



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

September 2025

ADA Honors Excellence in Business, Community and Preservation

The Albany Downtown Association celebrated the best of Downtown at our 2025 Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards, recognizing businesses, volunteers and projects that strengthen our Downtown and Albany as a whole. The ceremony, held August 25, highlighted the creativity, resilience and community spirit that continue to define Downtown.

The evening began with a tribute to the late Russell W. Tripp, former Albany mayor and one of the founders of the Downtown Association. In his honor, the ADA introduced the Russell W. Tripp Legacy Award.

The inaugural recipient was longtime volunteer and former Downtown business owner Barbara Doolan, recognized for over 50 years of service to Downtown. Her volunteerism supports ADA, AVA, the Monteith House, and Design Committee projects ranging from hanging flower baskets to seasonal storefront displays.



The Creative Placemaking Award honored the beloved Downtown Flower Baskets, a summer tradition since 1998 that transforms Downtown each year with its bright blooms (see story on page 4). Other nominees included the Gallery Cala-

pooia-sponsored "Tango Moon" dancing bunny sculpture and Albany Pride.

For **Outstanding Promotional Event**, the award went to the Linn County

Turn to Page 2

Antiques in the Streets & Classic Car Show is Sat., Sept 6

By Liberty Preston
West Albany High School Intern

The 2025 Antiques in the Streets and Classic Car Show is set for Saturday,



September 6. The Albany Antique Mall is proud to present this beloved annual event taking place from 8 am-4 pm on 2nd and 3rd Avenues SW and Broadalbin between 1st and 4th Avenues SW.

Visitors alike can enjoy browsing through over 50 vendors from all over the Northwest at this unique sale.

Typically, over 150 cars participate in the Classic Car Show. Local businesses will sponsor more than 35 unique awards, to be presented at 3 pm. All proceeds will benefit the Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund.

Right in the heart of Downtown Albany, the event is within easy walking distance of the Albany Farmers' Market and the

Albany Artisan Faire Market, as well as many wonderful restaurants and eateries.

For more information, contact the Albany Antique Mall at (541) 704-0109 or visit their website at albanyantiquemall.com.



Excellence Awards Recognize Downtown Leaders

From page 1

Oregon Veterans Day Parade, “the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi,” which draws thousands each November. Led by Christine Ferguson and a team of veterans and volunteers, the parade has grown since its post-pandemic revival in 2022, filling downtown with music, military tributes and community pride. Other nominees included the Albany Wine Walk, Albany Tweed Ride and Antiques in the Streets & Classic Car Show.

The **Good Neighbor Award** recognized Sybaris Bistro, owned by Matt and Janel Bennett, for more than 20 years of community giving. Beyond being a destination dining experience, Sybaris has supported dozens of local causes this year alone, from fundraising dinners and blood drives to scholarship programs and clothing drives. Other finalists were Albany Visitors Association, La Belle Boutique, Emma’s Downtown and No Dinx.



The **Open Door Award** went to the Albany Visitors Association, cited for its efforts to make Albany more accessible and inclusive. From installing an automatic door operator and launching a fully accessible website, to offering EnChroma glasses for colorblind visitors and incorporating sign language interpretation into promotional videos, AVA has raised the standard for hospitality.

This year’s **Standout Volunteer Award** was presented to Andon Martin, ADA Design Committee chair and board member. Andon leads projects



ranging from hanging baskets and clean-up days to holiday lighting and office renovations. He also sponsors ADA events through his real estate business, “Home with Andon.” His creativity and enthusiasm have left a visible mark on downtown improvements.

The **Business Renovation of the Year Award** recognized Pono Bowl Co., owned by Kacie and Dylan Harvey, for transforming part of a former auto body shop into a light-filled café.



What began as a mobile food trailer has grown to include this permanent downtown restaurant, offering sidewalk dining and a family-friendly space that quickly became a community favorite.

For Historic Preservation, the **Bricks & Mortar Award** went to Monteith Square, 401 2nd Ave. SW. Once hidden behind mid-century façades and damaged by a roof collapse, the building was restored by Beverly Bartley-Nagamoto, who returned its historic windows and storefront to prominence. It now houses Precision Golf Studio and stands as a symbol of resilience and reinvestment.

The **New Business of the Year Award** was presented to Urban on 1st, a sustainable fashion retailer that recently expanded into vintage home goods. With owner Madison Smith’s creative window displays, outdoor merchandising and active participation in Downtown events, Urban on 1st has quickly become a draw on 1st Avenue. Other finalists included K Teriyaki, Sugarheroes Candy Bar, Peach & Pear and Pono Bowl Co.

The evening closed with the announcement of **Business of the Year**: No Dinx, a creative design and print company operating in Albany for more than 35 years. Co-owners Nina and Corey Barton, along with their daughter Paris, lead a team of 30 employees across multiple divisions. In addition to their colorful storefront and seasonal displays, the company donated more than \$40,000 back into the community last year, supporting local nonprofits, youth programs and downtown events. Other finalists included Grazing Oregon, the Historic Carousel & Museum, Jordan Jewelers and Loafers Station.

ADA thanked all its members, city partners, volunteers and sponsors for supporting the work of revitalization.

Watch our website and social media for more about our winners and additional photos.



ALBANY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Lise Grato
Executive Director
director@albanydowntown.com

Lyndi Orosco
Office Manager
lyndi@albanydowntown.com

AlbanyDowntown.com
Facebook.com/AlbanyDowntownAssociation
Instagram: AlbanyDowntown

Albany Downtown Association
126 Ferry Street SW, Albany, OR 97321
(541) 928-2469


(541) 924-0576

Newsletter subscription: Email free. Mail \$6/yr.

Board of Directors

Kristi Crawford
President - The Squeaky Cork

Andon Martin
Vice President - Keller Williams Realty

Beth Walker
Secretary - La Belle Boutique

Caitlin Prueitt
Treasurer - Calapooia Brewing

Austin LeNoue - The Squeaky Cork
Barbara Doolan - Member At Large
Brigitte de Valois - Brigitte's Place Fine Fabrics
Jena Metting - Merrime Bridal
Matt Wadlington - Civil West Engineering
Sam Pyburn - Jordan Jewelers

Board Liaisons

Sophie Adams - CARA / Economic Dev.
Rebecca Bond - Albany Visitors Association
John Pascone - LEDG
Michael Thomson - Albany City Council
Janet Steele - Albany Area Chamber of Commerce



Volunteer Spotlight Ian Burger

This month we are highlighting Ian Burger, a recent graduate of Santiam Christian and active member of the downtown Albany community. This past April, Ian achieved the rank of Eagle Scout after completing a final project building, mapping and organizing flags Downtown.

The project included the construction of new flags, along with fundraising and coordinating with sponsors. After five years installing flags for holidays with Troop 100, Ian noticed the need for help and got to work starting last November. He constructed 19 new flags to be displayed Downtown along their sponsorship plaques

We thank him for his hard work!

(LP)



The driveway on 1st Avenue is currently the only access to the Bridge Lot (corner of Ellsworth and 1st). An interim driving path has been created so cars can circle within the lot.

~ ~ ~

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

Our September parking winner is...

Tina Ramirez

Studio 401

Downtown Events - Sept / Early Oct

Saturdays, through Nov 15 - Albany Artisan Faire Market

Weekly market features unique, locally crafted goods. 9 am-1 pm at Broadalbin St SW & 4th Ave SW, next to the Albany Farmers' Market.

Saturdays, through Nov 22 - 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). locallygrown.org.

Tues., Sept 2 - Thurs, Oct 30 - Art Exhibit at City Hall

The Albany Arts Commission presents the work of Leesa Bright, Madeline MacGregor, Erin Miller and Nolan Streitberger in the City Hall Gallery. View the exhibit during regular City Hall hours, M-F 8 am-5 pm. Artists reception will be held on 1st Friday, October 3 from 5-6:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.

Friday, Sept 5 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany - Team Spirit

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tastings, treats, music, artist reception, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website albanydowntown.com/events.

Friday, Sept 5 - Gallery Calapooia Exhibit and Reception

This month features the work of Marilyn Lindsley, jewelry, and Pat Spark, fabric arts. The artist reception is on 1st Friday, September 5 from 6-8 pm. Exhibit is August 26-September 27. For more info, call (541) 971-5701 or visit gallerycalapooia.com.

Saturday, Sept 6 - Antiques in the Streets & Classic Car Show

Shop for amazing treasures from over 50 street vendors and at the Albany Antique Mall sidewalk sale. Then, tour over 100+ amazing cars. When you get hungry, have lunch at one of Downtown Albany's fabulous restaurants or go organic and visit the Albany Farmers' Market, all within walking distance! All proceeds benefit the Albany Firefighter Community Assistance Fund. 8 am-4 pm. Presented by Albany Antique Mall. See story Page 1

Saturday, Sept 6 - The Albany Beer "Run"

The Corvallis Lions Club is proud to host the annual .3K Albany Beer "Run" (yup, that's 0.3K). Starting at the Calapooia Brewing, the beer garden opens at 11:00 am, the race starts at noon! Dedicated to the below-average athlete and weekend warrior in all of us, the Albany Beer "Run" features a delicious Calapooia and Deluxe beer before and after and there's even a carb-loading station and other refreshments available. Advance Registration of \$30, covers the event entry, an Albany Beer "Run" commemorative Tee-Shirt (only guaranteed when pre-registered by Aug 22), a medal and an oval sticker for your car and two beer tickets for beer in the beer garden (must be 21 or over of course. Please bring valid ID and cash.) This 0.3K is dog-friendly for friendly dogs on leashes! This year's event benefits PAL—Prevent A Litter Oregon! For more information, visit omroadrace.org.

Wednesday, Sept 10 - History Bites: Sybaris Bistro

Albany Regional Museum presents Matt Bennett, owner of Sybaris Bistro, sharing the history of his restaurant, their move into their new, historic building, the renovations and more! 12-1 pm. Free, but admission to exhibits is fee-based. Light refreshments provided. For more information visit, armuseum.com.

Fri-Sat, Sept 19 - Oct 4 - ACT presents Blithe Spirit

Albany Civic Theater presents Blithe Spirit. A smash comedy hit in London and New York, this much-revived classic from the playwright of Private Lives concerns fussy, cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine, who has remarried but finds himself haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, Elvira. Clever, insistent and well aware of Charles' shortcomings, Elvira is called up by a visiting "happy medium," the eccentric and flighty Madame Arcati. As everyone's personalities clash, Charles' current wife, Ruth, is accidentally killed. She "passes over" and joins Elvira, allowing the two "blithe spirits" to haunt the hapless Charles into perpetuity. Performances: Sept. 19, 20, 21(m), 26, 27, 28(m), Oct. 2, 3 and 4. Eves 7:30 pm, Matinee 2:30 pm. 2025-26 season tickets are also on sale. For tickets and info, visit albanycivic.org.

Friday, Oct 3 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany - Pumpkins & Spice

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tastings, treats, music, artist reception, a special event at the Carousel and other fun. For more info, visit the ADA website albanydowntown.com/events.

Sunday, Oct 5 - Downtown Fall Clean-Up

Join our Design Committee to clean up planters and tree wells from 9 am -12 pm. Bring garden tools if you have some. We are very excited to host the Oregon Main Street Conference Oct 8-10 in Downtown Albany. Please help us make our Downtown shine for all of our visitors from around the state! To volunteer visit tinyurl.com/DowntownVolunteer or call (541) 928-2469.

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

ADA Thanks Downtown Hanging Flower Basket Sponsors!

It's impossible to walk or drive through Downtown Albany without noticing the breathtaking hanging flower baskets. Year after year, they brighten our streets, lift our spirits and leave a lasting impression on both visitors and locals.

The tradition began in 1998 when Julie Jackson, Rebecca Bond, Barbara Doolan and Peggy Udolf held a planting party at Oregon Trader, now Calapooia Brewing, to fill wire baskets lined with moss. Many will remember seeing Connie and Bill Lanham riding the little green John Deere tractor and water tank through downtown as they faithfully cared for the baskets.

Later, a Cub Cadet became the watering vehicle, and the flowers were supplied by Hart's Nursery, Peoria Gardens and Tom's Garden Center.

Today, the iconic pink and white blooms with a touch of purple are grown by

Join the Holiday Fun with Operation Christmas Tree

Operation Christmas Tree, a community project to spread holiday cheer, is on a mission to bring a beautifully decorated tree to Albany this season.

Join the fun by sponsoring a colorful ornament that will hang Downtown throughout the holiday season. Like our popular Mother's Day flower signs, the ornaments are yours to keep.

You can support Operation Christmas Tree by sponsoring an ornament with your family name or business logo displayed on a Downtown light pole. The cost is \$100, or \$120 with a logo.

Business and family sponsorships are also available starting at \$250.

For more info, visit albanydowntown.com/tree or call (541) 928-2469.



Bauman's Farm and Garden, a family farm dating back to 1895. They are planted in self-watering baskets made by EarthPlanter, a family-owned company since 1946. The planters help conserve water and reduce labor, allowing for watering every other day in normal weather and just once daily during the hottest stretches of summer.

Volunteers hang the baskets in May and return in the fall to retire them, while ADA's watering team tends them throughout the summer.

When COVID hit, the budget for the hanging baskets was threatened. We thank our community members who stepped up to contribute to our new Hanging Basket Sponsorship Program then and those who continue to support it today.

From 2021–2025, 13 leading sponsors each contributed more than \$1,000, together providing \$28,530—totaling nearly 80% of the program's total community sponsorship of \$35,570.

These major contributors include Russell Tripp, Reid Realty LLC, Foundry Lofts LLC, Burcham's Metals, The Natty Dresser, Ronald Strong, Laura Hyde, Montgomery Park, No Dinx, Scott Lepman Company, Oare & Associates Realty, AAsum-Dufour Funeral Home and RSM Investments.

In addition, many community members and businesses have supported the baskets with contributions under \$1,000. These sponsors include Albany Chamber of Commerce, Albany Civic



Theater, Catherine Parker, City Delivery, Embrace Kindness Bodywork, Gamberetti's, Jeff Senders, Jessica Pankratz, Jo Anne Maddy, Jordan Jewelers, Kirsten Patterson, Madeline MacGregor, Michelle Mahana, Mike McLain, Nicole Thompson, Peter Troedsson, Phillip Brown, Riley Corrado, Sharon Konopa, Sid Stevens Jewelers, Smith & Company, Ticor Title Albany, TwoOnine, Tyler Aldrich, Visiting Angels and an anonymous donor.

Proceeds from our annual Mother's Day Flower Sign fundraiser and City of Albany contract provide the remainder of the funds needed annually.

To learn more about the program, call our office at (541) 928-2469 or visit albanydowntown.com/hangingbaskets.

Albany Visitors' Color Blind Glasses Giveaway

The Albany Visitors Association is excited to announce its 2025 EnChroma glasses giveaway!

Last year, AVA launched its Albany in Color! EnChroma Glasses Loan Program to promote inclusion and accessibility for individuals with color vision deficiencies by giving visitors the gift of color.

September is National Colorblindness Awareness Month, and EnChroma, creators of glasses that correct color blindness, has once again donated two pairs of glasses to AVA to raise awareness.

Visitors and residents can take advantage of the Albany in Color! loan program by stopping by their office at 122 Ferry St SW, Monday through Friday from 9 am-5 pm.

To learn more and enter the 2025 giveaway, follow the Albany Visitors Association Instagram and Facebook.



Ryan Rotyer, ADA Hanging Basket Volunteer, tries EnChroma glasses