



# AMITY GRAPEVINE

January 1, 2021

Volume 15, Issue 1 • Amity, Oregon

## A final message from Mayor Michael Cape

### THANK YOU!

My time as Mayor of Amity has come to an end. There is a great deal number of people that have been along for my journey over the years. Anything the City has accomplished in my time as mayor has included many people who have worked hard and deserve the credit and thanks.

In our Public Works Department, I want to thank Gary Mathis, Richard Howard, Gary Bacon, Chris Pasto, Scott Ruyle and Matt Johnson. There are others, but these are the ones over the years that have worked the hardest and longest hours. From mowing lawns, emptying garbage, repairing broken water lines, operating the water and wastewater treatment plants and a host of other activities that keep our city running.

We owe our Police Services over the years a debt of gratitude and in particular Dan Brown, Mike Helms, James Clarke, Chris Bolek, Sherriff Svenson, Deputy Summers, Deputy Jones, and countless Reserve officers who volunteered their time. In good and bad times alike, when we need police services, someone listed above has responded to help, to protect and to serve the citizens of Amity. Thank you for everything you have sacrificed over the years.

Jennifer Elkins, Jackie Loos, Natasha Johnson, and Amber Lopez do amazing work that I cannot thank enough. They often make me sound and look good with work done behind the scenes. They are the ones that pay the bills for the city, keep us in compliance with state and federal laws, complete much of the work for the grants we have received and make things happen like the movies in the park, pumpkin decorating, and the tree lighting ceremony. Nothing we have done during my tenure would be possible without them.

I have had the pleasure of working with 3 great people who have been our City Administrator: Larry Layton, Justin Hogue and Michael Thomas. The biggest difference in the City of Amity from when I started as Mayor to now is because of these three. The city council wisely recognized the need to have someone lead the day-to-day operations of the city. This has led to the over \$10 million of grants to the city. These grants are vital as to bring state and federal tax dollars that our residents have paid over the years to help keep our city functioning within state and federal regulations and to help make our city a better and more livable place for our residents. I was a better mayor because of their work and dedication. Amity is great hands with Mike, his work ethic and talent.

I am not going to mention everyone, because I simply do not have enough space to thank all the people who have served as City Councilors during my time. There are a few that I do want to thank. Rudy VanSoolan set the example for dedication to Amity. Walter Holmen cared more deeply for Amity than any other councilor that I worked with. Caralyn Miller created so much of the activities that we love and makes Amity, Amity. Max Walker is a friend who I value very much. It takes a great deal of courage to stand up and serve as a City Councilor, to dedicate so much time, with no pay and hardly ever any thanks. For those who have served with me, a heartfelt THANK YOU for doing so.

My family deserve my gratitude. They have put up with countless meetings, constant stress, calls in the middle of the night, conferences and nights of writing or reading reports. They endure the heartache when I am criticized, loose out of family time and must deal with my schedule. Yet through it all, they stand beside me, encourage me and inspire me. Thank you for the love and unending support. To my wife Paddie, daughter Abigail, mother Ann, father Kelly, Aunt Darshini, Uncle Jim and many cousins and family members, thank you!

Lastly, to the citizens of Amity, thank you. For those who entrusted me as the Mayor of Amity, I cannot adequately express my gratitude for your trust. To those who have volunteered to help the city in a variety of capacities to make things better, thank you. And thank you to Josh Clark for serving as the next Mayor of Amity, good luck and may everyone have a great 2021.

### Amity DIG News - A Big Thank You in The New Year

What a year 2020 had been! More involvement in 2021 will enhance our ability to do more....so send us an email at [Amitydig@gmail.com](mailto:Amitydig@gmail.com) if you want to contribute your time to benefit Amity.

While the tree lighting and Santa parade seems like a long time ago, we had a LOT of special assistance this year. So here are the thanks to those who made a special evening on that clear December 4th evening: Amity DIG, Amity Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Auxiliary, City of Amity (including the Public Works staff) for the planning and coordination, goodie bags, festive parade and Christmas tree and banner hanging.

Cash donations from First Federal and Amity Market & Liquor helped defray some of the costs for the goodie bags which included, pinecones, Christmas face masks, daffodil bulbs, reindeer craft project, wood cookie, packet of cocoa and cider, jingle bell, pipe cleaners, activity booklet and candy cane. Brooke Cox decorated and donated the bags for filling. A team of seamstresses sewed the 200 plus child-sized, Christmas-themed face masks including, Barbara Bond, Velma Bottenberg, Paddy Cape, Deb Conrad, Charmaine Cooper, Deb Mae Erickson-Smith, Linda Henry, Anne Jenkins, Juanita Morgan, Lynda Nyseth, Keri Prince, Virginia Privatsky, Debbie Puckett, Taunja Roberts, Linda Romey, Eve Silverman, Alice Wicks, and Annette Williams. Daffodil bulbs were donated by Richard Lancefield. Wood cookies for crafts were donated by Doug Shuivenga and Joyce Gearhardt. High school seniors Ian Bottenberg and Carson Kirk efficiently helped fill the goodie bags. Mary Jackson also assisted in filling the bags and donated the cider packets.

# State of the City

For the last 15+ years, Mayor Cape accomplished this. Since we are in a transition of leadership, I have been asked to address the State of the City as we begin 2021.

The State of the City is **good!** 2020 brought us many twists and turns. We faced the pandemic, economic shutdowns, wildfires that brought us hazardous air, many cancelled social events, distance learning, challenges to our political system, the suspension of traditions such as graduation and holidays, and the elections. But with each new twist 2020 gave us, Amity remained strong, resilient, innovative, compassionate, and we endured as a community.

In 2020, Amity saw a lot of construction. We repaired our damaged park structure this year. Salt Creek Apartments, Sunset Court and Merlot Estates were finally completed as housing developments in Amity, along with many individual new home builds throughout town. The City did \$100,000 in road paving on 3<sup>rd</sup> & Jellison and is filling potholes around town. Finally, we completed the work at our reservoir, improved our water filtration systems, and did a long overdue system flush of our water lines. This year Amity now has more water capacity than any time in the last 4 years! We have more work ahead with the water project, but we will get it done.

Despite the economic mess of 2020, we added two new businesses on Trade St while retaining almost all our businesses – even if in new iterations. Although contentious, we approved the Dollar General, an expansion to Amity Truck & Tractor, and a new 6-unit housing development on Nursery. All of which will bring growth and opportunity to Amity. Even Amity Public Schools expanded in 2020, adding a soon to be completed new shop complex by the football field.

Mentioning the Amity Public Schools, this year working with the Parent Groups, we supported the graduating class with banners along Trade St. We also supported Online Northwest's work to build out highspeed, broadband internet to our schools and soon to the community at large.

Also, you – our community – came through this year. From your business support which earned national level praise and awards, to your support for each other. This community is what truly made Amity a good place to be in 2020!

We also bid farewell to Mayor Cape, in 2020. We wish him and his family well in 2021 and beyond. We also bid farewell to Councilor Jenna Goings. But we welcome Mayor Clark and our new Councilors April Dyche and Rachel King to start this new year.

Finally, I have been your City Administrator for 18 months. I hope I have done a good job for the community and look forward to the new year. Amity was strong in 2020, together, we will get even stronger in 2021!

# Events/Closures

**Council Meeting-** January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

ZOOM Info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260895749?pwd=aitJTGpseDJQcTZ6eFJMqNkwYkdKUT09>

Meeting ID: 852 6089 5749

Passcode: 797491

**City Offices Closed-** Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Meeting-** January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Committee Meetings-** January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

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

**[www.cityofamityoregon.org](http://www.cityofamityoregon.org)**

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

**City Hall Main Number: 503-835-3711**

**Amity City Council:**

Council President Ryan Lehman, Robert Andrade, and Sandy McArthur

We plan to swear-in Mayor (elect) Joshua Clark, and Councilors (elect) Rachel King and April Dyche on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you to Amity DIG, Amity Fire, City Staff, and all the volunteers who made our tree lighting happen on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHRISTMAS DONE BRIGHT WINNERS!**

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

- **Best Decorated House – 1111 Oak St.**
- **Best Decorated Yard – 402 Nursery St.**
- **Mayor's Choice – 205 Stanley**
- **Best Decorated Business – Amity Truck & Tractor**

**Thank you to everyone that participated with wonderful displays!**