



AMITY GRAPEVINE

APRIL 1, 2024

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KING

Hello Amity,

It's hard to believe we're already into the fourth month of 2024. It has been a busy start to the year and things won't be slowing down anytime soon!

Ending last month with the Amity Daffodil Festival, and a car show, along with the annual Egg hunt, really set the tone for exciting and expanding opportunities for community and involvement in our little city. My thanks go to Amity's Downtown Improvement Group (DIG), the Amity Fire District, Amity Parents and Teachers Together (APATT), and all the many volunteers who share their time, talents, and energy to help make events like this successful. As we look ahead to summer, plans are already underway for many more fun and community-oriented happenings locally. Next up will be City-wide clean-up day so make sure to mark your calendars!

On a more serious note, I would like to write about an area of involvement in Amity that is currently struggling and could use your help. The Amity City Council consists of 6 Council seats, along with the mayor's position. For the past 11 months one of those Council seats has been vacant. While business can still be conducted, having a vacant position is detrimental to the Council and to the city as a whole. With every policy, budget, and quasi-judicial decision made the citizens of Amity benefit from robust conversation, differing perspectives, and individual advocacy from each of their elected or appointed Councilors. For almost a year now one of those seats has sat empty at our meetings. Our current City Council is strong, cooperative, and motivated BUT I know that filling this vacancy and operating with all positions filled is in the best interest of Amity. We are in a similar position currently with Amity's Planning Commission. Only three of five Planning Commission positions are filled as of now.

I am not blind to the fact that there are barriers that can interfere with people's ability to step into these roles. Time constraints, scheduling conflicts, lack of childcare, the list goes on... That said, I want to put it out there that volunteering for a position in local government is not exclusive and is something that most citizens can do. The most basic requirements are that you must be 18 years or older and a registered voter. For Council positions you must reside inside the city limits of Amity. The minimum time commitment is devoting approximately 5 hours/month to preparation and attending twice monthly evening meetings. The Planning Commission meets monthly as needed, which is currently less than 12 meetings per year.

People with all levels of experience are welcome to apply. Handbooks, training, and mentorship are readily available!

Applications for City Council, Planning Commission, and City Committees can be found on the City of Amity website www.cityofamityoregon.org

If you have interest in applying or questions about the positions feel free to contact City Hall or reach out to me directly at rking@ci.amity.or.us

Amity needs diverse representation from all walks of life. Volunteering is rewarding and a great way to give back to the community while making a positive difference now and for the future. Thank you for reading and for considering this important need.

Happy April Amity, I look forward to hearing from you!

AMITY INFO CORNER

- Amity's City Ordinances require basic upkeep and maintenance of property. Noxious weeds, overgrown vegetation and grass, rubbish, and debris can cause issues such as increased fire danger, decreased visibility for motorists, and can invite pests such as mice and rats. Please maintain your property. Doing so not only benefits the appearance of our city but is a matter of safety within our community.
- The City of Amity's new website will be going live on April 1st or 2nd, so check it out when you can. The web address will stay the same at www.cityofamityoregon.org, but will be a new design and layout. Most of the information is the same, but there are a few updated areas as well. In the future, you'll be able to subscribe for newsletters or other types of notifications to stay informed with what's going on in the City of Amity.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Amity Elementary School

April 25th, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Students must turn 5 years of age by September 1, 2024.

We look forward to meeting our future Warriors!

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 13th, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Amity Public Works located at 401 E 3rd Avenue.**

WE NEED YOUR VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

The City of Amity currently has multiple vacancies it needs to fill! If you want to get engaged in how the city works and help influence its decisions here are some opportunities.

Budget Committee Vacancies.

Planning Commission Vacancy.

Amity Day Committee Vacancy.

And...

City Councilor. We have one (1) City Council seat open. If you want to help make decisions for Amity, and are qualified, this may be for you.

Please contact City Hall for more information and to get an application for these volunteer opportunities.

Events/Closures

Council Meeting- April 3rd at 7:00pm

ZOOM Info:

Meeting ID: 852 6089 5749

Passcode: 797491

Amity Day Committee Meeting – April 9th at 6:00pm

City Wide Cleanup: April 13th from 8-11 am @ Amity Public Works

Tourism Committee Meeting – April 16th at 6:30pm

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

Planning Meeting – April 22nd at 6:00pm at Amity Fire Dept

Council Meeting – May 1st at 7:00pm

www.cityofamityoregon.org

Amity City Council:

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

City Hall Main Number: 503-835-3711

Coloring Contest:

In honor of Earth Day, the city is holding a coloring contest. The contest is open to children ages 4-12 with one winner from each grade group (Pre-k – 1st), (2nd-3rd) and (4th-5th). Winners will help save the environment by winning a Hydro Flask water bottle! This contest is open to children with an Amity address only.

Submissions are due by **5 pm on April 12th, 2024**. The winners will be announced on April 18th. Coloring sheets are available at Amity City Hall. You may return coloring sheets to Amity City Hall.