



The Bridge

Making community connections

Lowell Fire District Reminds Everyone to Be “Wildfire Safe”

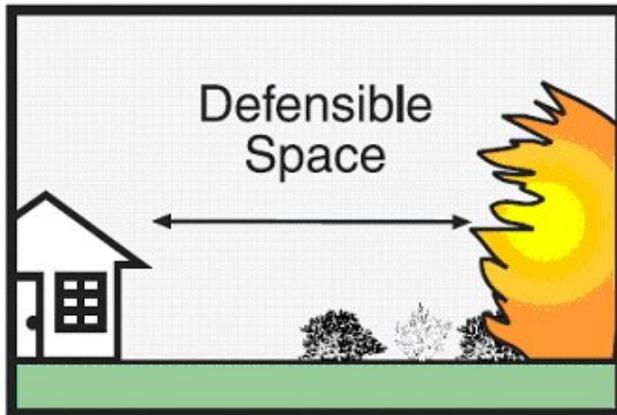
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Volume 25, Issue 2

August 2022

Yes, Fire Season is once again upon us and the Lowell Fire District would like to remind everyone that there are a number of ways property owners and tenants can reduce the likelihood of wildfires. There are also a number of ways to reduce the chance of your home or outbuildings falling victim to a spreading wildfire should one occur.

To help prevent wildfire damage, create a “DEFENSIBLE SPACE” around your home by keeping grass and shrubs cut to a height of less than six inches around your structures. Keep grass and shrubs well irrigated and green to make them less susceptible to fire. Keep combustibles away from structures, keep fir needles and branches clear of roofs and gutters. And remember, outdoor burning is prohibited this time of year due to fire danger.



For more information about preventing wildfires and making your structures wildfire safe, visit the district website or go to www.firewise.org. An additional resource is the Oregon Department of Forestry for property owners living in forestlands. Keep your home wildfire safe.

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

Hello Lowell and Fall Creek families and community~

While everyone is enjoying the lazy days of summer, we are busy preparing for back to school. The Lowell School District is continuing to grow and with that comes additional teachers and classrooms. Lundy Elementary is welcoming six new teachers and a new aide this year. We will also, for the first time, have three grades needing two separate classrooms. We will have two kindergartens, 1st grades and 3rd grades. One of our favorite Lundy family members will also be changing roles and taking on her own class this year. Another change coming to Lundy is the discontinuation of the school supply list. This year, each student will pay a flat \$50 that will include all supplies needed for the year. If you would like to donate towards that fee for a Lundy student, please contact the Lundy office at 541.937.2105. Lundy is also looking forward to brand new modular classrooms for our new students.



Our calendar is undergoing some construction as well. This year will see some changes to our weekly schedule. Fridays will now be half-days. Rather than mid-week half-days, workdays, and staff training days, we will see every Friday being an early release. Of course, we will still have those ever present holidays, conferences, and grading days off, but hope to have a better schedule for our teachers and planning for our families.

Lowell Jr/Sr High School will be welcoming a new principal, along with five new teachers. Registration will now be online, and the link will be live after August 1st. Please check the website at Lowell.k12.or.us after August 1st, to access that link. We are looking forward to some fun activities and learning opportunities at Lowell.

Please take a moment to welcome our new Athletic Director, Mollie Garcia-Cash. While already an important member of our staff, she is an amazing addition to the athletic department. She hit the ground running and is working diligently on making this program even better! To register for a sport, please visit www.familyid.com/lowell-school-district.

We are still looking for van drivers, custodians, bus drivers, educational assistants, and substitutes for these positions as well. If you are interested in applying, please visit <https://lowell.tedk12.com/hire/Index.aspx>.

District Teachers return on August 30. Back-to-School night is Tuesday, September 6 and the first day of school is Wednesday, September 7. We look forward to seeing you all then!

Johnie Matthews
Lowell School District Superintendent

Mountain View Academy Back-to-School Orientation

MVA will hold a back-to-school orientation on Thursday, August 25th. We will begin scheduling one-on-one family-teacher meetings mid-August. To schedule a meeting, please contact the office at 541-735-1709.

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 30th, for Mountain View Academy students.



Honoring Bruce Coldren Saturday, August 12th

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held at Lowell High School, 65 S. Pioneer Street, on Saturday, August 12th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Bruce taught PE and Health, among many other subjects, at Lowell High School from 1977-2008. He was also the athletic director and coached football, basketball, and baseball during his time at Lowell. He had a huge heart and was always a positive force for his students and their families. He touched countless lives as a teacher and coach over his 30+ year career. In 2016, he was inducted into the Lowell School District Hall of Fame.

Donations to a scholarship in Bruce's honor may be made to the Lowell Scholarship Fund, 65 S. Pioneer Street, Lowell OR 97452.



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES & PARENTS

Fall sports are coming soon, and we invite all eligible Lowell High School and in-district homeschool students to join us. In an effort to remove as many obstacles to participation as possible, we will continue to have no sports fees, no try-outs, and no cuts — and registration is easy with FamilyID at www.familyid.com/organizations/lowell-school-district.

Fall season starts on August 15. If you want to get involved in optional, pre-season workouts and events beginning August 1, please contact your coaches for details.

Stay tuned for more information about our junior high sports.

COMMUNITY & SUPPORTERS

You can keep up to date with our programs on social media:

- Football**  Lowell Red Devil Football, Lowell, Oregon
- Volleyball**  Lowell Red Devil Volleyball
- Cross Country**  Lowell Cross Country
-  @red_devil_cross_country

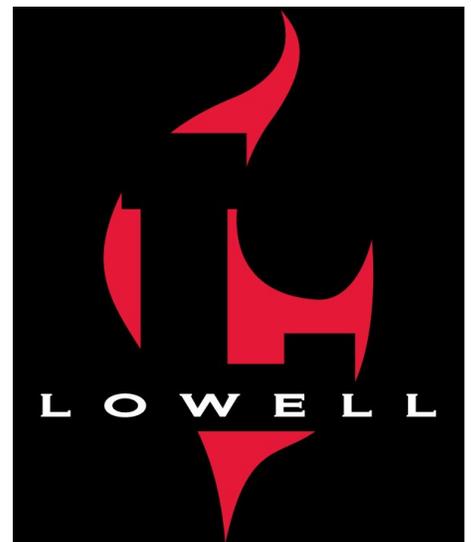
Support our athletes at their fundraising events this month:

Football Kids Camp August 8-11, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Volleyball Kids Camp August 9-11, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Send donations to: Lowell Athletics, 65 S. Pioneer Street, Lowell 97452

And, most importantly, come cheer us on in our beautiful facilities. Schedules can be found at www.lowell.k12.or.us/athletics/ or in The Bridge. **Go Red Devils!**



City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

Welcome to Library Director Peggy O'Kane!

The City is excited to welcome its first ever paid Library Director, Peggy O'Kane. A mother and grandmother, Peggy followed her three children when they decided to make Oregon their home. The older two, Angela and Kristin, live in Eugene. Peter is in the Portland area. Peggy tries unsuccessfully to resist bragging about her grandsons, Jake 13, Conor 11 and Felix 2.

She is a lifelong librarian having started as a volunteer in her local public library in 5th grade. With very few exceptions, she has worked in libraries ever since. For most of the 21st century she has lived and worked in Maine. There was also a brief stint as a librarian in the Kingdom of Tonga as a Peace Corps volunteer.



Peggy is excited to be part of the opening of the Maggie Osgood Library in Lowell. She looks forward to becoming part of the community. Peggy's first day on the job was July 25th.

Notice of 2022 City Council Election and instructions on how to file. Notice is hereby given that on November 8, 2022 an election will be held for the purpose of electing three persons to the Lowell City Council to fill the following positions: Position 1, Position 2, and Position 3. Each candidate for an office listed above must have resided within the Lowell city limits for a minimum of 12 months preceding the election and must be registered to vote in the State of Oregon. Candidates may pick up election packets at City Hall, 103 E. 3rd St., Lowell, OR 97452 during normal business hours or printed off from the website. Please see the "Instructions on running for City Council in November 2022 elections" document on the city website for details on how to file, as well as filing deadlines.

Election information is available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/citycouncil/page/city-council-election-information>

Public notice of second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 307. The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing and second reading of Ordinance 307 at 7:00 pm on August 16th, 2022 at 70 N. Pioneer St., Lowell, OR 97452. Ordinance 307 will ban the sale and manufacture of psilocybin products within the City. Copies of Ordinance 307 are available for public inspection at City Hall, 107 E 3rd St., Lowell, OR 97452. After second reading approval by City Council, Ordinance 307 will be referred to the voters of the City for approval during the November 8, 2022 election. Members of the public may participate in person or electronically through Zoom by PC, tablet, or phone. For instructions on how to join via Zoom, go to the following web address and select the meeting in question: <https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar>. Any written comments concerning Ordinance 307 received by the City prior to the public hearing will be provided to the City Council. Any interested party may submit oral or written comments at the public hearing. Questions concerning Ordinance 307 may be directed to City Administrator, Jeremy Caudle by calling (541) 937-2157, or by email at admin@ci.lowell.or.us.

Utility assistance program. The City Council renewed the “Utility Assistance Program.” Eligible households can receive a 25% discount on their water and sewer bills. To qualify, household income limits cannot exceed the Oregon Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program maximums. Proof of income is required. For more information, and to sign up, contact City Hall in person or by phone at (541) 937-2157.

Note from City of Oakridge Police Chief on firing splat ball guns, paint ball guns, and other pneumatic guns. Shooting someone with a "splat ball gun" could result in a charge of assault or physical harassment. Shooting someone's property could result in a charge of criminal mischief. Discharging weapons on or across highways, ocean shore recreation areas, or public utility facilities is also a violation of state law. There are various crimes and violations that could be enforced if an officer responded to a call of this type, depending on the circumstances.

City Council and other Committee/Commission Actions:

Actions from the June 21 City Council meeting:

- Approved an agreement with ThriftBooks to sell surplus library books.
- Approved water and sewer rates.
- Adopted the city budget starting July 1, 2022.
- Adopted a resolution to adjust the employee pay scale.
- Approved a property-line adjustment for a city-owned property.
- Approved an agreement for accounting consulting services.
- Approved an agreement with Douglas Fast Net for fiber-optic internet.
- Approved an agreement for an office copier.

Actions from the June 28 City Council meeting:

- Approved an agreement for security camera and intrusion detection services.

The Blackberry Jam Festival Committee met on June 28 and July 12.

The Code Committee met on July 18 to review updates to the City’s “development code.”

Actions from the July 19 City Council meeting:

- First reading approval of Ordinance 307.
- Accepted a \$50,000 grant from Lane County to build a conference room at 70 N. Pioneer St.
- Approved a library consulting agreement for \$5,000.
- Voted to renew the “Utility Assistance Program.”
- Selected priorities for the League of Oregon Cities’ 2023 legislative priorities ballot.
- Voted to approve a salary adjustment for the City Administrator based on the results of the annual performance review.

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details are available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2022-08>

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, located at 389 N. Pioneer Street, unless otherwise specified.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

Summer Water Safety Reminder

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.

Here are some Swim Smart Ideas

- ◆ **Alcohol and Water DO NOT MIX.** Anytime you are on or near the water, stay sober. A leading cause of boating accidents is due to alcohol being on board. And I don't mean just on board the boat. Just like driving a car, drinking alcohol and driving a boat can cause disaster as well as land you in jail.
- ◆ **"Buddy up!"** Always swim with a partner, every time — whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake. Even experienced swimmers can become tired or get muscle cramps, which might make it difficult to get out of the water. When people swim together, they can help each other or go for help in case of an emergency.
- ◆ **Get skilled and be prepared.** Learning some life-saving skills, such as CPR and rescue techniques, can help you save a life. A number of organizations offer free classes for both beginning and experienced swimmers and boaters.
- ◆ **Know your limits.** Swimming can be a lot of fun but if you're not a good swimmer or you're just learning to swim, don't go in water that's so deep you can't touch the bottom and don't try to keep up with skilled swimmers. That can be hard, especially when your friends are challenging you — but it's a pretty sure bet they'd rather have you safe and alive.
- ◆ **Swim in safe areas only.** It's a good idea to swim only in places that are supervised by a lifeguard. No one can anticipate changing currents, sudden storms, or hidden underwater dangers. In the event that something does go wrong, lifeguards are trained in rescue techniques. Recognize that swimming in an open body of water (like a river, lake, or ocean) is a lot different than swimming in a pool. You need more energy to handle the currents and other changing conditions in the open water.
- ◆ **Some areas with extremely strong currents are off limits when it comes to swimming.** Do your research so you know where not to swim, and pay attention to any warning signs posted in the area.

Contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or check our website at www.lowellfiredistrict.org for more information on water safety and boater safety.

Interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter?

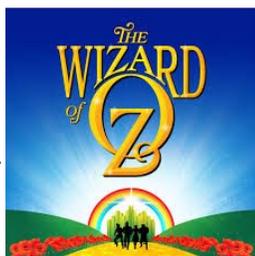
Looking for a way to give back to your community? Contact the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District at 541-937-3393 or stop by for a visit. See how you can help your neighbor and see how the district can help you. Check us out today! Visit www.lowellfiredistrict.org for more information.

In and Around the Community

Calling all Thespians!

The Wizard of Oz is coming to Oakridge! Directed by Kole Topham, we are currently looking for people to act, help with props, backstage, and help with costumes. If you wish to be a part of this magnificent event or have questions, please text or call Mar Topham at 208-965-0202 or email mariatopham1@gmail.com.

If you would just like to see the play, showings are on the 30th and 31st of October with Zero Clearance Theater in Lion Mountain Bakery off Highway 58 in Oakridge. More info. to come.



Ballet Classes to Begin in September

Children ages 5 to 11 are invited to new dance classes being offered at the Lowell Grange, beginning in September. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. for \$40/month.

If you would like to enroll or have questions, please contact Meg at 458-205-1212 or send an email to grician@gmail.com.



Second Annual Chili Cook-off August 20th!

The Lowell Grange will be hosting the second annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, August 20th. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. for setup, then tasting/judging will occur from noon until 1:30 p.m. The winner will be announced at 2:00 p.m.

For just \$5 our guests can try all the great chili entries, eat cornbread, and vote on who is the best! All proceeds go toward Grange Building Restoration projects.



Breakfast at the Grange: First Sundays

A hearty breakfast awaits you at the Lowell Grange! Come and enjoy home cooked eggs, hashbrowns, waffles, pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and beverages.

Breakfast at the Grange is served on the first Sunday of each month from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Donations are gratefully accepted. All proceeds go to the Building Restoration Fund used to make building improvements to the Grange Hall.



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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Lowell, OR 97452

Postal Customer Lowell/Fall Creek

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events: August 2022

- 2—**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.**
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 4—Parks Committee, 7:00 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 5—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 7—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street
- 8-11—HS Football Kids Camp, 5:00 p.m. daily, Lundy practice field
- 9-11—HS Volleyball Kids Camp, 4:30 p.m. daily, HS Gym
- 10—**Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station**
- 16—**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.**
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 20—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 22—**School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 27—Varsity Volleyball v. Weston McEwen, Noon
Varsity Volleyball v. North Douglas, 3:00 p.m.
Varsity Football Lowell Jamboree, Noon
- 26—Senior’s Potluck, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
- 31—Cross Country at Creswell, TBD



The Pine Needlers Quilt Group
would like to thank the
Lowell Community, City of Lowell, and
Lowell School District for their help
during these past 18 years.

This was our last quilt show and it's been
our pleasure to raise funds
for the community, and bring the
art of quilting to the public.

The members.....