

2023 Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards



On September 18, Albany Downtown Association members, volunteers and community partners gathered at The Grove for a night of fun and recognition.

The Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards honor the people and businesses who are putting their time, money, and/or influence into making our Downtown a more vibrant place to live, work and do business.

Nominations were submitted by ADA members and the public, and the winners were selected by our award committee. Check out our website for additional award event photos, www.albanydowntown.com/news.

Here are the winners with quotes from the nominations:

Business of the Year
Sybaris Bistro

Since opening its doors in 2001, Sybaris has offered an ever-evolving, seasonally inspired menu that showcases the best of Oregon and the Willamette Valley. Beyond

their culinary expertise, Matt and Janel Bennett have made commendable efforts in community service. Together, they have led collaborative fundraisers to support numerous local causes.

During the formidable challenges of COVID-19, they were swift to adapt, setting a benchmark for takeout dining. They generously shared their successful model with other businesses, embodying community spirit.

It's not just locally that they have made their mark. Matt has been invited to the James Beard House in New York City three times, putting Downtown Albany and the flavors of the Northwest on the national culinary map.

Sybaris Bistro was submitted for the OMS Excellence in Revitalization's Business of the Year award and will attend the award ceremony at the OMS Conference on October 4.

New Business of the Year
The Brim Coffee Co.

- Quality of coffee is great! Merchandising - they have a lot of options to choose from. Evidence of growth - already opened a 2nd location. Community spirit - large social media presence, always promoting other businesses and events.
- Flavor of the coffee, they are so nice, kind. Always have nice interaction with servers.
- Customer service, quality of ingredients, house made food and scones.
- The thing I love that they do is they write a positive message on your cup and that helps pick up your day.
- Awesome coffee, customer service and has the heart of downtown Albany.
- Their Christmas window was so fun.



Additional Nominees:

- Reds Boutique
- Stoked 2 Sk8
- Wine Crush

Restaurant Business of the Year
Ba's Vietnamese Comfort Food

- Quality, unusual variety and quantity.
- They have grown so much and faced a lot of hurdles.
- They are a go-to destination now for people in Albany and surrounding areas and bring in a lot of attraction. That has to do with the quality of food they consistently prepare and their social media presence.



Additional Nominees:

- Homegrown Oregon Foods
- Sybaris Bistro
- Sweet Red Bistro
- Wine Crush

Retail Business of the Year
Reds Boutique

- Brandy has not only succeeded in creating an inviting shopping experience but has also breathed new life into a location, overcoming the challenges of rebranding and revitalization.
- This establishment has become a hub for fashion-forward clothing, complemented by their deep involvement in local events and committees.



Volunteer Spotlight: Stephanie Gutierrez Volunteer of the Year

Stephanie Gutierrez set the gold standard for volunteerism, having served in diverse roles, from chairing committees and serving on our board to driving forward multiple groundbreaking initiatives. She transformed our local events, spearheaded successful grant applications totaling \$600,000, and even managed to involve her family in various volunteer activities, making community service a household value.

It's hard to summarize the enormity of Stephanie's impact on Downtown Albany, but what we can say is that her enthusiasm and determination have been nothing short of infectious. She has become a beacon of what one person can achieve with the right amount of passion, hard work and community spirit.

Although she has recently moved out of state and was unable to join us at the 2023 awards ceremony, her impact on Downtown Albany is everlasting. We are not just grateful for her contributions; we are truly inspired by them.

Excerpt from the Excellence in Downtown Albany awards script by Hannah Darling, CopyScripted



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

Our October parking winner is...

Matt Harrington

City of Albany

Downtown Events - October

Saturdays - Albany Farmers' Market

Each week, head to the Albany Farmers' Market for fresh local produce, meats, baked goods, seafood, plants, flowers and more. Kid's POP program weekly. Visit with OSU Extension Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers on 3rd Saturdays. Hours: 9 am-1 pm in the Albany City Hall parking lot (corner of 4th & Ellsworth). www.locallygrown.org.

Friday, Oct. 6 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events or the 1st Friday Facebook page.

Friday, Oct. 6 - Gallery Calapooia: 1st Friday Artist Reception

September's featured artists are Linda Herd and Pat Spark. Their work will be showcased up front at the gallery and in their featured artist window from September 26 to October 28. 6-8 pm. For info visit, gallerycalapooia.com.

Saturday Oct. 7 - Soroptimist Walk for the Cause

The 28th Walk Celebration will start off with a 9 am program at the steps of the Linn County Courthouse, followed by the 5K featuring a new course. Vendor booths will fill the streets in front of City Hall before, during and after the Walk. On-site registration will begin at 8 am. For more information on the Walk, visit sialbany.org/walk.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 - History Bites: Don't Drink the Ginger Ale! Tale of the Vandran Murder

Don't Drink the Ginger Ale! A tale about the murder & mystery surrounding the Vandran family will be presented at the Albany Regional Museum by Bill Maddy, Albany Historian, and Amy Baker, Monteith House Society Vice-president. 12 - 1 pm. History Bites is a free event, to explore the new exhibits is a separate fee. Light refreshments available. For information visit www.armuseum.com.

Sunday, Oct. 15 - Downtown Clean Up

It's time to tame the fall leaves. Grab your gloves and meet the ADA's Design Committee at the ADA office at 9 am to receive assignments. We'll be finished by noon and enjoy some treats. For info contact ADA at (541) 928-2469 or www.albanydowntown.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 18 - 120th Anniversary & Mural Ribbon Cutting

Celebrate the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce's 120th Anniversary, as well as the completion of the Mural! 3:30 pm-5:30 pm This is a free event, light refreshments will be available for those who register. See story page 1.

Oct. 20 - Nov. 4 - ACT presents: She Kills Monsters

Albany Civic Theater presents She Kills Monsters, the story of Agnes Evans, a young woman grieving for her deceased sister. The Evans sisters never were especially close, but after Tilly's death, Agnes receives a notebook containing a game scenario created by her sister. She discovers that Tilly was a well-known Dungeons & Dragons player, and that she was passionate about online fantasy gaming. In order to unlock more secrets about her mysterious young sibling, Agnes recruits a "dungeon master" named Chuck to help her understand and grieve Tilly. Chock-full of supermodel elves, dominatrix warrior women, and nasty ogres, She Kills Monsters is a surprisingly sweet tale of friendship, loss and acceptance. Performances: Oct. 20, 21, 22 (m), 26, 27, 28, 29 (m), Nov. 2, 3, 4. For info and tickets, visit www.albanycivic.org.

Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sir Hugo Page Goes on the Carousel

Sir Hugo Page (#43) will be joining the rest of the menagerie and take his first spin on the Carousel. Albany Historic Carousel & Museum will be throwing him a party and having cake to share with the community starting at 11 am. For info, visit albanycarousel.com.

Saturday, Oct. 28 - Downtown Trick or Treat and Costume Contest

Traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating at business throughout Downtown Albany. 11 am - 1 pm. The costume contest photo booth will be located in the 1st Ave Parklet with online voting. For info, visit ADA's website. See story on page 1.

Friday, Nov. 3 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website www.albanydowntown.com/events or the 1st Friday Facebook page.

Fall Events

- November 2-5 - Downtown Unwrapped & Holiday Open House
- November 7-13 - Veterans' Uniforms on Display
- November 11 - Linn County Veterans Day Parade
- November 25 - Small Business Saturday - Shop Small
- December 3 - Downtown Twice Around Christmas Parade & Community Tree Lighting

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



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Excellence in Downtown Albany Award Winners Named

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Additional Nominees:

- 1st Hand Second Unique Boutique
- The Natty Dresser
- Merrime Bridal LLC
- Stay Awhile Vintage Mercantile

Personal Service Business of the Year

La Belle Boutique

- They are a central fixture in downtown Albany, always contributing to its aesthetic beauty and community spirit.
- Beth and her team actively participate in Downtown events, and she even contributes at the board level.
- The owner has a story of dedication to Downtown that spans over two decades, affirming the deep roots this business has in our community.

Additional Nominees:

- Pure Beauty Aesthetics
- Embrace Kindness
- Onyx Luxury Aesthetics

Professional Service Business of the Year

Varitone Architecture

- Varitone consistently exhibited top-tier quality in their work, enhancing our community's aesthetic and functional aspects.
- Christina and her team are experts in the crucial field of historic restoration and are avid advocates for Downtown revitalization.

- Their enduring commitment to making Downtown Albany a better place for all of us.
- Quality - the work speaks for itself.
- Excellent service. Strives to make our community beautiful, functional and helps with original restoration.

Additional Nominees:

- The Corvallis Contractor
- Farmers Insurance – Sharon Pascone
- Fisher Funeral Home
- Fidelity National Insurance

Entertainment Business of the Year

Albany Pix Theatre

- Community Spirit and Quality - they always seem involved and eager to participate. They bring a great selection of movies and food to Downtown. They are usually highly talked about as the best theater around because of the experience they offer.
- Always a blast and true small-town feel.
- Beautiful establishment, fair prices, delicious food, great choices in movies that work in this community.
- Rod and Denise are the best. They are some of the most respectful and considerate humans we know.
- Albany Pix Theatre continues to engage the community with their impressive showings, the way they market movies (Barbie was brilliant and FUN), their affordable prices and excellent food options. The Pix has become a favorite for so many and continues to surprise and delight.
- Truly Downtown's family friendly hub.
- By redoing their theater seating, it has helped draw more people in.

Additional Nominees:

- Albany Civic Theater
- Albany Historic Carousel & Museum
- Albany Regional Museum



Best Business Organized Event

Albany Downtown Block Party
(Motive Entertainment, LLC)

- The first Downtown Albany Block Party brought 5,000 people downtown to enjoy a free concert, free kids activities, along with food vendors, small vendors, skating, beer and all sorts of fun. It brought the community together to enjoy each other on the beautiful streets of Downtown. The event also donated proceeds to the Albany Downtown Association.
- Last year's block party was a much needed event to help bring local businesses together.
- Their amazing Block Party brought so much attention to our Downtown area and what we have to offer.

Outstanding Building Owner

Linda Kjerulf - 337 1st Ave. W

- Linda was a patron of our salon and saw that it had been up for sale for two years. We are thankful that she bought our salon so that way we could stay in the downtown area. The very first thing she asked us if there was something we would like done to our building. We asked for new flooring and lighting, and she did that right away. In October, we are getting a new roof and air conditioning. Linda has had a tough year. She lost her mom and her husband, but yet, has taken the time to make sure that our building is well taken care of.

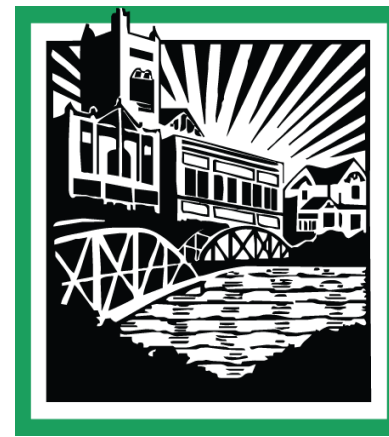
Good Neighbor Award

Margin Coffee Roasters

- Margin hosted a fundraiser for Ba's when they were out sick and closed for an extended time.
- Always promotes and works with other local businesses.
- What an amazing business. This year, they did a campaign to help a fellow Downtown business when things got tough.

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Check out our website for additional award event photos, www.albanydowntown.com/news.



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

October 2023

Downtown Trick Or Treat, Trolley of Terror, Ghosts Tours



Photo by Amanda Pool

It's nearly time for some fun and spooky Halloween activities in Downtown Albany.

Downtown Trick or Treat

Celebrate Halloween in Downtown Albany with this FREE family-friendly event on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 11 am - 1 pm. There is also a costume contest for the whole family. Enter by stopping by the photo station at the 1st Avenue Parklet near Ferry Street. Visit ADA's Facebook page to vote on your favorites.

For more information, visit the ADA website, www.albanydowntown.com, or call (541) 928-2469.

Halloween 1st Friday at the Carousel

Get your costume ready, ghouls and boos, for some scarily good fun for the whole family! For just \$5 per person you get unlimited carousel rides from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. The evening also includes a fun activity or craft for the family, thanks to Party Perfection Oregon, along with gift shop specials and a great deal on a tasty treat at the Carousel Café.

Ghost Walking Tours

Put on your walking shoes and journey through the eerie and mysterious history of Downtown Albany on Ghost Walking Tours which take place on Fri. and Sat., Oct. 13 and 14, beginning at 6, 7, 8 and 9 pm. Purchase tickets at monteithhouse.org or call (541) 220-0421.

Trolley of Terror

Get ready for a hauntingly good time at the Monteith House, where history meets Halloween. Trolley Tours will be held Oct. 20, 21, 27 and 28 and take place at 6, 7, 8 and 9 pm. For tickets visit monteithhouse.org or call (541) 220-0421.

VIP Experience Ghost Hunts

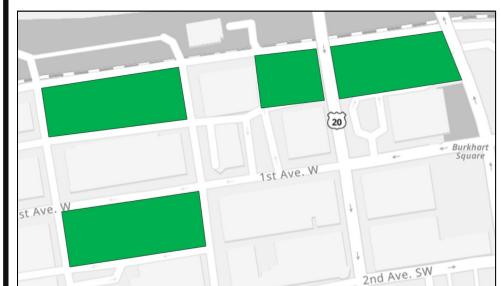
Expect spine-tingling tales and ghostly encounters at the VIP Experience Ghost Hunts on Saturdays, Oct. 21 and 28, from 11:30 pm-1 am. Purchase tickets at monteithhouse.org or call (541) 220-0421.

Water Avenue & Wells Fargo Lots Sold

The three ParkWise employee/customer parking lots on Water Ave. were approved for sale by Albany City Council on September 27. The next agenda item was a presentation by Obie Companies to develop the lots. They shared examples of their many hotel, residential and commercial properties.

The council directed staff to work with Obie to create an option to buy one, two or all three lots. During the option period, there will be stakeholder and public input sessions as well as a parking study.

Obie is the developer and owner/operator of Eugene's 5th Street Public Market,



which includes two hotels, an apartment building and retail/restaurant space.

At the Albany Revitalization Agency (ARA) meeting on October 2, there was only one presentation for the lot formerly occupied by Wells Fargo Bank. Staff stated a second qualifying proposal was withdrawn ahead of the meeting.

The Scott Lepman Company proposal is to construct a multi-use building spanning the south side of the 300 block of 1st Ave W from Broadalbin to Ferry. ARA voted unanimously to sell the entire Wells Fargo property.

The building concept includes commercial space on the first and possibly the second floor and, most likely, condos on the third and fourth floors. The proposal includes covered parking for residents of the Lepman Building and the St. Francis, also owned by Lepman.

For more information, watch meeting videos on the City's [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com).