



The Bridge

Making community connections



For the first time since 2019, the “Jam” will be back! Music will once again fill the park, inviting community members and visitors to a weekend of good music, delicious food, wares for sale from local vendors, and other fun events. As always, **admission is free!**

In addition to some fantastic music throughout the weekend, long-time favorites will be back including Coins in the Hay, Greased Pole Climb, Kids Games, 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the Crawl Drag and Squirt course, Parade, Springfield Police K9 Unit Demonstration, Horseshoe Tournament, Show-n-Shine, and the always popular magic show, Dr. Delusions Illusions.

Bands performing Saturday and Sunday include Street Doctor, Olem Alves Band, Hip Billy, and Heavy Chevy. A beer garden will be provided by Plank Town/Hilltop Grill.

The festival will kick off when food and craft vendors open their booths at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Be sure to get your spot on Moss Street to watch the parade on Saturday, starting at 11:00 a.m. On Sunday pick a spot in the park at noon to enjoy Dr. Delusions Illusions Magic Show.

There’s something for everyone at the Jam and we hope you will join us in the fun. Please watch social media for a more detailed schedule coming soon.

If you would like to participate in any of the activities or have a couple hours to volunteer, please call City Hall at 541-937-2157.

See also: www.blackberryjamfestival.com.

The Bridge

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LOWELL SCHOOLS: We're on the *Move...*

Dear Lowell and Fall Creek families and community,

The 2021-2022 school year is a wrap! Now we are working to finish up all of our year-end tasks, so that on July 1 we can start preparing for another wonderful year out here in Lowell.

We are busy as usual at all of the schools doing our usual deep cleaning, painting, and making the district ready for our students. However, this year, we are also working on some major projects including installing a new modular at Lundy Elementary, beginning the weight room/classroom project at the Junior/Senior High School, and beginning the parking lot project north of Lundy Elementary. We are relocating our van parking lot to accommodate the new building, building new baseball, softball and little league dugouts with storage, power, and drinking water. Our staff are doing touchup painting, slurry sealing, and patching our asphalt at Lundy and Bridge Charter Academy. They are pressure washing, landscaping, and doing some technology improvements throughout the district. It may appear quiet around here for now, but our projects are starting to ramp up. Our staff have been remarkable and their pride in our buildings is second to none.

The Summer Recreation Program will continue to see record numbers this year as the program continues to blossom. I am very happy with the progression of this program as it is now self-sustaining and becoming a staple of the summer activities and one of the many unique offerings from Lowell School District.

Lowell School District food service program resumed summer operations this year. Breakfast and lunch are available at no charge to anyone 18 years and younger. Meal service operates Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Breakfast is served from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Meals are provided in the Lundy Cafeteria and the Lundy courtyard in the designated dining area. If you have any questions about the summer meal program, please contact 541-937-2105 or visit lowellschoolmeals.org.

The school year ends for the students when the last bell rings. For our staff, the year ends on June 30 and starts back up on July 1. We enjoy having the time over the summer to make our district ready for our students and to create a new and even better environment to learn and grow. Our staff wouldn't have it any other way!

Have a wonderful rest of your summer!

Sincerely,
Johnie Matthews, Superintendent



May Students of the Month

Lydia Plahn (at left) is an 11th grader at Lowell and the daughter of Jake and Dionne Plahn. Lydia plays basketball, volleyball, and softball. Outside of school she likes to read and go hiking. At school her favorite subjects are math and band and she enjoys being involved in student government. Lydia was chosen because she is an amazing student who is already ready to help with any occasion and is always polite with a smile.



Jade Clark is in 7th grade and the daughter of Jillian Clark. Jade likes to eat shaved ice and hang out with her friends. She likes to play softball and learn new songs on the piano. Jade's favorite food is burritos and her favorite school subjects are PE and geography. She was selected because she does well academically and is friendly and a joy to have in class.

Congratulations Lydia and Jade on being selected Students of the Month!

Alumni Spotlight: Glenda and Randy Green

Randy and Glenda Green are both Lowell High School alumni and have been married for 44 years. Glenda graduated in 1976 and Randy in 1977.

Glenda graduated from the University of Oregon in 1988. She was a substitute teacher for four years before beginning her career at Lundy Elementary. She never pursued employment at any other school district! Glenda began at Lundy in 1992 and retired in 2020. She taught kindergarten through fifth grade throughout her career. She has also coached high school or middle school volleyball for 11 years. Glenda is currently the music teacher at Lundy as well as a substitute teacher. According to her, she hasn't done a very good job of fully retiring yet!

Randy started his career with the U.S. Forest Service at the Lowell Ranger District in 1977, a month after graduating from Lowell H.S. He retired in 2016 as the Fire Management Officer, Division Chief, of the Middle Fork Ranger District in Westfir. Randy also served 30 years on an Interagency Management Team fighting forest fires all over the United States. He was a wrestling coach at Lowell for 15 years, two as Coach Dilley's assistant and thirteen years as the middle school wrestling coach. Along with coaching, Randy also served 20 years as a wrestling official with Lane County Wrestling Officials Association.

Randy and Glenda have five children who graduated from Lowell High School and 13 grandchildren that they love to spend time with! Six of these grandkids also attend Lowell School District, with two more beginning soon. These 8 kiddos are fourth generation Lowell School District future graduates! Randy's mother graduated from Lowell HS.

In her free time Glenda likes to make soap, read, play with grandkids, and gather with family. She also volunteers at Lundy Elementary delivering the Roots of Empathy program to first and sixth grades. Last year, she was very appreciative to have received the Lowell Honor Blanket at the high school graduation.

Randy stays busy working around the Dilley property, completing building projects with his brother-in-law, Lee Dilley, and milling lumber with Lee and Jerry Dilley. He also really enjoys watching his grandkids participate in sports. Whenever they get the chance, Randy and Glenda enjoy traveling to New York, Grants Pass, and LaPine to visit their kids' families. They hope to travel more in the future now that they are both retired.



Kaylee Astbury Heads to MedSplash!



Congratulations to **Senior Kaylee Astbury** for being selected to attend MedSplash, Health Sciences Summer Camp on the Lane Community Campus. Participation is a privilege and a commitment, lasting for 10 days, beginning July 18-29. The program is offered to 30 students in Lane County and is part of the Career Technical Education, Lane CTE, Kaylee will graduate in June 2023 and is the daughter of Matthew Astbury, Oakridge.

Football Camp in August

Time to start thinking about football! There will be a kid's camp for all 8th graders and younger on **August 8th through 11th** from 5:00—6:30 p.m. at the Lundy practice field (just behind the softball field on West Main Street).

Cost is \$20 which includes a t-shirt. Contact Coach Todd at 541-521-5612.



City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

Results from April survey on law enforcement. During the month of April, the city held a community survey on citizens' preferences regarding law enforcement services. The City Council reviewed the survey results at their May 17 meeting. You can view the results here, starting on page 83: <https://bit.ly/30nbyKD>

Key results from the survey include:

- ◆ A plurality of respondents (28.13%) wants to keep law enforcement within the city the way it is. This means 40 hours of random patrol for the Oakridge Police Department at an annual cost of about \$45,000.
- ◆ 39% of respondents want to hire either 1 or 2 full-time officers.
- ◆ A plurality of respondents (38.6%) cite burglaries as their top crime concerns within the city.
- ◆ 62.2% of respondents say that they feel safe in the city "a great deal" or "a lot" of the time.
- ◆ 65.85% of respondents said that they are willing to consider some form of property tax or fee increase to pay for expanded law enforcement services.

What are the next steps? The City Council is considering holding town hall meetings on this topic in the fall. The town hall meetings will give the public an opportunity to provide input and learn more about expanding law enforcements services within the city.

Increases for water and sewer utility charges. Water and sewer utility charges will increase 5% beginning July 1. The reason for the rate change is to cover increases in the costs of chemicals to treat water and wastewater, materials to repair water/sewer lines, electricity needed to run the utility plants, and so on.

Programs are available for citizens who need assistance paying their utility bills. The city has an assistance program that can reduce your utility bill by 25% if you meet household income guidelines. The city also participates in the Lane County Low Income Home Water Assistance Program, which can pay a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$1,000 towards your utility bill.

For more information and to determine if you qualify, call City Hall at 541-937-2157 or stop by in person.

Annual water quality report. The annual water quality report for water provided in 2021 is now available on the city website. You can view the report by going to the following link:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/publicworks/page/water-quality-report-water-treated-2021>

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2022-07>

Due to construction at 70 N. Pioneer St., all City Council and committee meetings will take place at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District station, unless otherwise specified.

Parks Committee – July 7 @7:00 pm
Code Committee – July 18 @ 6:00 pm
City Council – July 19 regular meeting @ 7:00 pm

City Council and other committee/commission actions:

Actions from the June 7 City Council meeting:

- Approved a motion to authorize change orders up to \$10,000 for the library/city hall construction project.
- Approved an addendum to the wastewater master plan scope of services.
- Approved a job description for the new, paid Library Director.
- Authorized the purchase of Lane County right-of-way to satisfy one of the conditions of sale for the city’s property located at 205/295 E. Main St.
- Approved a grant agreement of \$20,000 to buy new library books.
- Approved a purchase of 100 new water meters.
- Executive session – City Administrator performance review

The Blackberry Jam Festival Committee met on June 14.

Actions from the June 7 City Council meeting:

- Executive session – City Administrator performance review
- Public hearings on the budget starting July 1, 2022
- Approved an agreement to sell surplus library books with a book reseller
- Approved budget resolutions and water/sewer rates
- Approved a property-line adjustment for city-owned property
- Approved an agreement with the city’s contract accountant
- Approved an agreement for fiber-optic internet
- Approved an agreement for an office copier/scanner

Create a living tribute in Lowell with a beautiful tree at Paul Fisher Park

The Parks and Recreation Committee has launched a “Community Shade Tree Program.” Committee Chairman Hall O’Regan envisioned the shade tree program to bring beauty and shade to the youth of Lowell. In addition to a beautiful tree donated by Hall in memory of his sister to the west of the playground, we now have a grove of five flowering dogwood trees just south of the playground in honor of Warren Weathers (see below). Much more room is available for your personal tribute.

We are asking for community donations to buy shade trees to offer a living and lasting memorial to a loved one or a unique and green gift for any reason. We have selected four species of trees that will in time create a lush and beautiful shade-providing memorial or gift. See pictures of the tree selections at City Hall. For more information or to donate, please call City Hall at 541-937-2157.



FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

Back Yard Burning Season Closed

Just a reminder that the back yard burn season closed June 15th. Outdoor burning of tree trimmings and yard debris is now prohibited. Recreational fires are still permitted as long as the fire is no larger than four square feet, with flames no higher than four feet in height. The fire must be built on bare ground (dirt), and away from combustible surroundings. The material being burned must be clean and dry, producing little to no smoke or embers. There must be a person in attendance at all times while the fire is active. For more information contact the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393 or the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-726-3588.

As the weather gets warmer and drier, all outdoor burning is likely to be prohibited, so stay informed and check the burning regulations often.

Protect Your Home From Wildfire – Use This Prevention Checklist

It looks like summer is here with temperatures rising quickly, so remember to prepare your home and property for the possibility of wildfire. Here is how you can prevent wildfire on or around your property. There are some fairly easy things you can do to help make your home and out buildings safe from wildfire. Review this checklist to help make your home wildfire safe. For more information on wildfire prevention practices, go to the district website or visit our main station in Lowell.

- Is your address clearly visible from the road? If you need an address marker, contact the district for one.
- Is your driveway/roadway clear of obstructions, can a fire engine or other emergency vehicles get to your home? Driveways/roadway surfaces need to be at least 12 feet wide and have at least 13 ½ feet height clearance so the emergency vehicles can get to your home. Curves must be of adequate dimension to allow for emergency vehicle clearance, and there must be room for vehicles to turn around.
- Remove limbs and branches that overhang your roof. Prune lower limbs to a height of 15 feet and thin trees or remove them from within 30 feet of your home.
- Keep your roof and gutters free of debris, leaves, needles, small branches and moss.
- Keep woodpiles, firewood and other combustibles at least 30 feet from your home and out buildings.
- Block off openings under your home, and decks with solid sheeting or fine-mesh wire, 1/8th inch metal screen works best. Screen attic vents and louvers also.
- Use only fire resistive roofing on all buildings. Class A asphalt shingles, metal to tile.
- Develop an escape plan and an emergency action plan. If a wildfire occurs near your home, you should have a plan for evacuation that includes important personal items and escape routes. Build an emergency evacuation kit that you can easily take with you if you are asked to evacuate your property in an emergency.

For more information contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org.

Think Water Safety This Summer

In recent weeks the district has participated in a number of water rescue incidents that included overturned rafters in the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, to boating accidents in our local lakes. We would like to remind everyone to be smart in and around water.

Whether at home or enjoying our local waterways, it is always important to keep safety in mind when in or near water. Drowning can happen at any time of year, but be especially cautious during the summer months when drowning incidents can increase by as much as 89% as compared to the rest of the year.

When the weather turns warm, as it is now, everyone naturally wants to be in or around the water to help stay cool. Hanging out at the pool or the lake on a hot day is a great way to beat the heat. For people between the ages of 5 and 24, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death.

It doesn't have to be that way, though. Most water-related accidents could be avoided by knowing how to stay safe and following a few simple guidelines. Learning how to swim is essential if you plan on being on or near water. Many organizations provide swim instruction to folks of all ages, check to see what classes are available in our area.

WATER SAFETY



July Community Events!

Pine Needlers Windows of Hope Quilt Show

July 16th & 17th

Lowell High School NEW Gym — 65 S. Pioneer Street

Entry is FREE, so we hope you'll attend.

If you'd like to enter your quilts in this fun show, you can find forms at City Hall or all information at www.bbjamquiltshow.wordpress.com.

Raffle Quilt this year is:

Windows of Hope 87 x 98

Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5; Proceeds benefit local causes.



Community Garage Sale Weekend — July 29th through July 31st

The Community Garage Sale will be July 29th-31st. If you are in the Lowell/Fall Creek area and are planning on holding a garage sale that weekend, please provide Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop with your name, address, phone number and dates that your sale will be open. Your address and the dates of the sale will be added to a map (your name and phone number will not be on the map). The maps will be handed out at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop starting July 28th. There is no charge for registering or for the maps. It's free, so let's get rid of all that unwanted stuff in your house!

CDBA Racing Schedule for July

BiMart Summer Clash
July 16th and 17th

Test & Tune on Friday July 15th
Lowell Marina

Races begin at 9am each day

ADMISSION: \$10 Saturday, \$12 Sunday

(\$20 for a weekend pass) Parking \$5 per day

Show your Bi-Mart card and save \$2 on admission.



Lowell Community Preschool Program has Openings for Fall!

Preschool T/W/Th 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$175 per month

Children must be potty trained and age three by September 1, 2022

Pre-Kindergarten T/W/Th 8:00-11:30 a.m. \$200 per month

Children must be potty trained and age four by September 1, 2022

Spots open to all of the local communities from Lowell, Fall Creek, Dexter, Oakridge, and Pleasant Hill to Springfield and Eugene.

Limited spots are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration fee of \$100 and completed enrollment form must be received to have a secured spot for fall.

Check out Lowell.k12.or.us/preschool to find the enrollment form.

First day of school is Tuesday, September 13th.

Contact Jessica Pelroy at 541-953-9200 (text ok) or pelroyj@yahoo.com

The Bridge

Lowell School District #71
65 South Pioneer Street
Lowell, OR 97452

Phone 541 937-8405 Fax 541 937-8709
On the web: www.lowell.k12.or.us

Making community connections

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*The Bridge is a cooperative effort of Lowell School District #71,
City of Lowell and Lowell Rural Fire Protection District.*

Upcoming Meetings and Events: July 2022

- 1—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 5—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
- 7—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
Lowell Parks Committee meeting, Lowell Fire Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 12—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station
- 14—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
- 16—Quilt Show, High School Gym, 10 am—4 pm
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 16-17—Quilt Show, Lowell HS Gym, 10:00 a.m.
Columbia Drag Boat Races, Lowell Marina
- 17—Quilt Show, High School Gym, 10 am– 4 pm
- 18—Lowell Code Committee meeting, Lowell Fire Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- 19—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Fire Hall
- 21—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
- 25—**School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 26—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
- 28—Pilates at the Grange, 6:00-7:15 a.m., 51 East 2nd Street
- 29-31—Community Garage Sale
- 30-31—Blackberry Jam Festival, Rolling Rock Park

Walk 4 Warren a Success!!

Thanks to all who participated and supported the Alzheimer's fundraiser June 21st in honor of Warren Weathers. Over 40 people walked and more than 50 donors contributed in excess of \$5,000 to advance Alzheimer's research.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

