



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## City Administrator Annual Report

The Bridge

Volume 22, Issue 7

January 2020

The focus of the City Council and staff is developing an organization that is successful over the long-term. This means building a solid foundation by investing in staff training and development, managing finances effectively, and establishing a system for continual improvements.

The following is a review of our major accomplishments in 2019:

### Finance

- Received a clean audit without any findings
- Operating funds exceeded the required 17% cash balance reserve
- Started accepting credit cards for the Blackberry Jam Festival and Municipal Court
- Started accepting phone payments 24/7 by Interactive Voice Response or Live Operator
- Improved treasury management to generate \$10,000 in additional annual interest
- Adopted Water Bill Adjustment Policy to provide a one-time adjustment for water leaks

### Parks and Recreation

- Planned and coordinated the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Covered Bridge Tree Lighting
- Planned and coordinated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lowell Beautification Day
- Acquired three properties to reconfigure and expand Rolling Rock Park
- Approved contract with landscape architect for the conceptual design of the Cannon Street festival area
- Approved contract with landscape architect for the design of Rolling Rock Park Improvements – Phase I



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

Dear Community,

We hope your holiday season was Merry and Bright!

As the New Year begins, I am so thankful for what a great job I have. Not only do I get to see students and staff on a daily basis, I also get to go behind the scenes and ensure that we have the best schools and district in the state. Plus, to take a look of all that has been accomplished over the year is truly remarkable. Although we are not done yet, things are really starting to come together.

All staff are rejuvenated and ready to begin 2020. It feels weird saying that. It seems like just yesterday I was delivering papers for the Register Guard and listening to a CD on my Discman. I'm sure our students have no clue what that is or how it even works. Oh how time flies.

You may have noticed that the football field lights are on during these winter months. We have turned them on weekdays from 5:00 – 7:00pm. This is an effort to provide a safe, well-lit place for families to jog or walk during these dark winter months. Obviously there are temporary fences up toward the High School building as the gym / sidewalk construction continues.

I want to let you know that I will be continuing the Coffee with the Superintendent quarterly and look forward to sharing the many wonderful things that are happening throughout the district. Please make sure to check on Facebook and our District website for time and location.

As I write this letter, I want to take time to thank all the families, staff and community for ensuring that the Lowell School District is and will continue to be a special place that puts students first! We are continually trying to find ways to offer options for families and students.

Not only are we on the move, we are well on our way!

Respectfully, Johnie Matthews, Superintendent Lowell School District

### Alumni Return to Lowell High School

On December 19th the Lowell Juniors and Seniors were favored with a visit from ten (Mason Wendt was on the alumni panel is not pictured) recent Lowell graduates. The purpose of the alumni visit was to answer questions related to what the graduates are doing as they work toward various schooling and training for future careers. The alumni were able to talk about such topics as "basic training", lineman schooling, engineering, internships, playing sports in college, and basic information about what it was like to be a college student, enlist in the military, and be a student in a trade school. The alumni were asked questions related to living conditions, expenses related to schooling, and what to do if you don't want to take a class once you are enrolled in the class! From left to right are: Julia Donnell, Gabe Carroll, Kasey Erwin, Christopher Chapman, Symon Thurman, Dayce Riberal, Bryce Pickett, Cody Brooks and Michaela Smith. The alumni represented U of O, LCC, SOCC, the military, OIT, VOLTA (Lineman training), Arizona Christian University and Pacific University.

As you can see, our Lowell graduates are "*on the move*". It was great having them back in the building...even if it was only for a short visit!

### Meet and Greets Continue at the High School

In December, Andy Standerfer, mechanical engineer and OSU graduate, visited LHS students about his career, his business All True, and his life experiences. The seal that he is holding is made at his company for Navy ships. It costs \$10,000 and requires ten hours to make. GEAR UP sponsors these events.





### Varsity Girls Basketball

League play begins on January 7th at home against Jefferson so come on out and support Lady Devils Basketball. Team members include senior Keara Miller; juniors Audra Chapman, Katie Chapman, Kylee Johnson, Lucy Plahn and Bethany VonDoloski; sophomores Faith Cabrera, Alexis Curry and Priscilla Thurman; and, freshmen Espy Guzman-Fields, Amadalla Plagmann and Lydia Plahn. Head coach Daniele McCallum is assisted by Nellie Arthur.

### Varsity Boys Basketball

Team members include seniors Josh Cantwell, AJ Devereaux and Taysian Williamson; juniors Sam Smith, Nic Sotomayor, Tim Stratis and Carter Wendt; sophomores Andrew Bardis and Gino Martini; and, freshman Jesse Neet. Head coach Kory Roberts is assisted by Jimmy Martini.



### 8th Grade Girls Basketball

With such a huge turnout, two teams were created. The members of the 8th grade team are: back row left to right, Hazel Garner, Dani Evans, Elizabeth Able, Emma Barnes, Natalie Markham and Ali Curry; front row left to right, Annabelle Pickett, Lillianah Neet, Kenadee Hermenson, Gracie Aldinger, Kameron Baszler, Hannah Carlisle and Amerika Baszler; and Kiahna Baszler in front. Not pictured are Jada Cantrell and Lindy VonDoloski. Assisting head coach Chelsea Chittim with the 8th grade team is Rob Neet. The 7th grade team will be featured in the next issue.



The Lowell Football Santa and Mrs. Claus fundraiser was a big success! Thanks to all who brought kids or pets. We are attempting to raise \$1,300 dollars for new white jerseys. Santa got us a little over a third of the way there. If you would like to make a donation, please either send a check to 65 S. Pioneer Street, Lowell OR 97452 or drop your donation off at either school office. Thank you to Stomping Grounds Coffee House for letting us use their facilities.

### Mountain View Academy Open Enrollment February 1-15

Mountain View Academy is a Preschool through 8th grade public charter school within the Lowell School District. In our structured program, we consider character education to be foundational for a quality education. We offer a four-day school week with educational and activity field trips one Friday a month. We are an accelerated program that strives to build relationships with students and families, provides a well-rounded education, and challenges students through ability grouping. We believe that parents play an important role in their child's education. MVA families are incorporated into our education model through monthly volunteering.

CONTACT US if you are interested in learning more about Mountain View Academy. Tours are offered on Wednesdays. To schedule a tour, please call 541-735-1709 or email [Kelly@mtviewacademy.org](mailto:Kelly@mtviewacademy.org).



*Sponsored by the Lowell School District, believing in options for parents.*



Continued from Cover page

### Transportation

- Received grant award for the grind, overlay, and replacement of Lakeview Avenue (\$100,000) from Pioneer Street to Moss Street
- Completed a Pavement Preservation Plan to develop a routine maintenance plan for City streets and identify associated costs
- Completed the engineering for the grind and overlay of Main Street from Pioneer Street to Moss Street

### Community Development

- Adopted [Downtown Master Plan](#) to guide downtown policies and improvements
- Completed [Community Facilities Study](#) to identify City Hall and Library improvements
- Renewed SDC Deferral Policy to defer SDC payments until certificate of occupancy
- Received grant award for a Development Code Update (in-kind services)

### Code Enforcement

- Purchased the Caselle Code Enforcement module for case tracking and reporting
- Awarded Yard of the Month to 465 D Street, 470 D Street, and 165 North Pioneer Street
- Developed Code Enforcement Handbook to establish policies and procedures for enforcement and disposition of cases

### Public Works

- Purchased tractor for streets, parks, trail, and right-of-way maintenance; moving material at the green waste facility; and snow removal
- Exceeded all water and sewer permit requirements
- Replaced the blower at the wastewater treatment plant
- Recycled over 120 cubic yards of green waste



### Public Safety

- Negotiated new police contract with Oakridge requiring extended 4-hour patrols
- [Police Call Logs](#) posted on the City website to promote community awareness
- Purchased radar speed sign to install and discourage speeding

### Information Technology

- Implemented new financial and utility billing software to improve financial management
- Created an Instagram account to disseminate public information

### Economic Development

- Facilitated the development of the Highway 58 Business Network

### Library

- Acquired JW Kingdom Hall to serve as the new Maggie Osgood Library



In 2018 and 2019, we focused much of our work on planning for the future of Lowell. Next year we are excited to put these plans in action! The following projects are planned to start in early 2020:

- Renovation of the new Maggie Osgood Library located at 70 North Pioneer Street
- Installation of grass, trees, and irrigation at Rolling Rock Park
- Grind and overlay of Main Street from Pioneer Street to Moss Street
- Grind, overlay and replacement of Lakeview Avenue from Pioneer Street to Moss Street

### Acknowledgements

The City Council and staff made large strides in 2019, but we didn't do it alone. We would like to sincerely thank everyone that volunteered for community events and served on our committees. Also, a big thank you to our partners at the Lowell School District and Lowell Fire Department. Your support and engagement are what makes this community great, and we look forward to working with all of you again next year!

### **Board and Committee Vacancies**

The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Planning Commission, Library Committee, Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, and the Economic Development Committee. All interested residents and non-residents (as applicable) are encouraged to apply. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or downloaded online at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us). *Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.*

### **Lowell City Council Actions**

This report of actions by the City Council is provided to inform citizens of recent decisions made by the council.

#### **At the December 3rd work session, the following topics were discussed:**

- City Administrator evaluation process
- Planning Services Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane Council of Governments
- Land Development Code update

#### **At the December 3rd regular meeting, the following actions were taken:**

- Approved an amendment to the LCOG IGA for planning services with a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,000
  - Approved the purchase of a \$50 gift card for each employee
  - Approved a motion to close the City office at noon on Christmas Eve day and New Years Eve day
- All actions were approved 5-0.

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### **Monthly Police Log (November 24 – December 22)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Call Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
11/27/19	12:12 AM	Illegal Camping	100 Block East Lakeview Avenue
11/29/19	11:28 AM	Incomplete 911 call	North Damon Street and West Second Street
11/29/19	11:31 AM	Dispute	200 Block North Damon Street
12/01/19	7:50 PM	Welfare check	500 Block North Moss Street
12/04/19	11:13 PM	Dispute	500 Block D Street
12/07/19	11:00 AM	Civil Service	100 Block West Fourth Street
12/07/19	12:59 AM	Suspicious Conditions	300 Block East Fourth Street
12/09/19	10:52 PM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/18/19	10:14 AM	Criminal Mischief	500 Block East First Street
12/20/19	1:25 AM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/20/19	1:59 AM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/20/19	8:26 AM	Civil Service	100 block West Fourth Street
12/21/19	11:17 PM	Loud Noise	500 Block Carol Street

**Please report suspicious activity and tips to the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) by phone at 541-682-4150 or 541-682-4141. For a crime in progress or other emergency always dial 9-1-1.**



# FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District thanks you for the great turnout for the Community Dinner.

We were able to feed 263 people this year. We thank Lithia Toyota Springfield for the generous donation that allowed us to put the event on. We also thank the local businesses that also gave donations for the event: Lowell School District, Stomping Grounds Coffee, Fall Creek Blueberry Farms, Bridgetown Market and Floral Living. We truly appreciate the support this community gives us. This year we seemed fuller than we have in the past and with that we are looking to move the event to the Lowell High School next year. See you there.



Just around the corner we will see 2020. With that we may see some snow and/or ice. Keep in mind that shady areas may stay slick throughout the day. Be ready for a heavy snow storm like last year. Please don't hesitate to call if you need us. Have a great New Year!

## Save the Date for Hall of Fame Celebration April 18th

Save the Date cards will be mailed in early January. If you aren't on the mailing list but would like to be, please email [aaf@lowell.k12.or.us](mailto:aaf@lowell.k12.or.us) or call 541-954-5765. Honorees this year include Warren Weathers, Jim and Carol Chapman, and Stephanie Marlow. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to connect with old and new friends and raise a little money for some very worthwhile programs for our children and families.



**Lowell,  
Fall Creek  
Education  
Foundation**

## In and Around Our Community

### Start Your Quilt Project Now

It's time to start thinking about entering a quilt in our wonderful quilt show. If you have any questions, please contact Teri at gortharter@gmail.com or call 541-968-9079.



### Grange Events in January

Breakfast on Sunday, January 5th  
 Texas Hold 'em Poker on January 3rd and 18th  
 Line Dancing January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

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

### Returnable Can/Bottle Drives Monthly

Help support the High School Senior Class by bringing your returnable bottles and cans to the high school staff parking lot (next to the Woodshop) every 1st Saturday morning of the month from 10-Noon.



Thank you for your support!

### Line Dancing at the Grange!

Line Dance lessons will continue in January each Wednesday from January 8th through the 29th at the Grange from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person (ages 16 and up) to cover the rental fee.

Each week you will learn one new dance and then practice the dances you have already learned. Questions? Call Gary at 541-650-2917.



### Maxine Cardwell

A memorial service will be held for Maxine Cardwell on Sunday, January 19th at 2:00 p.m. in the high school gym. Finger foods will be provided. All are welcome to celebrate this amazing woman.



### Wanted: Stuffed Animals and Toys

Do you need to make room for your NEW Christmas toys? You can donate gently used or new toys and stuffed animals for the Blackberry Jam 'Kidz Korner' prize tent. You can drop them off at City Hall during office hours or call 541-937-2157 for pickup.

The 'Kidz Korner' brings so much enjoyment for our local kids. Thank you for your support!



### Coats are Available for Winter

Thanks to the generosity of our community, there are plenty of coats and other winter clothes available at the Clothes Bank, located in the George Hake Center (4 East Lakeview Street) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Hours are from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The clothing bank provides free items to anyone in need and all sizes are available. Clothing donations are welcome on days that the clothing bank is open, or call Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or email her at Stewartsx6@fastmail.fm to make other arrangements.

# 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*

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*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 2020

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1—New Year's Day! City Hall closed  | 16/18—Varsity Wrestling @ Oregon Wrestling Classic in Redmond  |
| 3—JH/Varsity Wrestling in Lowell, Highway 58 Classic, 5:00 p.m.<br>Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.   | 18—JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball @ Monroe, 1:30/3:00/4:30 p.m.<br>Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.                              |
| 4—Varsity Wrestling @ Elmira Tournament, 6:00 p.m.<br>Cans/Bottle Drive, 10am until noon, HS parking lot  | 19—JH Wrestling @ Oregon Wrestling Classic in Redmond  |
| 5—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.   | 20— <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> , No School, City Hall closed   |
| 6—Students return to school   | 21—JV/V Boys/ V Girls Basketball v. Regis, 4:30/6:00/7:30 p.m.<br><b>City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library</b>            |
| 7—JV/V Boys/V Girls Basketball v. Jefferson, 4:30/6:00/7:30 p.m.<br><b>City Council Work Session/Regular Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street</b>                  | 22—JH Boys Basketball v. Fern Ridge, 4:30 p.m.<br>Varsity Wrestling @ Jefferson, 5:00 p.m.<br>JH Wrestling @ Sweet Home Tourney, 6:00 p.m. |
| 8—JH Wrestling @ Oakridge, 6:00 p.m.<br>Planning Commission Mtg; 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library<br><b>Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station</b>                        | 23—Varsity Wrestling @ Elmira, 6:00 p.m.   |
| 9—Varsity Wrestling @ Monroe, 5:00 p.m.<br>JH Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill, 6:00 p.m.  | 24—JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball @ Oakland, 4:30/6:00/7:30 p.m.   |
| 10—JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball @ Central Linn, 4:30/6:00/7:30 pm   | 25—Green Waste Facility Open, 10am—Noon, 240 S. Moss Street<br>JH Wrestling @ Central Linn, Tourney, TBD                                   |
| 11—JH Wrestling @ Marshfield Tournament, TBD  | 27—JH Boys Basketball @ St. Paul, 4:30 p.m.<br><b>School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.</b>   |
| 14—City Council Executive Session, 4:00 p.m., Osgood Library<br>JV/V Boys/V Girls Basketball v. E. Linn Christian, 4:30/6/7:30<br>Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Osgood Library | 28—JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball @ Jefferson, 4:30/6:00/7:30 p.m.   |
| 15—Varsity Wrestling @ Glide, 5:00 p.m.<br>JH Wrestling v. North Douglas, 6:00 p.m.   | 29—JH Boys Basketball v. Creswell, 4:30 p.m.   |
| 16—JV Boys/Varsity Girls Basketball v. Oakridge, 4:30/6:00 p.m.   | 30—Varsity Wrestling v. Central Linn/Oakridge, 5:00 p.m.   |
|   | 31—JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball v. Central Linn, 4:30/6:00/7:30pm  |
|   | 31—Grading Day — no school<br>Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church   |