



AMITY GRAPEVINE

March 1, 2022

Volume 16, Issue 3 • Amity, Oregon

Message from Mayor Rachel King

Spring will soon be in the air! As we transition out of winter, here are a few things to keep in mind:

Daylight Savings Time starts March 13th. Longer daylight hours lead to more pedestrian activity as well as more travel within and through our city. Also, our local school district will be on Spring Break during the week of March 21st. Let's all stay diligent in safe driving practices and stay aware of those who may be walking, biking, or otherwise sharing our roadways.

As nature awakens, now is a great time to focus on outdoor cleanup. Pruning, planting, debris and junk removal, or simply tidying of yards helps keep Amity looking its best. Please take time to check your gutters, downspouts, and ditches. If you are able, please reach out to neighbors who may need help with these tasks.

Backyard burning season opens March 1st. As a reminder, you must call the Yamhill Co. Burn number (503) 472-3344 to check if burning is allowed on any given day during the season. More information on this subject can be found at Amityfire.com.

In City Council updates, last month Council accepted the resignations of two members. I would like to sincerely thank Napua Anne Rich and Robert Andrade for their time spent on the Council and their work and representation for the citizens of Amity. The Council also appointed three new members at the February meeting: Melissa Bojorquez, Acie Dunlap, and Denis Saucier. I appreciate these individuals for stepping forward to volunteer their time and for making this commitment for the benefit of Amity. With these new appointments all Amity City Council positions have been filled. (Continued on back...)

Amity Info Corner – Did you know?

Mayor King and the Council want to address some of your questions and concerns from the City Survey.

Street Sweeping: To save money, Amity Public Works coordinated street sweeping with a local contractor. Our contractor sweeps our streets during gaps in their schedule. So, our sweeping is not regularly scheduled. This makes it cheaper for the community, but it does limit the notice we get as to when the streets will be swept, and which streets will be completed. It's a tradeoff and one we accept.

YCSO work in Amity: In 2021 our Deputies responded to 383 calls for service in the community. This included 22 calls that involved multiple deputies responding. Our Deputies also made 25 DUII citations and arrests for 2021, a 200% increase from 2020. They also arrested the individuals who vandalized property around town with graffiti. Our Deputies are doing great work!

Contacting YCSO: Our substation has a direct line at (503) 835-8606, which goes to voicemail. This number does not replace 911 and should not be used in an emergency. The Non-Emergency Line is (503) 434-6500 and if it rings that means YCOM is handling 911 calls. Let it ring and someone will pick up the phone. If you have an emergency, please call 911.

Complaint Process: Many asked and commented about how complaints are handled. YCSO does the most of our Code Enforcement. If you have a Code Enforcement or other complaint, please stop by City Hall to file the complaint form. If you have evidence of the violation (this includes photos, videos, documents, etc.) please provide it. Often without evidence, complaints devolve into "he said, she said," which the City will avoid arbitrating. Additionally, civil matters are not the City's legal responsibility to solve. This includes disputes between neighbors. While we may take your complaint, we will not engage in solving civil matters. Once a code enforcement complaint is filed, such as noise or junk, City Staff will attempt to mitigate the violation directly with the person causing the violation. If it is a more complex problem, then the City may need to seek legal or outside expert assistance, which takes time to get. If a legitimate complaint cannot be easily resolved, then the City may issue a citation. This is done either in person or in writing (a letter in the mail), which may take a few days to complete. Often the person being cited for a violation will be given time to correct the problem. If they choose not to do so, or object to the citation, then the City will take the matter to Municipal Court. Going to court adds more time. The Municipal Court Judge has wide discretion when enforcing our Municipal Code. The Judge may direct immediate action to fix the problem, assess a financial penalty and require corrective action, give the cited individual more time to correct the problem, assess a financial penalty in lieu of any further action, or reject the citation and close the matter. Going through this process may take weeks, if not months, to reach conclusion or resolution. And the final resolution may not be what you – the person filing the complaint – sought when filing the complaint. Yet, this is how the process works!

Mayor's Message (cont.)

If you are interested in getting involved, Amity still needs to fill multiple Budget committee positions! Last year we had no community member volunteers. There are currently 5 vacant seats. Being on the budget committee is a great opportunity to learn more and have a strong voice in the direction and priorities of how City finances are allocated throughout the fiscal year. Please consider applying for a position. Applications may be found online at the City's website or may be picked up at City Hall.

Lastly, I am happy to announce that recordings of all City of Amity's public meetings may now be found online. This will give you, the community, a chance to see what is happening with your city government, at your convenience. The easiest way to access these is by the link posted on our City website: www.cityofamity.org or by searching City of Amity on YouTube.

I wish you a happy and healthy March. Thank you all for your continued and increased community involvement. It is my pleasure to represent and serve such a great community!

Amity DIG News

Celebrate daffodils during the "March of Daffodils" throughout the month of March. There are many ways to enjoy these early signs of spring. Find out about the different daffodil divisions. Drive through the Eola Amity Hills to see the yellow flowers. Check your garden for daffodils to bring to the Daffodil Festival for judging either Friday, March 25th from 2-4 p.m. or on Saturday March 26th at 9 a.m. **The Daffodil Festival will be held at the Amity Community Center on Saturday, March 26th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.** The festival will include a plant sale and garden themed items, a craft project for children, display of daffodil art by elementary school children....and of course, daffodils. Come to the Daffodil Festival as a kick-off to the spring season and get the planting started. See you there.

Budget Committee Members Needed!

The City of Amity currently has three (5) vacancies on the Budget Committee for fiscal year 2021-2022. Each is a 3-year term. To be on the Budget Committee, you must reside within the city limits and be a registered voter. The Budget Committee typically meets one evening each week through the month of May. Being on the Budget Committee is a great opportunity to contribute your ideas on how your tax dollars are spent.

Interested persons may pick up an application at the Amity City Hall or on our website. The deadline for submittal is March 26, 2021.

Events/Closures

Council Meeting – March 2nd at 7pm

Zoom Info:

Meeting ID: 852 6089 5749

Passcode: 797491

Planning Meeting – TBD

Council Work Session – March 17th at 5:30pm

Daffodil Festival – Begins March 26th

Council Meeting – April 6th at 7pm

Vacancies:

We currently have Planning Commission openings. Please contact City Hall for more information or to apply!

www.cityofamityoregon.org

City Hall on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Amity-Oregon-101870254915408/>

City Hall Main Number: 503-835-3711

Amity City Council:

Council President April Dyche, Melissa Bojorquez, Acie Dunlap, Cody Goings, Sandy McArthur, Denis Saucier, and Mayor Rachel King.

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

City Shred Day:

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming first ever Citywide shred Day this year and keep a lookout for the flyers regarding this event. **The shred day will be on Saturday, April 23rd 2022 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Amity City Hall located at 109 Maddox Ave.**

Citywide Cleanup Day:

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Citywide Cleanup Day this year and keep a lookout for the flyers regarding this event. **The cleanup day will be on Saturday, April 30th 2022 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Amity Public Works located at 401 E 3rd Avenue.**