



The Bridge

Making community connections



20th Annual Blackberry Jam July 25-27

* Music * Food * Fun *
Something for everyone!

The Bridge

Volume 17, Issue 1

July 2014

The **20th Annual Blackberry Jam Festival** kicks off on Friday, July 25th, at Rolling Rock Park in downtown Lowell. This all-volunteer community event has something for everyone.

Come down Friday at 5:00 p.m. and browse the vendor booths for unique gifts. Get a plate of delicious food and settle in for entertaining music beginning at 6:00 p.m. with **The Traceys**, followed at 8:30 p.m. by **The Joanne Broh Band**.

The **Quilt Show** begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Lowell Grange and runs through Sunday. Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets to win a beautiful quilt made by the local Pine Needlers group. Set your lawn chairs up around town for the ever popular **Parade** that begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by the **Car Jam** classic car show at noon on the high school football field. Entertainers on Saturday include: **Cascade Chorus** at 1:30, **Pray Mila Pray** at 3:30 p.m., **The Fret Boys** at 6:00 p.m. and **Shelley James music box** at 8:30 p.m. all on the main stage.

At the Lowell Marina the **Fishing Derby** will run from daybreak until 4:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Also on Saturday and Sunday the Creswell RC Flyers will host their first **Blackberry Jam Float Fly** on Saturday and Sunday. Come see these radio controlled float planes do their aerobatics at the Lowell Marina.

Sunday's events in the Park include **Dr. Delusions Illusions** zany magic show for kids of all ages, followed immediately by the **Pie Eating and Pie Baking** contests. For \$1 you can compete for the prestigious plaque and bragging rights, plus eat some tasty pie. A performance by **Mama Jan's Blues Jam** hosted by **Brian Chevalier** will wrap up the music program followed by announcing the winner of the raffle quilt. In between all these events are many others including the **Kidz Korner, Greased Pole Climb, Coins in the Hay, Crawl Squirt and Drag Contest** and more! Check out the schedule online at www.blackberryjamfestival.com.

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

Graduating Seniors Have Bright Futures

Graduation night was indeed a night to celebrate. The full house was treated to entertainment by the Lowell High School Choir. Students were recognized with awards and scholarships were presented. As of graduation night, 12 of the 17 graduating seniors received \$596,725 in scholarships!! The Class of 2014's motto, "We'll find a way, or we'll make one", will certainly result in positive contributions from this talented, close-knit group. We look forward to seeing their dreams come true. Thanks to all the parents, teachers, friends and family who helped these seniors succeed.



Photo provided by Springfield Times

Back-to-School Night September 2nd

Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun on Tuesday, September 2nd as we celebrate Back-to-School Night and a special Renovation Celebration. Gather at the covered playground area at Lundy Elementary (45 S. Pioneer Street) between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. to enjoy a delicious meal for just \$5. Proceeds benefit students needing assistance with registration and activities fees.

A special presentation will be held in the Lundy Gym at 6:30 p.m. Superintendent Walt Hanline will make a presentation, then open the doors to the "new" schools. An Open House of all classrooms will run from 7:00-8:00 p.m., as well as volleyball and football scrimmages. This event is open to all community members and we especially encourage past alumni, current students, and families new to Lowell to attend. For more information check out the District website: www.lowell.k12.or.us or call 541-937-8405.

From Principal Kay Graham

The Lowell School District would like to welcome two new elementary teachers to the Lundy staff. Katrina Burkhardt is an experienced teacher who most recently taught at McCornack Elementary School in Eugene. She is currently scheduled to be our 3rd grade teacher. Alicia Holloway most recently completed teaching experiences at Bohemia and Creswell Elementary. She will be teaching our 4th grade class. Both teachers bring excellent strengths to our district including using technology in the classroom to improve instruction and a focus on enhanced instructional techniques. Both teachers have already hit the ground running and are working as a team on curriculum design and alignment.

The Lowell School District is in the process of hiring a new English teacher. Long-time staff member and English teacher, Pat Engelking, is retiring after 24 years of service to the district. She is well known for her love of teaching and her willingness to work with all students to help them be successful. Ms. Engelking truly has taught across generations at Lowell and her full-time presence will be missed. Ms. Engelking has many retirement plans which include spending more time with her family and putting emphasis on writing. We wish Ms. Engelking the best of luck in future years.

All teachers at Lowell and Lundy will be busy during the summer participating in professional development workshops and curriculum design activities. Several elementary teachers have already completed math and language arts professional training. Lowell Jr. /Sr. High teachers are participating in Career and Technology training in the health occupations field and applied algebra trainings. All professional development opportunities will directly impact student learning in a positive way.

East-West Football Contest

Not only was Lowell invited to the East-West football game at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande, Lowell head coach Pat Todd was the head coach for the West team. Josh Cardwell, Colin Cash, Gabe Anderson and Austin McNichols all made the team. They spent the week in LaGrande, beating the East team on Saturday by 43 to 6. Josh was named offensive player of the game. Way to go Lowell!

More Accolades for Lowell Athletes: Adding to many honors already received, Josh Cardwell was named the Register-Guard's Fall Sports Athlete of the Year in Football and Tanner Harvey was named Winter Sports Athlete of the Year in Wrestling. Congratulations to you both!!

City Beat

June 27, 2014

Dear Mayor/City Council

I recognize that my continued employment with the City of Lowell is no longer in the best interests of the City or myself. Please treat this as my resignation effective 50 days from the date of this letter.

As my accumulated compensatory time stands at 123 hour 6.16 weeks, my actual last day of work will be July 3rd. The balance through August 15th should be treated as paid compensatory time, payable at regular pay periods except for my final check. I am open to a proposal for a lump sum payment to conclude my presence earlier.

While I have enjoyed my experience in Lowell, it is clear you wish to head in a different direction with your management. Thank you for having provided me this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hamilton

Lowell City Council Actions

This report of actions taken by the Lowell City Council is a regular feature of this newsletter and is provided to inform citizens of recent decisions made by the council.

From the June 3rd regular meeting:

- Approved a motion to delegate Councilors Knokey and Reese to work with the City Administrator (CA) on issues in the retention of Mr. Cherry. In support: Paulson, Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Burford; Opposed: none.

From the June 10th special meeting:

- Approved a motion to direct the CA to prepare a mailing to the addresses of the persons with state water and wastewater plant operator certification, advertising all positions available in the Lowell Public Works Department; the mailing is to be posted no later than Friday, June 13th. In support: Paulson, Rennert, Reese, Knokey; Opposed: Burford.
- Approved motions to defer wage increases until such time as Public Works employees are secured; and defer the water and sewer rate resolution until the next council meeting. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey; Opposed: none.

From the June 17th regular meeting:

- Approved a motion to direct the CA to sign and execute the Master Services Agreement for Professional Services with Operations Management International Inc. to operate the water and sewer plants for 4 weeks. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: none.
- Adopted Ordinance 286, an ordinance Repealing Ordinance 242, an ordinance Establishing the Office of city Administrator. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey; Opposed: Paulson, Burford.
- Approved the Intergovernmental Agreement for City Attorney Services with LCOG for the 2014-15 fiscal year. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: none.
- Approved deferring Resolution 601 Employee Compensation Adjustments and related amendments to the next council meeting. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: none.
- Adopted Resolution 602 Establishing Water and Sewer Rates (3% rate increase for both, effective July 1, 2014). In support: Rennert, Reese, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: Knokey.
- Adopted Resolution 603 Adopting the City's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: none.
- Approved a motion to defer the Draft Ordinance Parks and City-wide Leash Law Ordinance to the next council meeting. In support: Rennert, Reese, Knokey, Paulson, Burford; Opposed: none.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

Fireworks Safety Is #1

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon Fire Service, Keep Oregon Green, Oregon fireworks wholesalers, natural resource agencies, and safety experts encourage Oregonians to "Keep it Legal and Keep it Safe" when using fireworks. The 2014 Oregon fireworks sales season opened Monday, June 23 and runs through Sunday, July 6. The OSFM and their partners want everyone to know what fireworks are legal in Oregon, where they are permitted, and the important steps to take for fireworks safety.

"People often forget that legal fireworks can only be purchased from Oregon permitted fireworks retailers and stands," says Interim State Fire Marshal Jim Walker, "and, regulations limit where those fireworks may be used. For example, fireworks are prohibited on all Oregon beaches, in parks, and campgrounds."

July 4th holiday forest visitors are advised to leave all fireworks at home. The use of fireworks is prohibited on all national forestland, and most other public lands. "Fireworks compound the threat to already dry forests," states Keep Oregon Green President Kristin Babbs. "Enjoy fireworks where they belong: on the pavement- away from houses, vehicles, and flammable vegetation."

Oregon law bans possession, use, or sale of fireworks that fly, explode, or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are **ILLEGAL** in Oregon.

There were 197 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon during 2013, resulting in one death, 38 injuries and more than \$775,000 in property damage. Over the past five years, from 2009 through 2013, there were 905 reported fireworks-related fires in Oregon resulting in one death, 150 civilian injuries, and more than \$4.4 million in property damage.

Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks and fine offenders up to \$500 per violation. Those who misuse fireworks or allow fireworks to cause damage are liable and may be required to pay fire suppression costs or other damage. Parents are also liable for fireworks damage caused by their children.

"All Oregonians share the responsibility to use only legal fireworks and use them carefully," adds Walker, "and we encourage you to be aware and considerate of neighbors and their pets, before deciding on when and where you choose to light fireworks."

The OSFM encourages everyone to use the four B's of safe fireworks use:

- Be Prepared before lighting: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be Safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be Responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15-20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- Be Aware: use only legal fireworks and use them only in legal places.

More fireworks information is available at: http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Licensing_Fireworks_Home.shtml



Lowell Volunteer Firefighters to Benefit from 4th of July Fireworks Display

A safe alternative to home fireworks is to join the festivities at the Dexter Lake Annual 4th of July Celebration. Lowell Volunteer Firefighters will be collecting a \$10 entrance fee for cars entering the Lowell Marina park to watch the fireworks put on by the Dexter Fire Volunteers. See article on page 5. Proceeds for this event provide funds for the many community service projects the Volunteers do for our communities every year.

On the web: www.lowellfiredistrict.org

Residential Burn Season Is Now Closed

The residential backyard burn season is closed so outdoor burning of yard debris is prohibited until October 2014.

Recreational (campfire) burning is allowed under controlled conditions. The ground must be cleared of all combustible material with a fire ring or shelter no larger than 9 square feet surrounding the recreational fire. Flames may not extend greater than 3 feet above fuel. Fuel (wood) must be clean and dry to reduce the production of smoke. The burning of building materials or yard debris for a recreational fire is prohibited. Person(s) must be present at all times during burning and fire must clearly be utilized for recreational purposes only.

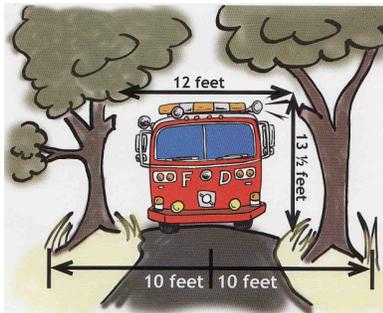
When the fire danger reaches the high to extreme range, recreational fires may also be prohibited. For more information contact the District office.



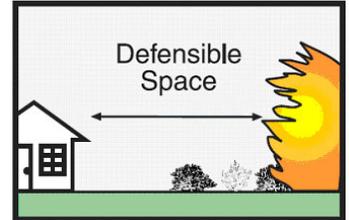
Wildfire Prevention Checklist

It looks like summer is finally here and it's time to remind everyone about preparing your home and property for the possibility of wildfire and how you can prevent wildfire on 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, the District can provide one. Contact the District office.
- 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 1/2 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 or 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 on any of the above items, contact the district office or check out the district web page at www.lowellfiredistrict.org or call the district office at 541-937-3393.



Dexter Lake Annual 4th of July Celebration!

Live music all day, Fireman's BBQ (organic chicken, fresh rolls and salad, water and a beer garden). All proceeds from the Dexter side of the lake go to benefit the Dexter Volunteer Firefighters Association.

In and Around Our Community

BLACKBERRY JAM COVERED BRIDGE PHOTO CONTEST

Professional and cell phone photographers alike can compete this summer for prizes from local businesses for the best photos of our four local covered bridges: Pengra and Unity bridges over Fall Creek, Lowell bridge on Dexter Lake, and Parvin bridge over Lost Creek near Dexter. Pictures entered in the contest by mid July will be displayed at the Willamette Cascades Foothills booth at the Blackberry Jam Festival. Give it your best shot. *Limit of one picture of each bridge per person.*

The present Willamette Cascades Foothills group is the second of three local classes sponsored by the Leadership Training Program of Oregon's Ford Family Foundation. The first group, the 2011 cohort, installed murals of scenes from local history at Lowell High School, Pleasant Hill Elementary and the Dexter Library. For its class project the 2013 cohort is building a **public outside exercise facility** behind the football stadium at Pleasant Hill High School, off Enterprise Road. The theme of the outdoor exercise course, or par course, is Bridging Communities to Health, and will include a display honoring the covered bridges which link the communities of Jasper, Lowell, Fall Creek, Dexter and Pleasant Hill. Though located in Pleasant Hill and underwritten by the generosity of the Pleasant Hill Boosters Club, the par course is intended to benefit residents of all the communities of our region.

Winning covered bridge photographs will be permanently displayed at the par course in Pleasant Hill. Prizes include a 2-for-1 half-day river trip on the Middle Fork Willamette by Upstream Adventures of Oakridge; a collection of native herbs and shrubs from Trillium Gardens of Dexter; a \$20 gift certificate from the famous Dexter Lake Club; and a \$25 gift certificate from the Dexter Lake Farmers Market. The best photo of the green iron bridge over the Willamette at Jasper will also be displayed on the permanent par course sign.

View covered bridge photos and find instructions for the contest on our Bridging Communities to Health web page: <http://bridgingcommunitiesparcourse.wordpress.com/>

To enter the contest, mail your photo entries to CoveredBridgePhotos@Gmail.com before August 8th. Drop by the Willamette Cascades Foothills booth at Blackberry Jam to help us pick the best covered bridge photos, learn more about the new par course and how it can help local folks keep healthy, and to brainstorm more great community projects. You can call Fergus Mclean at 541-937-3034 for more information.

Summer Reading Program Schedule

Dates in July/August are:
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and August 6
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. until Noon
107 East 3rd Street, Lowell Library

Come join us for a fun time and don't miss special guest on July 9th, Richard Glauber with "Music in Action".

For more information contact Maggie at 541-937-3759.

Drag Boat Races Begin in July

The first race of the season on Dexter Lake will be July 11-13. Other races are scheduled for August 22-24 and September 20-21. Remember to come out and have breakfast at the Marina to support the Lowell Volunteer Firefighters.



Lowell Community Blood Drive

Donate blood now through July 26th and receive a free pass to the Lane County Fair! The next blood drive **in Lowell will be on Friday, July 25th** near Rolling Rock Park from 9 am until noon. To schedule an appointment, call 541-484-9111.



Kidz Korner Volunteers Wanted

Looking for volunteers to help on Saturday, July 26th at the Blackberry Jam from Noon-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 27th from 1-4 p.m., for two hour slots.

If you would like to help, please give Joyce a call at 937-5544 or stop by City Hall.



In and Around Our Community

Clothing Bank to Extend Open Days

The Clothing Bank will be open every Tuesday in July and August to help families with their clothing needs. This also gives community members more days to make their donations. For more information or to make other arrangements for donations, please contact Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or via email at Stewartx6@fastmail.fm. It's not too early to start your back-to-school shopping!

Health Plans Still Available

While the deadline to apply for health insurance through Cover Oregon has passed, did you know that many people still qualify for "special enrollment"? If you qualify for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) or have experienced a life event such as a marriage, pregnancy or birth, or a change in job status, you could still be qualified to sign up for a health plan. Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon is available to help answer questions and sign people up for health plans. For more information or assistance with an application, please call 541-543-5484 or visit www.ppsworegon.org.

Dragon Boat Event

The Heroes to Oregon Dragon Boat Paddle Challenge is excited to be coming to Dexter Lake this summer! Join us on July 19th for this first annual event and be a hero to local wounded veterans. This is an exhibition event and the first of its kind in Lane County. All you need is a team of 10-18 friends, co-workers, family members (14 years or older) and about \$25 per person. Boats, life jackets, a steerperson and a caller will be provided. No dragon boat experience is needed.

To register, go to <http://www.active.com/dexter-or/races/h2o-dragon-boat-paddle-challenge-2014> or click on the qr code.



The event starts at 9:00 a.m. at the Dexter Recreation Site. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of two races. Info: kristen.e.larson@ci.eugene.or.us.



July 18th Free Movie Night!

The Lowell Boy Scouts are offering this month's Free Movie Night on **Saturday, July 18th** with the showing of **Iron Man 3 (PG-13)**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:00 p.m., at the Lowell Grange, 51 East 2nd Street.



As this is a PG-13 rated movie, children under age 13 will need to be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Admission is free; sales of refreshments support sending scouts to summer camp. For more information call 541-937-2643.

Grange Events in July

Breakfast on July 6th
Texas Hold 'em Poker on July 5th and 19th
Bingo! on July 2nd and 16th

Your support of these events help restore the historic Grange Hall Building. Thank you very much!

Backpack Giveaway Sign Up at the Jam

Stop by East Valley's Dunk Tank at the Jam to cool off and to sign up for Vacation Bible School and backpack giveaway. VBS runs from August 4-8, 8:45-Noon at 72 East 2nd Street. Information: 541-937-3329.

New Community Website

Want to know what's happening around our area? Check out our new community blog, <http://wicafo.wordpress.com/> for information about events, fundraisers, and other community functions for Lowell, Dexter, Fall Creek, Pleasant and Jasper. Have something you'd like posted on the blog? Contact Lisa at 541-206-2688.

Farmers Market Every Sunday!

Don't forget to stop by the Dexter Lake Farmers Market each Sunday to get your fresh produce, eggs, honey cheese, meat, arts & crafts and more! The Market is open from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Dexter State Recreation Area, 39011 Highway 58.

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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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: July 2014

- 1—City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- 2—Summer Reading Program, 10-Noon, Lowell Library
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
- 3—Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
- 4—Independence Day, City Hall closed
Dexter Lake Annual 4th of July Celebration, Dexter Recreation Area, Noon until 11 pm; fireworks show at dark can be viewed from both sides of Dexter lake
- 5—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 6—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 7—School Board Meeting, 45 S. Pioneer, 7:00 p.m.
- 8—Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Fire Hall
- 9—Summer Reading Program, 10-Noon, Lowell Library
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
- 11-13—Columbia River Drag Boat Races, Dexter Lake
- 13—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 15—City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- 16—Summer Reading Program, 10-Noon, Lowell Library
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
- 18—Free Movie Night at the Lowell Grange, 6:30 p.m.
- 19—Dragon Boat Paddle Challenge, 9:00 a.m., Dexter Lake
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 20—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 22—Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
- 23—Summer Reading Program, 10-Noon, Lowell Library
- 25—Lowell Blood Drive, 9 am—Noon, Rolling Rock Park
- 27—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 30—Summer Reading Program, 10-Noon, Lowell Library

In August:

- 1—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

**20th Annual
Blackberry Jam
July 25-27**

*** Music * Food * Fun ***

Something for everyone!