



AMITY GRAPEVINE

January 1, 2023

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State of the City from Mayor Rachel King

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2023, I can confidently say that Amity has once again ended the past year strong, financially stable, and poised to continue to improve.

On City Council, April Dyche spent the last year serving as our Council President. February brought us news of two Councilor resignations. Councilors Andrade and Rich served Amity well during their tenure on Council and I'm thankful for the time they were able to commit to the community. In March, Councilors Bojorquez, Dunlap, and Saucier were sworn in and filled the dais. Operating with a full and engaged Council is paramount to effective leadership and the current Council members have really stepped up and represented the community well.

Along with a new park host, Amity also welcomed a new Municipal Court judge last year. After 20+ years of presiding over Amity's court Judge Cliff Ross moved on to other endeavors and was replaced by Judge Larry Blake. In conjunction with the notable service provided by the Yamhill County Sheriff's office, the addition of Judge Blake has been beneficial in improving code enforcement follow-through as well as additional support in addressing speeding and safety traffic violations within the city.

In October, Amity lost a cornerstone member of staff when Gary Mathis took leave of his position as Public Works Superintendent. With his departure Amity is currently seeking a replacement to fill this position. Although the vacancy is felt within the department and beyond, our Public Works staff is doing a phenomenal job of prioritizing critical tasks, including oversight of our drinking water projects, and is going above and beyond to make sure the community's crucial Public Works needs are met.

I am happy to announce that Amity's water system and infrastructure has come a long way in the past 12 months and will continue to improve moving into 2023.

With a \$600,000 grant from Yamhill County covering half the cost, the city moved forward in partnership with ODOT to remove and relocate our water transmission line off Salt Creek bridge; this allowed for the much-needed bridge replacement project to commence. The new and improved bridge will be completed by the end of the year. Before the bridge is opened to the public, a new, larger water transmission line will be attached to it. This will form an enhanced permanent pipeline for clean water from the treatment site into Amity. While the extended closure of Salt Creek bridge has been frustrating for the community, we must recognize that this work is necessary, temporary, and the finished project will benefit our community in many ways over the long term.

2022 also saw the groundbreaking milestone of our large USDA funded water improvement project. After years of cooperative effort and preparatory work, construction is currently underway. This project will upgrade our water intake and filtration system, replace miles of waterline, and build a water treatment facility that is modernized, efficient, and more reliable. These infrastructure improvements will ensure the supply of clean drinking water to Amity for decades to come!

In the coming year Amity will need to focus attention to our sewer and wastewater needs. Thanks to a newly completed Wastewater Facilities Plan and sewer rate study, this will be accomplished thoughtfully and with data driven, up to date, information.

Street and sidewalk improvements have moved forward near Rice Ln. and Jellison over the past year. The goal is to enhance student and pedestrian safety between our elementary and high school. While happening slowly, these improvements are tangibly taking shape. An additional \$250,000 in funding, through a Small City Allotment grant, was recently secured and will aid in additional progress. Financial constraints make road, crosswalk, and sidewalk repair and upkeep a challenge for our small city. We are committed to pursuing available opportunities for grant funding for this cause and do prioritize and utilize available revenue through street development charges, and from the State to respond to these needs as well.

City Council and the City Staff have worked to expand their community engagement efforts during 2022. With help from Councilor McArthur, our city website has been updated. Staff has also expanded our social media presence. Citizens can now access information through Instagram as well as Facebook, and all City Council meetings are now posted to a YouTube channel. Council held two town hall meetings in 2022 and plans to continue these periodically throughout 2023. As I've mentioned before, it's great to see more and more individuals interested and involved in local government and community happenings.

Over the past year many goals have been met and I'm proud to say that these highlights are just a glimpse of what has been accomplished.

While there will always be work ahead, I will state once again that Amity is doing very well! As a city we continue to meet challenges, improve, and progress. I look forward to a prosperous and productive new year as we move into 2023. ***I am honored to serve such a wonderful community.***

Amity Info Corner

Happy 2023, Amity! As we head into the new year, please complete the City Survey. Mayor King and our Council use your inputs to help steer the community into the upcoming year, so they welcome your feedback! Mayor King also seeks your questions and will provide updates during future Town Halls.

This will be another busy year for Amity. We're excited that the Salt Creek Bridge should open in October 2023 and our water infrastructure project will continue throughout 2023. We expect Canna Bros to open by March and Earth & Wood looks to expand in 2023 with a new maker's space. We've new housing going up along on Nursery, and Amity Public Schools should begin new construction at the high school this year. Finally, we'll likely start our \$2 million ARPA water project along Goucher and up by our reservoir. This means a lot of construction will be happening in town. We request your patience and cooperation as we continue to improve things in Amity. But the improvements will be worth it!

CHRISTMAS DONE BRIGHT WINNERS!

The results of the Christmas Done Bright decorating contest are in! Congratulations to:

- **Best Decorated House – 610 Getchell St.**
- **Best Decorated Yard – 209 Woodson**
- **Mayor's Choice – 206 Trade**
- **Best Decorated Business – West Willow**

Honorable Mentions:

707 Getchell
614 Stanley Ct.
304 Enos
102 Jellison
305 Roth

Best Decorated Block – Getchell Ct.

Thank you to everyone that participated with wonderful displays!

Events/Closures

Council Meeting – January 4th at 7pm

ZOOM info:

Meeting ID: 815 9322 3516

Passcode: 041853

Planning Meeting – January 9th at 6:30pm,

OPEN TOWN HALL MEETING – January 18th at 6pm @ City Hall

City Offices Closed – January 16th for Martin Luther King Jr, Day

City Offices Closed – February 20th for Presidents Day

www.cityofamityoregon.org

Phone # 503.835.3711

Amity City Council:

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

Thank you to Amity DIG, Amity Fire, City Staff, and all the volunteers who made our tree lighting happen on Dec 2nd. Thanks also to City of Willamina for obtaining the Christmas Tree.

Seeking Budget Committee Members

The City is currently seeking members to join the Budget Committee. Get your voice heard in how the City spends your tax money. If you're interested, please contact City Hall (or stop on by) and talk with Tasha Johnson about joining the Budget Committee this year!