



AMITY GRAPEVINE

January 1, 2020

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MICHAEL CAPE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. There have been many changes in Amity this past year. The City hired a new City Administrator, Michael Thomas, a new City Recorder/Treasurer, Natasha Johnson, a new City Clerk, Amber Lopez, and a new part time Public Works Utility Worker, Frank Tjaden. I'm very happy to have them working for the City.

With all the changes that have been happening in Amity, the City wants to know your thoughts. Enclosed with this month's newsletter you will find our Annual Citizen Survey. This survey helps the Council and City Staff better understand where the community thinks the city may need improvement. Please take a moment to complete the survey as it only takes a few minutes to complete. The Council reviews your responses during its annual goal-setting workshop in February. Your responses will be incorporated into the City's goals for the upcoming year. The survey is available online, too, at our website - www.cityofamityoregon.org. A link will also be posted on the City's Facebook page. The survey may be returned with your water/sewer payment or dropped off separately into the City's drop-box. Your survey results and comments will be anonymous when presented to me, the Council, and Administrator. However, if you would like a response to any of your concerns or comments, you will need to provide your name and contact information.

State of the City 2020: The City, Fire Department, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office and Amity School District will all be hosting a State of the City Event at the Amity Fire Department on January 10, 2020 from 7-9pm. Please come down and hear what has happened within all the different entities this last year. Light refreshments and punch will be provided. Hope to see you all there. Thank you and have a wonderful New Year and New Decade!

UTILITY RATE INCREASE

On September 4, 2019, the Amity City Council approved to increase the Water base rate, effective this month. The Council annually evaluates the ability to maintain financially sustainable water and sewer utility systems and, if deemed necessary, revise the base and usage rates based upon the Portland Consumer Price Index. The current increase will raise the base rate for water by \$5.00 per month. Feel free to see how the rate was calculated at our website – <https://www.cityofamityoregon.org/base-water-rate-calculations>

The City Council never wants to increase rates; however, the City needs to ensure that we can pay the debt obligation requirements, as well as receive adequate revenue to properly operate the water and sewer systems and make necessary improvements when needed. To see why the City is required to make this increase, please read the USDA's Letter of Conditions at our website – <https://www.cityofamityoregon.org/usda-required-water-rates>

Thank you to our DIG Members & Volunteers for their work on the Tree Lighting! Here they are with Santa.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DIG!

Amity Downtown Improvement Group had a productive 2019 and we look forward to activities in 2020. To recap 2019, we reinstated the Daffodil Festival, provided flower baskets along Trade Street, contributed to the summer movie program, facilitated the seasonal banner switching with the city, plated daffodil bulbs with the elementary school children, and had a large, happy crowd at the tree lighting with Santa. We appreciate your participation and hope you will mark your calendars for the 2020 daffodil event on March 14.

This month, First Federal usually sends out the customer ballots for customers to vote for non-profits listed on their ballot. There are several non-profits in Amity listed each year and we hope that you will consider including Amity DIG for one of your votes.

Amity DIG Welcomes New Business

Ayotah Massage and Energy Healing is located within the Trade Street Commons (519 S Trade Street, Suite 105) providing various wellness services focused on energy/spiritual healing, recovery, massage and regenerative therapy. Ayotah is open by appointment only on Fridays thru Mondays and can be reached at 503-985-9417. Website is ayotah.com.

~Submitted by Amity DIG

SEEKING PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

The City is currently seeking a new member to join the Amity Planning Commission! The Commissioner shall be appointed by the City Council for a term of four (4) years. The Planning Commission meets once a month if there is an application to be considered. The Commission shall administer the subdivision and zoning ordinances of the City and may make recommendations to the City Council regarding land use, locations of thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and other public facilities, and regarding any other matter relating to the planning and development of the City.

If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please obtain an application from City Hall or you may print an application by visiting our website.

EVENTS/CLOSURES

City Offices Closed - Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's.

Council Meeting- January 8 at 7pm

State of the City- January 10 at 7pm at the Amity Fire Department.

Planning Meeting- January 13 at 6:30pm

Committee Meetings- January 15 at 5pm

- Ordinance committee
- Parks/streets committee
- Water/sewer committee
- Community engagement committee
- Finance committee

City Offices Closed- Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Council Meeting- February 5 at 7pm

City Offices Closed- Monday, February 17 – President's Day.

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Amity City Council:

Council President Ryan Lehman, Robert Andrade, Jenna Goings, Nickolas Wilkinson and Mayor Michael Cape

We plan to swear-in Sandy McArthur and Napau Ann Rich on January 8th.

UTILITY ONLINE BILL PAY

Many of you may not be aware that you can pay your water/sewer bill online. The City uses Payment Service Network, Inc. (PSN) to process online/phone payments. Please be aware that there are small "convenience" fees associated with paying online or by phone. The fee to pay online by checking account is \$1.00 and to pay with a debit/credit card is 2.75% (\$.50 if a bill is under \$100). First time users must register and have their account number ready.

If you are interested, contact PSN at 1-877-885-7968 or visit their website at www.paymentservicenetwork.com.