



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## Reflecting on Progress: A Year in Review and Our Path for 2024

The Bridge

Volume 26, Issue 7

January 2024

Dear City of Lowell Residents:

As we bid farewell to 2023, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the events that have shaped our city over the past year. Together, we've navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and forged a path towards an even brighter future in 2024.

**Library Triumphs Unveiled.** One of the most exciting events of the year was the grand opening of the Maggie Osgood Library in February. The culmination of years of anticipation since the 2019 snowstorm, this moment marked a triumphant return to a vital community space. We're proud to have Peggy as our city's first-ever paid Library Director. Stay tuned for an exciting line-up of speakers at the library in early 2024.

**Strategic Property Sale.** In 2020, the city acquired 205/295 E. Main St. to facilitate their development for commercial purposes. This spring, the city overcame challenges related to underground storage tanks, and we successfully sold these properties. We used the sale proceeds to retire a loan.

**Development Code Revamp.** Our dedication to a vibrant downtown, as envisioned in the 2019 "Downtown Master Plan," materialized with the approval of a comprehensive development code update in late spring. This overhaul streamlines processes, expands housing options, and ensures a thriving city center.

**Audit Agility Demonstrated.** When faced with the unexpected resignation of our long-term auditor in the spring, our city swiftly found a replacement, maintaining the integrity of our financial statement audit process.

Continued on page 4

### Inside this issue:

#### School News

Mental Health Focus in Education	p. 2
Family Fun Night	p. 2
Red Devil Report	p. 3
LHS Drama Auditions	p. 7

#### City Beat

Year in Review	Cover
Continued on page 4	
Upcoming Meetings	p. 5
Library News:	
New Program Series	p. 5

#### Fire District

Training Update	p. 6
Ready for Winter?	p. 6

#### Other

LEC Scholarship	p. 7
Calendar of Events	p. 8



## Suicide Prevention Focus

The focus in schools is always education and the student. However, we cannot focus on the educational health of our students if we do not also focus on the mental health of our students. For so many reasons, students and families are affected by issues that threaten their mental health. To better support districts in their pursuit to keep students safe, the Oregon Department of Education requires that each school district adopt a Suicide Prevention program as a requirement for Adi's Act. The Lowell School District's Plan is posted on our website at [Lowell.k12.or.us](http://Lowell.k12.or.us).

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, we had staff members attend QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training. Staff worked with a representative of the QPR institute whose mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention training. The signs of crisis are all around us. They believe that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.

Additional staff members are going to attend an ASIST training workshop later this year. ASIST is the world's leading suicide intervention training program. The ASIST workshop (formerly the Suicide Intervention Workshop) is a two-day workshop for individuals who want to feel more comfortable, confident, and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. This training teaches people how to recognize youth who are at potential suicide risk, intervene with, and refer them on to professional counseling. Over 200,000 individuals have participated in this two-day, highly interactive, practical, practice-oriented workshop.

Training, resources, and tools are being utilized so that we can do our very best to support our students. Due to all the measures in place and the supports offered, teenage suicide rates have decreased in the last three years in Oregon.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988, or chat at [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org). The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 and offers compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing thoughts of suicide or self-harm, substance use, or any other kind of behavioral health crisis. You can also dial 988 if you are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

## Holiday Magic: Lundy, BCA and MVA Family Fun Night



Monday's Family Fun Night was a hit with our elementary students and families! The kids enjoyed leading their parent-child teams in selecting which hands-on game they were going to play and negotiating how to play the games. From beanbag toss teams to glow-in-the dark pet rocks/ornaments to swimming in the ball pit, a fun time was had by all! The tasty dinner served by Heather Siebert from Food Services helped to ensure tummies were full as games were played through the dinner hour. And high school volunteers, Cora Green, Sophie Anderson and Emma Cobiskey, jumped in to see that everything ran smoothly from providing tiny tots with the right color of helium balloons to setting up and cleaning up after the party.

And of course, a shout out to our amazing school teams for setting up and running our educational games is well deserved: Katie Buckley and Teresa Carson from Lundy Elementary ran the early learning sensory games; Jasmine Brazill and Mariam Hawkins from Bridge Charter ran the imagination station with pretend and parallel play games; and, Jessica Cardwell from Mountain View directed our team and collaborative play games. Thanks everyone!





## RED DEVIL REPORT

### Lowell Athletics Update



#### JUNIOR HIGH WINTER SPORTS

**Junior High (6-8) Boys Basketball** will have their first practice on Wednesday, January 3 at 3:15 in the Lundy Elementary gym with a parent meeting to follow. Make sure your athlete has a current physical and is registered on ParentVue. A link can be found at [lowell.k12.or.us/athletics](http://lowell.k12.or.us/athletics).

**Junior High Girls Basketball** worked hard on fundamentals this season. Coach Chittim is very proud of the entire team, but particularly wanted to recognize the four 8th graders - Chayden Daniels, Kylie Greer, River Young, and Taylor McAdams - for being encouraging leaders to the younger players. The entire team wants to thank everyone who supported the fundraiser for new uniforms. They were able to buy new jerseys, shorts, warmup shirts, and more. These items will be appreciated and enjoyed for years to come because of the community's generous contributions.

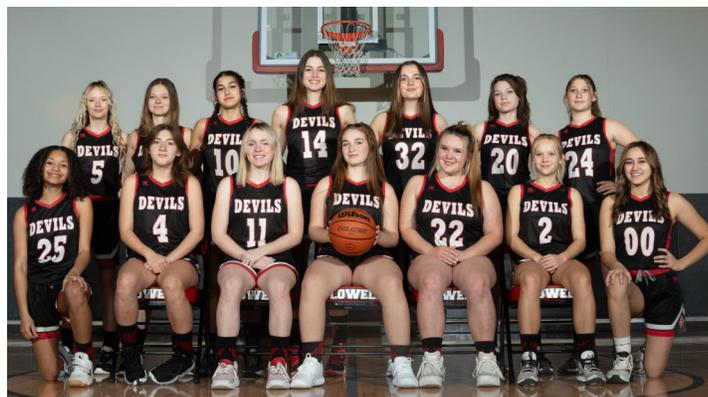
**Junior High Wrestling** will finish their season with their District Tournament on Saturday, January 20 at Lincoln Middle School.

#### HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS



Our **high school boys' basketball** team is led by Kory Roberts and assisted by Mike Neet, and Kole Powell. Athletes (pictured left) include seniors Luis Estrada, Rowan Files, Ryder Greco, Jaden Jalof, Landon Stephens, Alex Stratis, Brody Thurman, and Justus Thurman; junior Bryce Hoffman; sophomores Callum Plahn, Wyatt Smith, and Barrett Straight; and freshmen Colton Crutcher, Carson Ewan, Gage Greco, Zak Hermansen, Wyatt McNamee, and Jax Norcutt.

Our **high school girls' basketball** team is led by Janet McNamee and assisted by Rob Neet and Aly Stephens. Athletes (pictured right) include seniors Elizabeth Able, Kameron Baszler, Dani Evans, and Lilly Neet; juniors Gracie Aldinger, Jada Cantrell, Hazel Garner, and Cheyanne McNamee; sophomores Nevaeh Neet and Marley Plahn; and freshmen Jade Clark, Aubrey Gastelo, Evelyn Rogers, and Aniah Watson.



Our **high school wrestling** team is led by Lincoln Casarez and assisted by Boone Casarez and Kodye Casarez. Athletes (pictured left) include senior Kaili Kirkhart; juniors Camden Alexander, Paul Clark, Harley Hardison, Ryan Pelroy, Zander Rogers, Levi Stewart; sophomores Saul Clark, David Finch, Graycee Flesher, Ayden Medart, Alex Sotomayor, and Josh Walker; and freshmen Jade Clark, Henry Coiner, Adam Davis, Aubrey Gastelo, Wyatt McNamee, Christopher Meador, and Wyatt Pelroy.



## City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

### Continued from Cover:

**Bedrock Fire Challenges.** This summer, the Bedrock Fire posed challenges, but our city's cooperation with firefighting crews showcased our resilience and community spirit.

**Festival Success Continues.** The annual Blackberry Jam Festival continued to shine, building on the success of its comeback in 2022. The festival remains a vibrant celebration of our community.

**Water Investments and Conservation.** In infrastructure, the completion of the water meter replacement program by our Public Works staff, coupled with ongoing leak repairs, resulted in a significant reduction in water loss.

**Water Plant Empowered.** The city's water treatment plant received a much-needed boost with a \$306,420 grant for emergency technology upgrades. This investment ensures the resilience and efficiency of our water infrastructure.

**E. First Street Repairs.** This fall, City Council voted to hold Charter Communications in default of its franchise agreement for not repairing E. 1st Street following last year's water main rupture. A resolution to this issue will take time, but the city remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the timely and proper restoration of E. 1st Street.

**Development Activities.** Our city is witnessing unprecedented growth with the completion of Crestview Estates subdivision and the near-finalization of Sunset Hills subdivision. This progress reflects the city's desirability and its ability to provide quality housing for our residents.

**Addressing Future Water Challenges.** As we look ahead, we're proactively addressing water treatment challenges stemming from the dam drawdown. Our staff are exploring grants to retrofit the water treatment plant, ensuring we are well-prepared for future scenarios.

**Recognizing Promotions.** Finally, we applaud the achievements of our two Utility Operators, Nick and Hunter, who were recently promoted. The promotions were based on their dedication to excellence, cross-training in all areas of public works, and level of certifications in water and wastewater treatment.

As we step into 2024, let's embrace the promise of a new year filled with optimism, progress, and shared accomplishments.

Together, we will make 2024 our city's best year yet.

Wishing you all a joyful and prosperous New Year!

Jeremy Caudle  
City Administrator



**Details of Upcoming Meetings are available here:**

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2024-01>

- City Council — January 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Joint meeting of City Council and Planning Commission — January 3 at 6:00 p.m.
- Parks Committee — January 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- City Council — January 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**Meetings will take place at the Lowell Fire Station, 389 N. Pioneer Street**

**Maggie Osgood Library News**

**Library Hours: Located at 70 N. Pioneer Street**

Mondays	11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.	Tuesdays	10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.	Saturdays	9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**Planned Closures:**

- Saturday, December 30 for building maintenance
- Monday, January 1 for New Year’s Day
- Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Programming schedule:**

- Every week:
  - Tuesdays—Storytime 10:30, Craft and Chat 1:00, Board games 3:00.
  - Saturdays—Story and craft time 9:30, Board games all day.
- Monthly:
  - 2nd Wednesday—Local History 4:00
  - Last Wednesday—Chasing Chapters Book Club 6:00

**A New Program Series Coming in January!**

**Get Out and Get Informed: a chance to interact with experts on a variety of topics.** Held every Wednesday from January 3 through March 27 at the Maggie Osgood Library in Lowell.

Time 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Format: Each week an expert will present for approximately 40 minutes. There will be time for Q&A and discussion. Light snacks will be provided. January schedule:

Date	Topic	Speaker
1/3/24	Maggie Osgood Library	Peggy O’Kane
1/10/24	Lost Wagon Train	Mayor Bennett
1/17/24	Northwestern Pond Turtles	Kathleen Smith, Wildlife Biologist, ACE
1/24/24	Mindfulness	Matt Shinkai Kane, Blue Cliff Zen Center
1/31/24	Yoga	Jordan Lindstrom-Demant, Everyday People Yoga

---

# FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

---

## District Training Program Update

Lowell Fire has just started another Fire Academy. We are happy to report that we have seven new volunteers that we will be adding to the ranks. In the coming months your firefighters will, as always, be looking to improve their skills with training opportunities locally.

We also aim to continue our co-operation with our neighboring districts as we work to put on more local classes in the coming year. I would like to thank our patrons for their support this past year, and wish you all a safe and happy holidays.

## Are You Ready for Winter?

With the onset of cooler wetter weather, the Lowell Fire District would like to urge everyone to ensure all their heating appliances are in good working order. Have your woodstoves, fireplaces, and chimneys, cleaned and inspected by a qualified specialist before using them this winter. Portable space heaters also pose a high risk so use these with extreme caution and follow all space heater safety tips. Although woodstove and fireplace-related fires are more common, the deadliest home heating fires result from misuse of portable electric heaters.

Oregonians can keep themselves safer from heating-related fires using these safety tips:

### Portable Space Heaters

- \* When using portable heaters make sure they come with an automatic tip-over switch and a high-temperature limit switch. The tip-over switch turns the heater off if it is knocked over. A high-temperature limit switch prevents the heater from overheating.
- \* Give heaters space. Keep at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.
- \* Check heater electrical cords. Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace before using the space heater.
- \* Never use an extension cord or power strip with a portable electric heater. It can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- \* Never allow children to play with, or around the heater.
- \* Unplug heaters when not in use, before going to bed, or when leaving the room.

### Electric Baseboard and Wall Heaters

- \* Be aware of electric baseboard and wall heaters. These heaters are thermostatically controlled and may turn on without warning when temperatures drop.
- \* Give heaters space. Just as with portable space heaters, keep at least three feet of space between your baseboard/wall heater and combustibles items such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.

### Fuel Burning Space Heaters

- \* If using a fuel burning space heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use. Read all manufacturer instructions and ensure it is properly vented.
- \* Allow the heater to cool before refueling. Refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- \* If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances, or thermostats. Leave the building and call 9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

### Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- \* Have chimney and woodstove flues and vents inspected and cleaned every year by a qualified chimney specialist. Ask them to check for creosote deposits, soot build-up, or physical damage.
- \* Always use a fireplace screen. Make sure the screen is made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping.
- \* Keep a clutter-free environment. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.
- \* Store kindling, fire logs, and wood at least three feet from any heat source.
- \* Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue and chimney temperatures.
- \* Use proper fire starters. Proper fire starters include a small amount of newspaper, kindling, or specially manufactured starters designed for indoor use. Never use flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline to start a fire.

## Calling all High School Juniors! Apply Now to Win a Trip to D.C.

As part of its scholarship program, Lane Electric Cooperative has opened applications for the 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour.

For more than 50 years teens from rural America have been offered the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. as part of the NRECA Youth Tour. Roughly 2,000 delegates and staff from electric cooperatives around the country will get to meet their elected officials, tour Capitol Hill, visit America's historic monuments and museums, and hear featured speakers discuss the important roles electric cooperatives play in our communities.

One junior who resides in Lane Electric's service area will join the 2024 delegation. The deadline to apply is Thursday, January 18, 2024. Details are available at: [laneelectric.com/headlines/nreca-youth-tour](http://laneelectric.com/headlines/nreca-youth-tour)



LHS Drama is having...

**\* AUDITIONS \***

for a **Short Comedic Play** to be performed  
**March 14th-16th**

Come to **ONE** of the following:

Tuesday, January 9th @ 3:15pm  
\*\*\*OR\*\*\*  
Thursday, January 11th @ 3:15pm  
in the LHS CAFETORIUM



**"Instructions for Hugs:  
& Other Post Quarantine  
Tutorials"**

**A Comedy By Patrick Greene**

Create a **FREE** account on  
[yourstagepartners.com](http://yourstagepartners.com) to read it online  
(optional, but may help your audition)

JUST INTERESTED IN BEHIND THE SCENES?  
(Costumes, props, light board, etc.)

THAT'S ON THE AUDITION FORM TOO!  
(or just chat with Mr. Klatt any time)

**AVAILABILITY REQUIRED:** Rehearsals start on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:10pm - 4:00pm. Starting on Monday, March 11th, going through Saturday, March 16th, rehearsals/shows are 6:30pm call - 7:45pm/8:00pm.

Continued from page 6

- \* Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can release lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- \* Use fire-resistant materials on walls around woodstoves.
- \* Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing of them.
- \* Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container and place the container outdoors, at least ten feet from the home and any other nearby buildings. Ashes may retain heat for days after they appear out.

### Smoke Alarms and Home Escape Plans

- \* Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in each bedroom.
- \* Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
- \* Follow manufacturer's instructions on regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.
- \* Replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older.
- \* Make a home escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year.

### Carbon Monoxide Dangers

- \* Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- \* Home heating and cooking equipment that burn fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane are sources of carbon monoxide.
- \* Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal if not detected early.
- \* Test and maintain your carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**For more home fire safety tips, call the District Office at 541-937-3393 or go to [www.lowellfiredistrict.org](http://www.lowellfiredistrict.org)**

# 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](http://www.lowell.k12.or.us)

## Making community connections

*NON-PROFIT*

*ECRWSS*

*U.S. Postage Paid*

*Permit #1*

*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: January 2024

- 2—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St. Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center/Lakeview St.
- 3—JH Wrestling @ Harrisburg, 5:00 p.m.  
**Joint Meeting of City Council and Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m. at the Lowell Fire Station, 389 N. Pioneer Street**
- 4—JV & Varsity Boys/Girls Bx @ East Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m. Lowell Parks Committee, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer Street
- 5—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 6—Varsity Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill Tournament, TBD  
JV Boys/Girls Basketball v. Monroe, Noon/1:30 p.m.  
JV2/Varsity Boys Basketball v. Monroe, 2:15/3:00 p.m.
- 7—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am 51 E. 2nd
- 9—JV Boys/Girls Basketball v. Central Linn, 3:00/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball v. Central Linn, 6:00/7:30 p.m.
- 10—JH Wrestling @ Lincoln, 6:00 p.m.  
**Lowell Fire Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Main Station**
- 11—JV & Varsity Boys/Girls Bx @ Toledo, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m.
- 12/13—Varsity Wrestling @ Redmond Classics, 8:00 a.m.
- 13—JV & Varsity Boys/Girls/Bx @ Illinois Valley, 12/1:30/3/4:30
- 15—**MLK Day — No School, City Hall Closed**
- 16—JV Boys Basketball v. Oakridge, 3:00 p.m.  
Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball v. Oakridge, 6:00/7:30 p.m.  
**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.**  
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview
- 17—Varsity Wrestling @ Culver, TBD  
JH Boys Basketball @ Oaklea, 4:00 p.m.
- 19—JV Girls/Boys Basketball v. East Linn, 3:00/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. East Linn, 6:00/7:30 p.m.
- 20—JH Wrestling @ Lincoln Districts, TBD  
Varsity Wrestling @ Toledo Tournament, TBD  
Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 22—JH Boys Basketball v. Creswell, 4:30 p.m.  
**Lowell School Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m. PDC/Lundy Elem.**
- 23—JV Girls & JV/JV2 Boys Bx @ Monroe, 3/3:45/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Monroe, 6:00/7:30 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling @ Creswell, TBD
- 24—JH Boys Basketball v. Lincoln, 4:30 p.
- 25—JV & Varsity Girls/Boys Bx @ Central Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling @ Siuslaw, 5:00 p.m.
- 26—No School — Grading Day
- 27—Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church  
JV Boys Basketball v. Reedsport, 1:30 p.m.  
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Reedsport, 3:00/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Girls Wrestling @ Cottage Grove Tournament, TBD
- 29—JH Boys Basketball @ St. Paul Catholic, 4:30 p.m.
- 30—JV Girls/Boys Basketball v. Toledo, 3:00/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Toledo, 6:00/7:30 p.m.
- 31—JH Boys Basketball v. O’Hara, 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1—JV Boys & Varsity Girls/Boys Bx @ Waldport, 4:30/6/7:30