



AMITY GRAPEVINE

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MICHAEL CAPE STATE OF THE CITY 2019

Staffing: 2018 wrapped up to be an interesting and challenging year for the City of Amity. One of the major changes the City experienced was deciding to contract with the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) for police services. It was a topic that the Council had been discussing for some time and it was a very difficult decision. After Chief Bolek announced that he would be leaving the City, the Council held several meetings to discuss the matter and listen to citizen comments in order to receive an overall feel for what the community wanted. The Council ultimately decided to retain their local police and advertise for a new chief of police. The City advertised and after two unsuccessful attempts to find a qualified applicant to replace the chief, and knowing that Sergeant James Clark had plans to pursue another job opportunity out of state, the Council found themselves in the position where they had no other feasible options and decided that it would be in the best interest of the City to contract with the YCSO. In addition to losing our two police officers, City Administrator Justin Hogue resigned after being with the City for just under two years. The Council chose to contract with an interim city administrator until the new council members were sworn in and were able to be a part of hiring a permanent City Administrator for Amity, which has begun.

Park Host: The City has welcomed new Park Host Gary Buren, who moved into the park host site in May. The duties of the park host include cleaning and supplying restrooms, emptying trash, keeping the park free of tree limbs, trash, and other debris, mowing park grass as needed, along with general maintenance in the park. He has done a wonderful job on the upkeep of the City Park.

~Continued backside

DAFFODILS RE-APPEAR DURING FESTIVAL

February provides us an indication that spring and the daffodils are not far away. Amity Downtown Improvement Group (DIG) is attempting to bring back a **Daffodil Festival**, not the same as the past but still enjoyable. The Festival, implemented by the School District, was a fabulous event and greatly appreciated by locals and visitors. DIG is hoping that the community is interested in the Festival's reinstatement as it provides a recognizable niche for Amity. **Your involvement is requested.** Please join with others to help with this event by attending a meeting on Friday, February 15th at 11 am at the Trade Street Commons, 516 S Trade Street. This event will be most successful if **you** can provide **your input and assistance.** Plus, involvement is fun because you get to meet other interesting people from our town. If you want to help but cannot attend the meeting, contact Erin at rainflower94@gmail.com.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Economic and Community Development: The City welcomed Amity Bakery and Deli to town in 2018. Amity Truck and Tractor made major building improvements. Development on Rice Lane for 16 new homes has started, as well as development of the apartments on Trade Street. Sunset Court continues to be developed, with 6 new homes being constructed.

Street Improvements: One of the major street improvements completed in 2018 was the overlay on Rice Lane and Oak Avenue through the Small City Allotment (SCA) Grant. The total of amount of the project was just under \$150,000, with \$100,000 received from ODOT and the remaining amount of \$47,908 was covered through the Street Maintenance Fee collected from the monthly utility bill. The City has also applied for the 2019 SCA Grant and if received, the City plans on improving Jellison Avenue to Rosedell, and a section of 3rd Street from the cul-de-sac to Oak Avenue. The City was also able to fill many of the severe potholes around town and will continue to fill more in 2019.

Leak Detection Study: The City applied for and was awarded a \$20,000 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) loan by Business Oregon/Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA). The loan, which is essentially a grant as it is 100% forgivable, provided the City with funding to conduct a comprehensive leak study. The survey discovered several leaks that the City will need to address to improve the overall water system.

Travel Oregon Grant: The Tourism Committee that was formed last year applied for and was awarded \$20,000 from Travel Oregon. The main objective of the grant is to enhance the Amity area as a tourist destination through "branding". With a good branding and market campaign, we can encourage more tourists, and tourism dollars, to come to our area.

As always, thank you to everyone that completed this year's survey! The Amity Council will be holding a workshop to discuss and assess the results of the survey on **February 9, 2019 at 9 a.m.** and will set the upcoming city goals. Once the goals are set, they will be posted to the city's website. The City has received more than double the amount of surveys usually received, which is fantastic! One thing I have noticed over the past year is that there has been more community involvement, which has been one of the City's goals for years and I look forward to seeing even more community participation.

Here's to a Wonderful 2019!

EVENTS/CLOSURES

Council Meeting- February 6 at 7pm

Council Goal-Setting Workshop-
February 9 at 8:30 am

City Hall Closed- February 18 for
President's Day

Committee Meetings- February 20 at
5pm

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

Council Meeting- March 6 at 7pm

Daffodil Festival- March 16 All Day

www.cityofamityoregon.org

Amity City Council:

Council President Max Walker, Rudy van Soolen, Robert Andrade, Joshua Simonson, Caralyn Miller, Ryan Lehman, and Mayor Michael Cape.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

The City of Amity currently has five (5) vacancies on the Budget Committee for fiscal year 2019-2020. 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 22, 2018.