



AMITY GRAPEVINE

May 1, 2021

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Message from Mayor Ryan Lehman

Welcome to May! May is typically a busy month for the City, now more than ever. It's budget season and the City still needs to create its plan for this next fiscal year, beginning July 1st. We still need your help with the budget, so if you're interested in joining the budget committee, please contact City Hall. The budget this year will be tight, as cities across the country see both increasing costs and declining revenue as a result of the pandemic. Amity is no different, but our last few years of good financial management have given us a bit of a monetary cushion to get through until things recover.

Council Vacancy

The City of Amity is seeking a person to fill position #2 on the Amity City Council. To qualify, you must have lived within the city limits for at least one year and you must be a registered voter. Position #2 term will expire December 2022. If you are interested in serving your community, please apply at City Hall. An application may be downloaded at www.cityofamityoregon.org.

Planning Commission Vacancy

Want to make a difference in your community? There is a vacant position on the Amity Planning Commission. To qualify, you must be a registered voter, preferably also a resident living inside City Limits. If you are interested, please obtain an application from City Hall or online at www.cityofamityoregon.org. The position will remain open until filled.

Amity Info Corner

Did you know that property owners within Amity are required to maintain certain public spaces within the City? Take sidewalks. Ordinance #622 directs that property owners are responsible for maintaining the public sidewalk on their property! Private property owners are responsible for keeping their sidewalks clear of snow, ice, leaves, and all other obstructions that may be a hazard to a pedestrian. Nor may a property owner obstruct a sidewalk in such a manner that it prohibits a pedestrian's use of the sidewalk. Finally, Ordinance #622 states the City has the right to direct a property owner to repair the sidewalk in on their property if it falls into a state of disrepair.

However, the City recognizes that many of our sidewalks are already in "a state of disrepair." Our City Council has been seeking funding to repair sidewalks around town, instead of passing those costs along to the property owner. This is a long and slow process, as sidewalks are incredibly expensive! State and Federal laws require all new sidewalks be built to a set of exacting engineering standards to include incorporating provisions within the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA). While these are necessary requirements to ensure a sidewalk endures and allows access for all, it is expensive. Even repairing sidewalks require these engineering and ADA standards be met. A city block's length of sidewalk may cost Amity tens-of-thousands of dollars to ensure they are built to standards.

We are working to get the grants and funding to fix our sidewalks. But the City cannot make any promises as to how soon we will obtain the needed funding. Until then, we ask that you help preserve the sidewalks we have by ensuring your property's portion is in good repair and clear of snow, ice, leaves and other obstructions. Thank you.

From Amity DIG

Amity Downtown Improvement Group welcomes the newest business, **Words & Pictures Studio/Gallery**, in Trade Street Commons, 516 S. Trade Street Suite 105. Owner Margaret Strother opened the Gallery last month. Margaret is an accomplished artist whose travels have inspired her current exhibit of "30 Years of Landscapes: Imaginary, Borrowed and Remembered" showing now until June 5th. Her scenes are taken from sketches from windows of trains, cloud storms in Santa Fe, middle east scenes and more from her life's exposure and appreciation of light and color. Margaret said "I am a West Coast gal who came back" in reference to her living and working in New York City and Israel in art related employment. In addition to her own art, the gallery is also featuring work by Rockwell Kent, illustrator, painter, print-maker, writer and adventurer. Kent is known for being the illustrator of the book Moby Dick. Kent's artwork, consisting of words and illustrations, featured in the Gallery are from the first edition pages of Kent's book "N by E" describing the perilous voyage from New York Harbor to Greenland through cold and rising seas.

Words & Pictures is open on **Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** and also by appointment. For an appointment, other than the regular hours, contact Margaret via email at margaretstrother@gmail.com.

Submitted by DIG

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRY

Kindergarten Registration is coming up!

**May 6, 2021
3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Amity Elementary School**

Please bring: Proof of age (Birth Certificate), child's immunization records, and proof of home address.

Families should call the school office (503-835-3751) to make an appointment during that time to come into complete paperwork in person, visit classrooms, and meet the teachers. If that date and time does not work, please call the school office to schedule a different time to register.

AMITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Amity public Library now has Wi-Fi hotspots to loan! If you need one, just go to the library and check it out.

Events/Closures

Council Meeting- May 5th at 7pm

Zoom Info:

Meeting ID: 852 6089 5749

Passcode: 797491

Budget Committee Meeting- May 7th at 6pm

Planning Commission - May 10th at 6:30pm

Council Work Session- May 19th at 5pm

City Hall Closed- May 31st in honor of Memorial Day.

Council Meeting- June 2nd at 7pm

www.cityofamityoregon.org

Amity City Council:

Napua Ann Rich, Rachel King, Sandy McArthur, Robert Andrade, April Dyche and Mayor Ryan Lehman.

Water System Flushing

The City of Amity Public Works Department has scheduled our periodic flushing of the water system to occur on **May 11, 2021, weather permitting, starting at 8 pm** and continuing throughout the night. This process stirs the settled sediment into the flowing water and not all of it is removed through the hydrants. The sediment that is not removed may enter your private water lines and, therefore, we advise you to run your **COLD water using the outside faucets or bathtubs ONLY on the morning of May 12, 2021** until it runs clear and to exercise caution when washing laundry to avoid color damage.