



AMITY GRAPEVINE

May 1, 2023

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Message from Mayor Rachel King

Hello Amity,

It has been a wet and rainy Spring so far. As we welcome the month of May, I expect I'm not the only one looking forward to more sunshine.

This month I have some disappointing news to share. As many of you know, the Amity City Council and Friends of the Amity Library have been working to apply for Community Development Blocks Grant funds, a \$1.5 million dollar grant, to rebuild the public library. The CDBG grant program uses Federal funds distributed through HUD to assist low-income populations in meeting their community facility needs. Unfortunately, we have recently learned that the City of Amity no longer qualifies for the CDBG program. This is due to the percentage of low to moderate income households significantly decreasing over the past 5 years. Amity is no longer eligible to apply because our median household income is too high. Alternate eligibility criteria are being evaluated but the project timeline will need to be adjusted considerably and alternative avenues for funding will need to be explored. I want to acknowledge that the efforts put toward this project, thus far, have not been in vain. I'm encouraged by the amount of community participation and input shared through the recent Library survey and community meetings. I am grateful for the active participation and continued partnership of Friends of the Amity Library. A new library and gathering space remain a priority for the community and work will continue towards reaching this goal.

In more lighthearted news: Many thanks to the City Councilors and City Staff who worked hard to put on the City-wide clean up and Shred day events! Thank you to all who took advantage of this opportunity, especially those who went out of their way to help neighbors and those in need of assistance. We more than doubled the amount of waste and paper materials collected compared to last year. Plans are in the works to streamline and improve the process for even greater success in future events.

I'd also like to thank the Amity Fire District volunteers hosting their annual egg hunt last month! As usual, there was a great turnout of children and families gathered in the park, and more than enough eggs and prizes to go around. This is a fun Amity tradition, and the work and planning involved to offer this fun morning for the kids is appreciated.

May will be an exceptionally busy month for the Amity City Council. Budget season is upon us. In addition to our regularly scheduled Council meeting on May 3rd, Amity's first Budget meeting will be held on May 10th. We also have our Work Session meeting, currently planned for May 17th, and there is a possibility of additional meetings being necessary as we narrow down candidates for hiring a new City Administrator.

As always, these are all public meetings; additional details will be published in advance, and your attendance is encouraged. Please join us if you're able.

Remember, the City Council and I are here to serve and represent you!

Water System Flushing:

The City of Amity Public Works Department has scheduled our periodic flushing of the water system to occur on **May 31, 2023, weather permitting, starting at 8 pm** and continuing throughout the night. This process stirs the settled sediment into the flowing water and not all of it is removed through the hydrants. The sediment that is not removed may enter your private water lines and, therefore, we advise you to run your **COLD water using the outside faucets or bathtubs ONLY on the morning of June 1, 2023** until it runs clear and to exercise caution when washing laundry to avoid color damage.

Amity Info Corner:

Road Maintenance and Repair: Amity needs improvements!

Every year, winter weather takes a toll on our local roadways. As drier weather approaches citizens will see Amity Public works, as well as city contracted asphalt specialists, addressing some of the highest need areas and largest potholes on our residential streets. Due to financial constraints annual repairs are limited by what the City budget allows.

Over time Amity has continued to see a decline in the conditions of many of our streets. In response to community concerns the City Council has set a goal to complete a detailed inventory of current street conditions in 2023. Software is available to undertake this inventory and assessment that will help produce a clear yet flexible game-plan for improvements based on current and potential funding. City Council is currently exploring options to procure such software for Public Work's ongoing use. Taking this step will help prioritize needs and help make data driven decisions for future budgeting and grant seeking purposes. More robust maintenance plans and strategic (not just crisis responsive) repairs are needed. Completing a street inventory is an important step towards longer-term solutions and improving our streets city-wide.

If you have concerns regarding specific streets or would like to file a formal complaint, please do so by filling out the online form available on the City website or by stopping by City Hall.

Trade St. And Nursery St. are not under the jurisdiction of the City of Amity. Otherwise known as Hwy 99 and Hwy 153, issues with these two roadways need to be addressed by the Oregon Department of Transportation. They may be reached at 1-888-ASK-ODOT or online at Oregon.gov/odot/pages/report-hazard.aspx.

Events/Closures

Council Meeting- May 3rd at 7pm

Zoom Info:

Meeting ID: 852 6089 5749

Passcode: 797491

Planning Commission – May 8th at 6:30pm

Budget Committee Meeting - May 10th at 6pm

Council Work Session - May 17th at 5:30pm

City Hall Closed - May 29th in honor of Memorial Day.

Council Meeting - June 7th at 7pm

www.cityofamityoregon.org

Amity City Council:

Sandy McArthur, Melissa Bojorquez, Caleb Shields, April Dyche, Alice Thompson, Denis Saucier and Mayor Rachel King.

Amity Public Library

Summer Reading Program

Find Your Voice!

June 22-August 19

EVERY Thursday, Activity Packets @ APL

Free shows in Amity City Park:

(All on Wednesday at 4:30)

June 28 Nathalia Music

July 19 Alex Zerbe's Zaniac Comedy

August 2 Angel Ocasio Comedy

August 17 Reading Trackers DUE!

Saturday, August 19 at APL Serendipity Ice Cream and PRIZES!