo from Albany Regional Museum, Potts Photo Collection.



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

May 2022

May is National Historic Preservation Month

May is National Historic Preservation Month. Here are some of the many events happening in Downtown Albany.

History Bites: Aviation in Albany & the Airport Historic District

Have you ever wondered what a historic district is or why the airport is one? Or have you been curious to learn what makes the airport historic? Visit the Albany Regional Museum on Wednesday, May 11th at noon to find out. This History Bites presentation will be a partnership with Friends of Historic Albany to discuss the people, events, and features of the oldest airport still operating in Oregon. No charge for this event, donations encouraged. Light refreshments available.

Albany Streetcar Hub City History Tour

For many years Albany has been known as Hub City. On Saturday, May 14, join Albany Regional Museum for the Albany



Streetcar Hub City History Tour. The tour will feature the history of how Albany became the Hub City of the Willamette Valley with the arrival of river, rail and highway travel.

Tour guests will hop aboard the Albany Streetcar at the Museum, 136 Lyon St S, for a narrated tour by Bill Maddy, ARM docent and Albany historian.

Albany Alley Opens on 1st Friday, May 6



Photo by Kristi Crawford

Albany Alley returns on Friday, May 6 with music and a new location. This year Albany Alley’s dining area will be located in the alley south of 2nd Avenue next to the Downtown Red Caboose (230 Ellsworth).

In 2022, Albany Alley will be open evenings during 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany on May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, August 5th and September 2nd. Watch for music and special events.

Albany Alley will also be open Saturdays from 9 am and into the evening. It is conveniently located only a block from Albany Farmers’ Market. Visitors and residents are invited to grab a treat or meal at Downtown Albany’s 25+ restaurants, bakeries, coffee cafes and bistros to enjoy under the colorful umbrellas.

Albany Alley is made possible through a Travel Oregon Destination Ready Investment and the help of many community partners. We invite you to learn more at AlbanyDowntown.com/AlbanyAlley.

Tours are at 10 am and 11:30 am. Streetcar seating is limited, and reservations are required. Tickets are \$5 for adults and youth, free to Museum members. To reserve your ticket to board, contact the Museum at (541) 967-7122 by May 7.

Monteith District Walking Tour

Join the Friends of Historic Albany on a walking tour of Monteith Historic District on May 26 starting at 6 pm. The event is free. Donations to FOHA accepted.

For more info, visit the FOHA website, www.friendsofhistoricalalbany.wordpress.com or their Facebook page.

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Volunteers Needed for Hanging Basket Day on Sunday, May 15

Grab a ladder and join the Albany Downtown Association’s Design Committee to hang our beautiful flower baskets on Sunday, May 15.

We’ll start at 9 am and finish around noon. Bring a pickup truck and ladder, if you have them. Don’t forget your hat and sunscreen.

So that we can pre-assign routes, please RSVP by Friday, May 14 at 11 am. Call the ADA at (541) 928-2469 to RSVP or for more information.

