

Meet The Neighbors: Dream Weddings

Spring weather brings fragrant blooms and thoughts of beautiful weddings. Downtown Albany offers everything brides and grooms may need. Many shops are appointment only so you will receive all the attention you deserve.

Chic-ee Chic-ee Bridal Boutique
411 2nd Ave. SW - (541) 928-6909

Tucked upstairs at 1st Hand Seconds, Chic-ee Chic-ee Bridal Boutique carries over 300 floor samples and gently loved dresses in stock! Varying sizes and styles from size 0-32. They invite you to "come find your perfect dress while giving back to our community."

Flinn Block Hall
222 First Ave. W - (541) 791-3900

Are you looking for the perfect venue? Flinn Block Hall is a beautiful historic ballroom with a romantic atmosphere,



Flowers - The Flower Tree
Photo courtesy of Ashley Cook Photography

exposed brick, twinkle lights and large picture windows which give a sense of the seasons and bring the outdoors in for your incredible and unique wedding.

The Flower Tree
305 Washington St. SW - (541) 928-1223

The Flower Tree has been family owned and operated for over 45 years. Tami says, "We're here for all of your bridal party and wedding venue floral needs."

Jordan Jewelers
202 1st Ave. W - (541) 926-1907

Offering designer and custom engagement rings and bridal sets, Jordan Jewelers says, "Let us be your family jeweler! Our one-of-a-kind design experience helps you make a personal statement that mass-produced jewelry cannot."

Kristi Crawford Photography
Downtown Albany - (541) 905-3311

Capturing your life moments from engagements, weddings and families. Kristi states, "I love capturing the day as it unfolds, so that you will be able to look back at your pictures and remember your day as if it's happening all over again."

Merrime Bridal
211 1st Ave. W #101 - (541) 791-7083

An inviting modern bridal boutique, Merrime Bridal offers gowns from exclusive and popular designers for brides of all styles and sizes. Round out the wedding party needs with bridesmaid gowns, mothers dresses, custom jackets, veils, accessories and gifts.



Venue - Flinn Block Hall
Kristi Crawford Photography
Dress - Merrime Bridal

The Natty Dresser
124 Broadalbin St. SW - (541) 248-3561

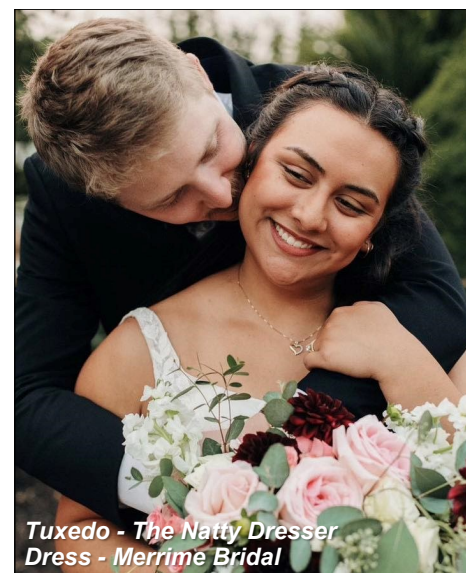
From hats to shoes and everything in between, making you look great on your special day! Tuxedo rentals, custom suits and shirts plus bridal alterations.

Sid Stevens Jewelers
140 1st Ave. W - (541) 967-8140

Looking for an engagement ring? Sid Stevens states, "We offer a variety of options in stock and a full custom shop to design and create the ring you're dreaming of! Your jewelry is the ultimate expression of your style."

Twelve & 5
313 1st Ave. W - (541) 248-3951

Personalize your wedding day with unique vintage and modern rental items from Twelve & 5. Call for a personal showroom appointment.



Tuxedo - The Natty Dresser
Dress - Merrime Bridal



Downtown Seeks 2023 Hanging Basket Sponsors

The Albany Downtown Association Design Committee is currently planning for the 2023 Downtown Flower Basket program.

Keeping the program functioning at the levels we're used to is largely due to our sponsors, who lend their names and financial support to the project. The money we raise will go to placing and caring for the 2023 Downtown Albany flower baskets. Our expenses for this year are estimated at \$19,000. We have three levels of sponsorship starting at \$180 and accept donations of any amount.

To sponsor, donate or to learn more, please visit www.albanydowntown.com/hangingbaskets.



Due to the demolition of the Wells Fargo Bank Building, parking continues to be unavailable in most of the Bank Lot and on the street adjacent to the building.

So far everyone is taking the process in stride. Business owners, employees and residents of Downtown Albany are amazing!

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

Our March parking winner is...

Brian Shell
Orange Sky LLC

Downtown Events - March & April

Friday, March 3 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany
Mark your calendar for the monthly 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany. This month's theme is Pot of Gold. Look for sales on green merchandise, Irish music, treats and a special event at the Carousel. For more info, visit the 1st Friday Facebook page.

Saturday, March 4 - Albany Taps & Caps
The 5th Annual Albany Taps & Caps is scheduled 4-8 pm. A Downtown brewery and tap house crawl, the event is a fundraiser for Furniture Share, helping families in crisis, and Beds for Kids. Information is available at furnitureshare.org, albanydowntown.com and on Facebook.

March 24 - April 9 - Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt
Head to Downtown Albany and search for colorful paper Easter "Eggs" on windows throughout Downtown. See [story this page](#).

April - Family Tree Relief Nursery Diaper Drive
The Diaper Drive is the entire month of April. Diaper donation boxes will be arriving around early April and be available for your donations through the end of the month.

Friday, April 7 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany
Join us for in April for "Spring Fling" and mark your calendar for the monthly 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany. Look for sales, fun, music and a special event at the Carousel. For more info, visit our website or the 1st Friday Facebook page.

April 7-8, 13-16, 20-23, 27-29 - ACT presents Something Rotten!
"Two brothers set out to write the world's first musical in this hilarious mash-up of sixteenth century Shakespeare and twenty-first century Broadway. Set in the 1590s, brothers Nick and Niel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first musical. But amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self, and all that jazz." (Music Theatre International, 2022) Directed by: Christi E. Sears. For tickets, call the Albany Civic Theater box office at (541) 928-4603 or visit www.albanycivic.org.

Saturdays starting Apr 15 - 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

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

Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt Starts Mar 24

The Downtown Easter "Egg" Hunt is a fun activity for the whole family with a little candy for all and a chance to win a Downtown Easter Basket!



Starting Saturday, March 24, head to Downtown Albany and search for colorful Easter "Eggs" on windows throughout Downtown. Before you leave home, print and color your Downtown Easter Hunt entry form. Then stroll the sidewalks and record the eggs you find. Entry forms are also available at our office.

Drop off your entry at the ADA office by Easter Sunday, April 9 (through the door slot) to be entered in a random drawing to win the Downtown Easter baskets featuring gift certificates from Taqueria Alonzo, a movie ticket, a carousel ride and treats! The basket winners will be announced on Easter Monday!

To receive a candy-filled Easter egg, turn in your entry in-person Mon-Fri, May 27-April 7 from 9 am-5 pm ... a few lucky kiddos might even find a Carousel ride token hidden in their egg.



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Downtown Connections: "Let's Get Visual" Workshop

For our first Downtown Connection, the Economic Vitality Committee is excited to bring you **Let's Get Visual**, a workshop with internationally recognized presenter Linda Cahan.

Topic: Let's Get Visual – Learn about visual merchandising and how to enhance your on-street presence!

Date: Monday, March 13 – 5:30-7 pm (doors open at 5:15 pm)

Venue: The Venetian / The Grove Church - 241 1st Ave. W, Albany

Cost: ADA Members – FREE.

Non-members – \$25/business (1-2 people)

RSVP: Call (541) 928-2469 or email director@albanydowntown.com to reserve your space by Friday, March 10 at 5 pm. Payments can be made by phone or at our office.

MEMBER BONUSES!!

- Email us a photo of your business window and you may even see an idea just for you in Linda's presentation. (Photos should be taken straight on, not at an angle.)
- Learn about our upcoming Downtown Window Makeover opportunity!!

Without a large corporation backing them up, independent retailers, restaurateurs, and business owners have to be their own marketing, visual merchandising, advertising and merchandising team. It's a lot and often windows and display end up at the bottom of the to-do list when they belong in the top five.

In an hour and a half, you'll discover how to enhance your on-street presence to attract customers to your shop or business.

You'll learn the do's and don'ts of window presentations with many affordable ideas! Local stores will be featured along with many in the Portland area and parts of Washington.

Learn how Emotional and Sensory merchandising create a memorable bond between your store and your customers starting with our true, base natures and what attracts or repels us.

Which are the best colors to use in your windows and why? You'll never forget how and why yellow works and how red makes people feel - as well as how to use color to influence your customers and create more sales. This is important knowledge for every aspect of your shop and business.

Whether you're an experienced retailer or new to the field, this quick-paced seminar will offer new information, creative ideas and some interesting, cost-effective tips to help your business grow.

About Linda Cahan

Linda Cahan is an internationally recognized expert in visual merchandising, store design and renovations with over 40 years of marketplace experience.

Linda's breadth of experience is in all segments of retail working with hundreds of independent retailers as well as major retail corporations as a visual merchandising and store design consultant. She was featured on MSNBC's show "Your Business" in a show about the importance of window displays as well as interviewed in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and NPR on retail design topics.

Linda taught visual merchandising for twelve years at Parsons School of Design in NYC and at The Art Institute of Portland for eight years. She gives seminars on a wide variety of retail topics nationally and internationally and has been a columnist for Gifts & Decorative Accessories Magazine for 25 years,



Spa Retailer for 11 years, RV Pro for 2 years and has written many columns for other B-to-B retail magazines.

Linda is the author of: "100 Displays Under \$100," "Feng Shui for Retailers" ST Publications and "A Practical Guide to Visual Merchandising" Prentice Hall.

ADA Members & Partners Take Home Five Chamber Awards

In a field of amazing individuals and businesses, Albany Downtown Association sends our congratulations to those recognized at the 2023 Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Awards.

Bill Clotere, who was instrumental in starting the ADA, received the Chamber's 2023 Legacy Award.

Top honors went to Brian Oare, long time member and ADA supporter, receiving the 2023 Distinguished Service Award. His company, Oare & Associates, is a 2022 flower basket sponsor. Brian's work with Rotary on the Craft



Brian Oare

Brew Smackdown, Crab Fest and Hero Banner project have been amazing.

2023 Jim Lindhart First Citizen Michelle Robinson and Junior First Citizen Ashley Lane are both of Furniture Share our partners on Albany Taps & Caps.

Small Business of the Year went to The Natty Dresser. Owners Oscar & Tamalynne Hult are strong members of the community and icons of Downtown.

This year's other award recipients were Distinguished Student of the Year Alexa Gomez Silva, SAHS, and Large Business of the year Stutzman Services.



Oscar & Tamalynne Hult



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

March 2023

Albany to Make Double Application for OMS Revitalization Grant

Albany Downtown Association plans to submit two applications for the OMS Revitalization Grant this year.



The Briggs Building

We had a number of strong candidates and, after site visits and two Grant Selection

Committee meetings, it was narrowed to two projects, The Briggs Building and The Greyhound Tavern. These applicants were given another week to provide design plans, detailed contractor bids and answer extensive questions.

Both proved to be stellar applicants taking our concerns and those of your team in stride. They reworked plans, met with city departments and pressed the same architect to work endless hours. Both brought it to the finish line.

Since selection, they have shown to be incredible partners with fast responses to our questions and requests. The projects are both amazing and accomplish different goals of the Albany Downtown Association, the City of Albany and the community.

The Briggs Building is a historic wooden building in danger of being lost. It is lean-



Greyhound Tavern

ing and needs to be shored up, the electrical redone, sprinklers added, the addition of ADA-compliant amenities and more. It brings full activation of an upper floor, adds two Downtown housing units and a revitalized historic façade.

While the original 1930 Greyhound Bus Depot and Greyhound Tavern burned in the 60's. Both the historic and new building housed multiple popular restaurants and night spots over the years making this location an enduring Albany hub.

Now derelict, it sits empty adjacent to the beautiful Novak's, Margin Coffee and Natural Sprinkles buildings. The project will reactivate the property as a family-friendly destination offering wood-fired pizza and a music venue, matching social media feedback of what's lacking in Downtown Albany.

Both properties are held by women-owned companies and their projects will expand Downtown Albany's family-friendly opportunities and ADA-accessibility to the buildings. Varitone Architecture is designing both projects.

It is unusual for a Main Street community to submit two applications, but we find both urgent and the grants highly needed.

The grant applications will be submitted by March 17th and await award announcements in May.

Goodbye to the Wells Fargo Bank Building



Demolition of the Wells Fargo Bank Building started on February 28. The crew from Laneco started by removing the drive-thru then moved to the west wall. The project is estimated to take five weeks. The sale of the lot has not been announced.