



The Bridge

Making community connections

Lowell Fire District Awards Presented

The Bridge

Volume 18, Issue 10

April 2016

The Annual Lowell Fire District Awards Banquet was held March 5th to honor the members of the fire district and to recognize those members for special achievement.

The Volunteer of the Year honor is the most prestigious award of the evening. This award is the award presented to a member as voted on by the district firefighters that contributes most to district activities. The 2015 Volunteer of the Year is Nick Bruckner.

Other awards were presented for achievement as follows:

Recognition for Drill Attendance – Chris Shomler, Nick Bruckner and Chris Zammarelli.

Recognition for Call Response – Kate Bishop, Nick Bruckner, Morgan Stevenson, Lloyd Hall, Robert Graham.

Superior Service Award – Lloyd Hall, Alex (Lenny) Woldt, Nick Bruckner, Chris Shomler, Morgan Stevenson.

Special Service Award was given to Reginal Bell for her extraordinary contribution to the Open House/Community Dinner.

A Special Unit Citation was presented to Assistant Chief Dave Campbell, Captain Nate Brown, Lieutenant Bob Graham, Firefighters Morgan Stevenson, Kate Bishop and Nick Bruckner for their actions on a complicated incident.



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Save the Date!

Saturday, October 22nd

**Hall of Fame
Celebration and
Fundraiser Banquet**

More details to come...

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

Kindergarten Registration: Are you ready for Kindergarten?

What: Kindergarten Registration

Date: Wednesday, April 27

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Lundy Elementary School

Who: Kindergarten age students and their parents

It's that time of year again when the parents of Kindergarten age students are invited to come to the school to register their kindergarten student, meet their child's teacher, and find out about what their student will be learning in the Kindergarten class. Additionally, the new kindergarten student has the chance to check out their classroom, run through some activities and take a big yellow bus ride around the town.



Summer Enrichment Being Planned for Lundy and Lowell Students

During the last two years, Lundy Elementary School and Lowell High School have been offering Summer School to students to enhance skill development at the younger levels and credit recovery and High School readiness skills at the older levels.

In addition to offering the academic summer school program, this year the Lowell School district is working to secure grant funding to provide summer enrichment experiences for students all summer long at no cost to families. to provide summer enrichment experiences for students all summer long. More information will be coming to parents in the next few weeks but possible summer week-long camps (with most camps beginning the week after academic summer school) include the following:

- Science Camp (with focus on marine biology)
- Summer recreational and games camp
- Hiking (with field trips to local hiking spots such as Skinner Butte and Spencer Butte)
- Iron Chef (with this camp culminating in competition at the Lane County Fair)
- Art and Drama Offering
- Dance, tumbling, and games through "Healthy Moves" and more...

Stay tuned for information coming about Lowell summer enrichment programs and when to sign-up indicating your student's interest.

KITS Comes to Lowell! New Grant Awarded to Lowell Helps Students and Parents Transition Smoothly to School

This year, the Lowell School District was awarded grant funding from SIF (Social Innovation Fund) and UNICEF to begin a Kindergarten transition program called KITS. KITS stands for Kids in Transition to Schools. The purpose of this program is to give incoming kindergarten students, and their parents, a "jump start" in helping our youngest students to be ready and successful in their first year of schooling. This summer the KITS program can take up to 22 kindergarten student (planning to attend Lundy Elementary School) into the special program. The program will be held two mornings a week beginning the week of July 4th and ending the week of August 22. During that time, kindergarten students will learn the school readiness skills of early literacy, social development competence, and self-regulation.

In addition to students learning school readiness skills, parents will meet once a week and will be provided support in creating a learning-rich environment in the home, creating routines that help with a smooth transition into school, learning effective behavior management techniques, and developing a strong relationship with the school community and how to best utilize school resources. Transportation and child care will be provided to help parents access this program with his/her student. Additionally, lunch will be provided though our summer foods program at Lundy.



Many Lane County Schools are implementing the KITS program this summer. We are very excited to begin this program this year at Lundy and know it will be a great experience for our incoming kindergarten students and their parents. Please contact Kay Graham at Lundy Elementary School for more information. (541-937-2105).

Bridge Charter Academy Update

Academy Director John VonDoloski is making headway at the BCA complex across from the high school and is busy preparing for a September start-up. With a cap of 300 students, 40+ have already signed up and open houses are in the works to showcase the program and facilities. The next open house is scheduled for April 19th at 4:00 p.m. For more information you can access the website www.bridgecharter.com or call John at 541-543-5339 to schedule an appointment to meet.

What's Next for Lowell's School Buildings?

School Tours and Review of Facilities Findings



You're Invited!

Together with gLAs Architects, staff and community members, Lowell School District has completed a review of its buildings. The resulting "Master Plan" identifies recommended repairs, replacements and renovations. Now, the School Board is considering its next steps. You are invited to an Open House to learn about the process, the findings and the recommendations.

Additional information about the events will be mailed to you. For details about the Master Planning process, visit lowell.k12.or.us or call 541-937-2124.

Tuesday, April 19

5:30pm at Lowell High School
Need dinner? 🍕 Pizza's waiting.

Saturday, April 23

10:30am at Lowell High School
Need lunch? 🍕 Pizza's waiting.



Important Music Dates in April

Check out the calendar on page 8 for great performances coming up for the Lowell Music Program. Competitions will be held April 5th and 28th, including a special performance at the Hult Center on April 19th.

In addition to our league competitions, on Thursday, April 21st, Lundy Elementary will put on its second annual musical, a play entitled "We Come from Everywhere," at 7:00 pm in the HS Gymnasium. All students K-5 are involved, and admission is free. Come see the show!



Please come out and support our amazing young musicians at these special events!

Junior High Students of the Month

Fisher Schescke is the son of Kathryn Albert of Lowell. He is a vital addition to our football and track teams at Lowell Junior high. Fisher has near perfect attendance and works very hard to keep his grades up. He is also does an

amazing job playing the alto saxophone for our band. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, building, exercising and drawing. If there is one thing to know about Fisher, it is that he likes Cheez-its!

Maddy Keffer is the daughter of Bryan and Tracey Keffer of Lowell. Maddy is a great student who is always pleasant to have in class. She is a part of our basketball and volleyball teams. Maddy is also a soprano in our Jr. High choir. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, going to the coast and camping.

Congratulations Maddy and Fisher,
Students of the Month for Lowell Jr. High!



CITY BEAT

By City Administrator Jared Cobb

Parks Clean Up

Join your neighbors and friends for our annual Parks Clean Up and help beautify Lowell from the ground up. The event will be held on Earth Day, April 23, from 9:00-12:00 and starts at Rolling Rock Park. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes and gloves to pull weeds, plant flowers, and spread mulch. Juice and donuts will be available in the morning and lunch will be served at the end of the event. An alternate date for bad weather will be scheduled at the next Parks Committee meeting on April 7.



Paul Fisher Park Playground

Your Utilities

The Lowell Public Works Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to our customers. With a staff of 3.5 full-time employees, the Department provides water, sewer, stormwater, streets, code enforcement, and parks maintenance. For this article, we focus on our water and sewer utilities. The remaining services will be covered in upcoming newsletters.



Water Utility

There are four phases to providing water service: treatment, storage, distribution and testing.

Treatment – The City operates and maintains a conventional surface water plant which draws water from Dexter Lake and is capable of producing 223,000 gallons per day. Raw water passes through a filtration system at the plant, and is subsequently treated with chlorine. This process removes sediment, contaminants, and produces drinking water.

Storage – Once produced at the plant, water is pumped to three reservoirs. With a total capacity in excess of 1,000,000 gallons, these high elevation reservoirs create water pressure for customer use, and ensure the City has an adequate supply of water in the event of an emergency.

Distribution – A network of over 7 miles of pipe, 67 fire hydrants, and one booster pump distributes water from the reservoirs to our customers. Public Works conducts regular maintenance and repairs on these lines throughout the year. Staff also reads water meters monthly and replaces meters, as necessary.

Testing – The City collects daily samples for water quality testing. More than 1,500 tests are completed annually by an independent lab to ensure our water meets all federal and state standards. A copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report is mailed each year to customers and is also available on the City's website at www.ci.lowell.or.us under "Publications".

Sewer Utility

There are three phases to providing sewer service: collections, treatment, and testing.

Collections – The first step in the process is collections. Our staff maintains a sewer collections system that includes 7 miles of sewer mains, 106 manholes, and 1 lift station. The system was designed to operate primar-

ily on gravity flow, which is much more cost effective than using force mains or lift stations. These alternatives systems consume large amounts of electricity, require additional maintenance and back-up power.

Treatment – The collection system conveys wastewater to the activated sludge sewer plant, which is designed to treat up to 230,000 gallons of effluent per day. Effluent passes through an extensive system which uses mechanical and chemical processes to treat the water. This removes solids, contaminants, and produces re-use water that is discharged back into Dexter Lake.

Testing – Similar to testing drinking water, staff collects daily wastewater samples at the sewer plant and submits them to an independent lab for testing. Annually, over 500 tests are conducted. This ensures the water meets all federal and state standards before being discharged into Dexter Lake.



Trickling Filter at the Sewer Plant

Interested in learning more about your utilities? Last year the Public Works Department started an educational program with the Lowell School District, where grade levels K-6 were invited to a guided tour of the water and sewer plants. The Department also hosted an “open house” for the public to meet our staff, tour the facilities, and learn more about the water and sewer systems. We are currently planning this year’s programs and look forward to sharing more details in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 541-937-2157. We are very proud of the improvements we have made to the water and sewer systems and are eager to share them with you, our customers.

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 March 1st regular meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 641—Budget Appropriation Changes. In support: Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood, Paulson.
- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Calendar. In support: Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood, Paulson.

From the March 15th regular meeting:

- Approved Resolution 542—Plan to Address FY 2015 Audit Deficiencies. In support: Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood, Paulson.
- Approved Lane County Public Works Striping Services Contract 2016-2019. In support: Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood, Paulson.

Monthly Police Log (February 22 – March 24)

- 02/23 03:04 a.m. | Incomplete 911 Call at 100 Block North Moss Street
- 02/23 06:28 p.m. | Violation of Stalking Order at 100 Block West Second Street
- 02/24 05:10 p.m. | Repossessed Vehicle at 100 Block West Fourth Street
- 02/24 05:45 p.m. | Dispute at 100 Block West Second Street
- 03/01 06:09 p.m. | Illegal Parking at East Second Street and Pioneer Street
- 03/01 07:35 p.m. | Assault at 500 Block Carol Street
- 03/08 08:28 p.m. | Follow Up at 100 Block West Seventh Street
- 03/09 10:04 p.m. | Arrest at 100 Block West Seventh Street
- 03/12 07:08 p.m. | Alarm at 10 Block North Moss Street
- 03/13 07:52 a.m. | Criminal Mischief at 10 Block West Fourth Street
- 03/19 04:10 p.m. | Harassment at 500 Block North Moss Street
- 03/23 01:32 p.m. | Assault at 400 Block East First Street
- 03/23 06:01 p.m. | Citizen Contact at 200 Block East Second Street

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

—continued from cover page

The Chief's Award was presented to Lloyd Hall, Robert Graham and Alex (Lenny) Woldt for exemplary service.

The Rookie of the Year honor is an award that is presented to a rookie member as voted on by the district firefighters. This year Emily Shortreed received the honor.

Congratulations to all those members honored at the banquet and thank you to all the members of the district for all that they do for the communities of Lowell, Unity and Fall Creek.

Take Action Now To Protect Your Home This Summer

According to the National Association of State Foresters, nearly 70,000 communities nationwide are at risk from wildfire and our communities are no exception. Embers from a wildfire travel great distances, often causing new wildfires more than a mile from their origin. It can take years for communities like ours to recover from a devastating wildfire. In addition, wildfires cost government, businesses and individuals billions of dollars each year in suppression costs and damage to homes, infrastructure, the economy and resources.

Now, between rain storms, is the time for homeowners and communities to safeguard their homes and property from a wildfire threat. As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. With some fairly simple steps, every property owner can help protect their home and families as well as their neighbors if a wildfire was to strike.

Wildfire is an inevitable fact of life. Awareness and prevention of those living in fire-prone communities must prepare in advance to mitigate wildfire damage when it occurs. The more proactive actions a community takes, the more *fire adapted* it becomes.

The Wildfire threat is a reality throughout Lane County. With a minimal amount of work around your home and property, you can greatly reduce the chance of a wildfire.

The Lowell Fire District is committed to help provide the tools, information and encouragement to prepare for wildfire and reduce their risk of wildfire in our community. Here are some steps to take around your home:

- 1) Remove dead or overhanging branches. During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks and firebrands could travel from the tree to the roof of a structure.
- 2) Remove leaf, moss and needle accumulation from your yard. Leaf and needle accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
- 3) Remove leaf, needle and moss clutter from your roof and gutters. During a wildland fire, flying embers could ignite this material on the roof and/or in the gutters.
- 4) Remove tall, dry grasses. Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to your house.
- 5) Remove "ladder fuels". Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6' - 10' from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
- 6) If you have one, check your generator, water system and hoses to be sure they are in good repair. A wildfire could affect electrical power to homes. Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly --away from dry, flammable grasses.
- 7) Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability, and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire. Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.

For more tips and advice on making your home and property "WILDFIRE SAFE", contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org for more information.

It's Not Too Late!

Remember to check your smoke alarms twice a year. If you haven't already done this when you changed your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, it's not too late.

Change
Your Clock



Test Your
Smoke Alarm



In and Around Our Community

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Will you play your part to build a nurturing community for all families? Everyone can play a part, here are some ideas:

- Reach out to get to know your neighbors
- Build or contribute books to a Little Free Library in your neighborhood
- Offer help to a new parent without judgment – bring a meal, offer to babysit, offer specific help
- Accept help when it is offered – the strongest people are those who use the resources around them
- Support an organization helping families in your community, such as the Good Samaritan Clothes Closet
- Encourage a child in your life to teach you something, like how to play a game
- Organize a neighborhood activity, like a park clean up or neighborhood block party
- Seek out new information about parenting – subscribe to a parenting magazine, contact your child's doctor or teacher with questions, take a child development class in high school or college
- Host a Pinwheel making party or a Pinwheel Garden during Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Attend 90by30's Regional Leadership Team events and meetings: see 90by30.com for all dates. The next meeting in Lowell is May 6th, 9:30-11:30am, at the Lowell Fire Station at 389 Pioneer. A special guest speaker will give a presentation about the impact of childhood adversity over the lifetime, including how you can prevent long term harm.

Please go to GetInvolvedLaneCounty.org for many other ideas. Contact Carol Chapman at 541-517-9972 to get involved with child abuse prevention in and around Lowell, Dexter, and Pleasant Hill.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Breakfast at the Lowell Grange Continues

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 regularly on the first Sunday of each month from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Donations are gratefully accepted. Proceeds go to the Building Restoration Fund used to make building improvements to the Grange Hall.

Returnable Can/Bottle Drive April 2nd

Help support the local PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) by bringing your returnables to the high school parking lot every 1st Saturday morning of the month from 10-Noon. Thank you!



Grange Events in April

Breakfast on April 3
Texas Hold 'em Poker on April 1st and 16th
Bingo! on April 20th

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

Regattas in April

The 2016 Covered Bridge Regatta will span two weekends again this year. First up is the Collegiate Regatta on Saturday, April 9th. Then the following weekend will be the 22nd Annual Juniors and Masters Regatta all day Saturday the 16th and Sunday morning the 17th. In addition to some spectacular racing, there will be food and coffee booths, raffle prizes and more!



Please go to oarowing.org or contact Jill at regatta@oarowing.org for more information or to volunteer at either event.

Good Samaritan Ministries Open House

An Open House will be held at the Youth House on Sunday, April 17th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Come find out who we are and what we do. For questions, please call Gail at 541-554-1801. The Youth House is located at 4 Lakeview Drive, behind the high school football field.

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: April 2016

- 1—Softball/Baseball @ Crow, 4:30 p.m.
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
 - 4—Softball v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
 - 5—OMEA District 12 Choir Festival @ So. Eugene, time TBD
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 - 6—Baseball v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
 - 7—Softball/Baseball @ Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
 - 8—Varsity Track @ McKenzie, 1:00 p.m.
Baseball v. Catlin Gabel, 4:30 p.m.
 - 9—Collegiate Covered Bridge Regatta, 8am-3pm, Lowell Marina
 - 12—PTO Meeting, 3:15 p.m., Prof. Dev. Ctr (PDC) at Lundy
Softball/Baseball v. Oakland, 4:30 p.m.
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell City Hall
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
 - 13—After School Puppets Show, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Lowell Library
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
 - 15—**No School! Grading Day**
Softball @ Mohawk, 4:30 p.m.
 - 16—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 16—Covered Bridge Regatta, 7:30am-6pm, Lowell Marina
 - 17—Covered Bridge Regatta, 7:30am-1pm, Lowell Marina
Samaritan Ministries Open House, 3-5pm, Youth House
 - 18—Softball/Baseball v. Siletz, 4:30 p.m.
School District Budget Committee, 7:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy
 - 19—Bridge Charter Academy Open House, 4:00 pm, BCA Complex
School Facilities Open House, 5:30 p.m., Lowell High School
Metropolitan Choir Festival @ Hult Center, 7:00 p.m.
 - 19—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
 - 20—Softball/Baseball @ N. Douglas, 4:30 p.m.
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
 - 21—Lundy Spring Musical, 7:00 p.m., High School Gym
 - 22—Varsity Track @ McKenzie, 4:00 p.m.
Softball/Baseball @ Yoncalla, 4:30 p.m.
 - 23—Parks Clean Up Day, 9:00-noon, Rolling Rock Park to start
Varsity Track @ Salem, Will. Univ., 11:00 a.m.
School Facilities Open House, 10:30 a.m., Lowell High School
 - 25—**School Board Meeting, Lundy Comm. Room, 7:00 p.m.**
 - 26—Softball/Baseball v. Crow, 4:30 p.m.
Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
 - 27—Kindergarten Registration, 12:30-2:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy
Fables with Mr. Ben, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Lowell Library
 - 28—Mt. West Music Festival @ McKenzie HS, 9:00 a.m.
Varsity Track @ Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
 - 29—Softball/Baseball @ Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
- In May:
3—Varsity Track @ Coos Bay v. Marshfield, 4:00 p.m.
Softball/Baseball v. Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.
- Lowell baseball, softball and track are going full speed! There are not very many 1A schools fielding those three sports. It's a compliment to our coaches and kids. We've already had games rained out but with better weather coming there will be lots of action for our fans to come and cheer for.**