



The Bridge

Making community connections

City Declares State of Emergency

The Lowell City Council formally declared a local state of emergency for the City of Lowell on March 17 as a precautionary measure to provide the City with increased flexibility in terms of resources, purchasing, and emergency response options for the coronavirus (COVID-19). The declaration will be in effect through at least April 22.

This is not a declaration of a public health emergency, as that is not our role. The declaration enables the City and staff to be in the best position to serve the community where needed most. Other cities in the region have taken or are planning to take similar action.

The following measures will be in place for the duration of the local emergency to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- City Hall and park restrooms will be closed to the public. Residents and businesses are encouraged to complete City business online at www.ci.lowell.or.us or by calling 541-937-2157. As a reminder, utility payments are accepted via mail, drop box (next to the front door at City Hall), online at www.xpressbillpay.com, or by phone through our interactive voice response system at 866-785-8380 or live operator at 800-720-6847.
- The City will not apply late penalties, send shut-off notices, or shut off water for non-payment of unpaid utility bills while this emergency is in place.
- Advisory committee meetings are cancelled for the duration of the emergency, or until and unless an alternative meeting method has been identified.
- City Council meetings will continue, but with social distancing modifications including increased space between chairs and strong encouragement of livestreaming options. The City will continue to monitor and consider federal, state, and local public health recommendations carefully in determining whether to cancel or continue future City Council meetings during this emergency.
- Public hearings necessary to meet state-mandated land use review timelines may be held with social distancing modifications as noted above.
- All City sponsored public events are canceled for the duration of the emergency. In addition, permits for special events will not be

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

Wow! 2020 right?!?! Things have been wild so far this year and it just keeps getting crazier by the day. Although none of us have been through any of this in our lifetimes, it is now a reality that we all have to deal with every day. Our staff have been amazing in this process. Whether it's delivering meals to bus stops, passing out rolls of toilet paper with breakfast and lunch, or the many hours that have been put into sanitizing the District from top to bottom, we have been working around the clock to ensure that teaching will be happening soon. Although other districts throughout the state are awaiting guidance from the state on what the next steps are, we have been proactive in this and are ensuring that our students will not be without learning for long. You may have been contacted already regarding picking up curriculum from bus stops and if you haven't, please be patient as we will be reaching out to you as soon as possible. We will be delivering textbooks, Chromebooks and hot spots to those who need them. Kudos to all the staff that have made this "reinventing the wheel" process possible. Although this is a challenging time, we are doing our very best to ensure that our kids can be educated to the best of our ability.

As for the staff of the District, those of you who work with students have experienced those special rewards that can only come directly from those you serve--our kids. We implore you at this difficult time to remember that while you have a job in education, very few, if any, got into this business just because it was a "job." More likely it was a calling to serve others. Furthermore, you do this to have a positive impact on those you serve, not for the recognition.

While we grapple with this difficult time, we recognize and understand the importance of staying relaxed (having two daughters at home I know this can be tough), engaged, and entertained. That being said, we are encouraging our families to challenge themselves intellectually and physically.

As we continue to receive updates from the state we will be communicating those with you as soon as we get them. Our goal is to stay as connected as we can with you in a meaningful way. Again, these are unprecedented times but I couldn't ask for a better community to be involved with than this one. All of you that I have interacted with over the course of the last week have been nothing short of amazing! I am privileged to be around all of you!

Please (as hard as it may seem) stay positive and maintain healthy connections with others; although we are separate at this time, we are not alone. We can do this together our way.... The Lowell / Fall Creek way!

Stay healthy and be well. Johnie Matthews, Lowell School District Superintendent

Lowell Food Services Feeding District Children

Oregon Department of Education issued guidance regarding services that schools need to provide during the closure in order to continue to receive state school funding. Food Services Director Billy Reid marshaled a great crew who are now delivering breakfast and lunch meals by van to all regular bus stops and is continuing to provide breakfast and lunch meals for pickup at Lundy Elementary. On Wednesday of last week, this entailed distributing 215 breakfasts and 215 lunches. Thanks to all the staff who are helping make this happen — including Superintendent Johnie Matthews, pictured at right.



Lowell Mascot Brings Joy to Events

Lowell's new mascot brought a lot of energy and fun to many events. The feedback we have received from local residents and visiting parents has been phenomenal. Thanks to Aaron Hadley for literally sweating it out while entertaining crowds with his dancing and support for our team members during sporting events and students during other school events. We appreciate you!



Bridge Charter Academy Students Become Published Authors

The seventh and eighth grade students at Bridge Charter Academy became published authors in their first literary magazine project *Under the Bridge*. The seed for this project was planted back in September 2019 and it blossomed into a full scale magazine! With the guidance of their writing teacher, Mrs. Lacy, and their Learning Coordinator, Mr. Jackson, students worked hard to transform rough ideas into polished pieces. The magazine contains both fiction and nonfiction, original artwork, games, and DIY project ideas.

The main goal of the magazine was to provide students with an authentic writing experience. Most school writing projects are solely read by family and teachers and then placed in a folder, or worse, tossed in the trash. This magazine, however, allows student writing to reach a larger audience and leave a lasting impression. And, with the larger audience, we can meet our second goal of the magazine, which is to provide a way for students to receive feedback from other people outside of their school community. The students encourage all readers to use the magazine email address (magazine@bridgecharter.com) to comment/give feedback on their pieces. This feedback will give our writers encouragement and support to become even better authors.

The students want to send a sincere thank you to the individuals and businesses who donated to make this project possible. These donations allowed 400 printed copies to be distributed to the local schools, BCA families and around town.

The public can pick up a FREE copy at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop or Bridge Town Market. The students thank you in advance for the feedback given and we hope this is the first edition of many more publications in the future.



BCA students dropping off magazines to Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop and to Lundy Elementary.

Hall of Fame Celebration to be Postponed

The annual banquet and auction scheduled for April 18th has had to be postponed until Fall. The Foundation board will be meeting in May and hopefully we will have a better idea of how quickly we might be able to get back to a more normal schedule and get this event on the calendar again.

For those of you who have already sent in your ticket purchases, once we have a new date set, you will be contacted to see if you would like your payment applied to the new date or whether you would like a refund.

Thanks to all of you who have donated auction and raffle items, which will be utilized at the next celebration. We appreciate your support of this fun event! If you have any questions, please call Shannon at 541-515-5675 or email sfassbender@lowell.k12.or.us or call Maureen at 541-954-5765.



**Lowell,
Fall Creek
Education
Foundation**

City Beat by City Administrator Jared Cobb

City Declares State of Emergency — continued from Cover Page

Please know that staff and the City Council are working diligently to respond to this rapidly evolving situation. This declaration is not meant to cause panic, but instead, to assure residents that the City is taking every precaution possible to prevent the spread of this virus in our community.

For local updates and cancellations please visit the City website at www.ci.lowell.or.us or follow us on Facebook [@CityofLowellOregon](https://www.facebook.com/CityofLowellOregon) or Instagram [@cityoflowelloregon](https://www.instagram.com/cityoflowelloregon).

For COVID-19 resources please see the following:

[Lane County Health Department](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus) – www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus

[Oregon Health Authority for statewide updates](http://www.oregon.gov/oha) – www.oregon.gov/oha

[Center for Disease Control for U.S. updates](http://www.cdc.gov) – www.cdc.gov

Lane County non-emergency call center 541-682-1380

Public Notice of Intent to Abate

In April of each year, the City is required to provide the public with a copy of LRC 5.122 regarding the abatement of noxious vegetation. Noxious vegetation is defined as poison oak; poison ivy; blackberry bushes that extend into a public thoroughfare or across a property line; vegetation that is a health hazard, fire hazard, or traffic hazard; weeds or grass more than 12 inches high; weeds or grass going to seed; and noxious vegetation does not include agricultural crops unless that crop is a health, traffic, or fire hazard. Prior to any citation or abatement action, the property owner or person in charge of property will be provided with a minimum 10 days' notice to abate the vegetation. A copy of LRC 5.122 is provided below for your reference:

“5.122 Owner Responsibility. No owner or person in charge of property may allow noxious vegetation to be on his property or on the public right-of-way abutting his property. It shall be the duty of an owner or person in charge of the property to cut down or to destroy noxious vegetation. Exception: For parcels one acre or larger in size, noxious vegetation need only be controlled for a distance of 20 feet from an adjoining property where development has occurred and is not required to be controlled adjoining undeveloped property unless specifically requested by the owner of the undeveloped property.”

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 March 3rd work session, the following topics were discussed:

- 2020 Strategic Plan
- 2020 City Administrator Objectives
- FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan

At the March 17th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved a Food Trailer in the Rolling Rock Park turnout with conditions.
- Approved converting Lakeview Avenue between Moss and Pioneer streets to one-way, after the street improvement project is complete.
- Approved the purchase of a commercial mower from Mid Valley Tractor in an amount not-to-exceed \$14,000.
- Approved moving forward with a Library Capital Campaign.
- Approved the 2020 City Administrator Objectives.
- Approved Resolution 731—A resolution to apply for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Rolling Rock Park improvements.
- Approved Resolution 732—A resolution to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for Rolling Rock Park improvements.
- Approved Resolution 733—A resolution declaring a local state of emergency in the City of Lowell as a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

All actions were approved 4-0.

Notice of Budget Committee Meeting and State Revenue Sharing Public Hearing

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Lowell, Lane County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, will be held at 70 North Pioneer Street, Lowell, OR 97452. The meeting will take place on April 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 22, 2020 at Lowell City Hall, 107 East Third Street, Lowell, OR 97452 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. or on the City's website at www.ci.lowell.or.us.

At this meeting, the Budget Committee will also conduct a public hearing regarding the use of State Revenue Sharing Funds. Citizens are invited to recommend uses for State Revenue Sharing Funds distributed by the State of Oregon to the City of Lowell for fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Due to COVID-19, the Budget Committee meeting will be broadcast live on the City's website at www.ci.lowell.or.us using videoconferencing software. Residents are strongly encouraged to submit written comments in the City Hall Drop Box, email to jcobb@ci.lowell.or.us, or by text during the online public hearing session.

Board and Committee Vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Planning Commission, 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. *Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.*

Monthly Police Log (February 26—March 27)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
02/28/20	10:54 PM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
02/29/20	10:35 AM	Violation of Restraining Order	600 Block North Moss Street
02/29/20	12:32 AM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
02/29/20	8:18 PM	Subpoena Service	500 Block East First Street
03/04/20	12:22 AM	Suspicious Vehicle	Lowell State Park
03/06/20	9:03 PM	Dispute	100 Block South Pioneer Street
03/06/20	10:53 PM	Alarm	100 Block South Pioneer Street
03/07/20	1:43 PM	Subpoena Service	500 Block East First Street
03/10/20	4:22 AM	Recover Stolen Vehicle	100 Block West Main Street
03/10/20	3:52 PM	Welfare Check	100 Block North Cannon Street
03/10/20	3:52 PM	Welfare Check	100 Block North Cannon Street
03/11/20	12:33 AM	Assist Public	500 Block Carol Street
03/11/20	3:28 PM	Welfare Check	100 Block East Second Street
03/13/20	8:42 AM	Citizen Contact	Pengra Road and North Shore Drive
03/14/20	7:37 AM	Hit and Run	North Moss Street and East Third Street
03/14/20	5:00 PM	Dispute	400 Block North Hyland Lane
03/14/20	8:43 PM	Dispute	100 Block South Pioneer Street
03/14/20	9:03 PM	Dispute	100 Block South Pioneer Street
03/14/20	9:23 PM	Suspicious Subject	100 Block South Pioneer Street
03/17/20	1:17 AM	Follow Up	100 Block West Main Street
03/22/20	7:56 PM	Disorderly Subject	100 Block North Shore Drive
03/26/20	10:07 AM	Theft	1100 Block Industrial Way

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

Budget Committee Meeting April 8th

The Lowell Rural Fire protection District will be holding their Budget Committee Meeting on April 8th, 2020. Due to the current conditions they will be working on having the members of the committee call in for a teleconference. The Fire Chief will be at the Main Station if anyone from the public has questions. The meeting will start at 6:30.

Time to Prepare for Wildfire Season

Already this year we are starting to see grass fires. Please try to have a 3-foot clear path around your fire so that we can reduce the possibility of a fire getting out of hand. Remember that just because it rains one day the grasses and debris may still be dry and can burn quickly and hot. 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 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 provide 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.



In and Around Our Community

Blackberry Jam Quilt Show — July 25 & 26

The Pine Needlers invite you to enter a quilt. Enter as many as you would like, made by you, a friend or family member. Let's fill this year's show with lots of Community Spirit. Contact Teri at 541-968-9079 or email gortharter@gmail.com.

Clothing Bank Open by Appointment Only

Contact Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 to meet on an individual basis only. They are closed to the public.

Lowell Food Pantry is Open!

The Lowell Food Pantry is still serving the community during the coronavirus outbreak. Pantry days are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Bread days are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10:00-noon.

Please bring your own bags or boxes to carry your food in. Thanks to all of the volunteers that make the pantry a successful community service.

Lowell, Dexter Lake Farmers Market 2020 Season

The Farmers Market board of directors met on Sunday March 22 by phone conference call. We talked about the Covid-19 infection situation. If it is long lasting, how will it affect our Market season? The board will be evaluating what form the market will take, and when we will be able to open. Last month, we set opening day for May 17th to accommodate sales of garden starts by the high school garden program and other gardeners. We are enthusiastic in our support of local gardening and food resilience. The OSU extension master gardeners want to come out to the market again this year to help with your garden plans and questions. I hope many people are planting their gardens and caring for their fruit trees. We have enjoyed high quality products from local gardeners these past three years.

Oregon licenses farm kitchens and home bakeries. The regulations are somewhat stringent, but licensed people can preserve and sell pickles, acid fruits and berries, and certain other canned goods, as well as baked goods which do not have eggs or dairy as a main ingredient. These programs are administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The products must be sold directly by the cook or baker. They cannot be consigned. Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture for more information.

The US Department of Agriculture also has programs of interest. They are offering grants for expanding and improving Farmers Markets across the country. We can apply for a grant, even if we are not able to be open this summer. The grant closes at the end of May. We would like to use this grant to put money into the market to help us operate on a truly professional basis.

The prospect for having the market this summer is somewhat hopeful. In the Governor's [Executive order 20-12 published March 23, page 4 indicates that](#) certain businesses are exempted. "This Executive Order (of closure) does not apply to restaurants, bars, taverns, brew pubs, wine bars, cafes, food courts, coffee shops, or other similar establishments that offer food or drink, which remain subject to Executive Order No. 20-07 (prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink, but allowing take-out or delivery service). Indoor and outdoor malls, and other businesses ... are not prohibited from operating to provide food, grocery, health care, medical, pharmacy, or pet store services."

This list certainly does seem as though it might include farmers markets on a limited basis, for example our consignment stand and one or two other vendors of food which would not be eaten on-site. No social event, just good quality local food to carry home. The social distancing and closure regulations of at least one other state includes farmers markets as "exempt" from closure. The caveat is, strict social distancing must be practiced or the business is shut down.

These are some thoughts on how our market might develop this summer. The board will meet in the coming weeks and we will know more as time goes along.

Volunteer help is always welcome. We are especially looking for someone to help set up an online food ordering system so that consumers, could buy online from local food producers.

Please contact Lowell-Dexter Lake Farmers Market if you have questions or concerns or have any good ideas for us! Contact us at toepkemclean@gmail.com or call 541-937-3034.

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

NON-PROFIT

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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: April 2020

- 3—Texas Hold ‘em Poker — cancelled
 - 4—Cans/Bottle Drive — cancelled
 - 5—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
 - 7—**City Council Special Meeting & Work Session, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street**
 - 8—**Fire District Budget/Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station**
 - 11—Covered Bridge Regatta — cancelled
 - 12—Easter Breakfast at East Valley Church, 8:30 a.m., Pending
 - 14—Planning Commission Meeting (State required public hearing);
7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library; 70 N. Pioneer Street
 - 21—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library**
 - 24—Senior Potluck Luncheon — cancelled
 - 27—**School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.**
 - 28—Green Waste Facility — Closed
 - 29—City of Lowell Budget Committee; 6:00 p.m., Osgood Library
- Coming in May:
Who knows?

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Protecting Children is Everyone's Business...
GetInvolvedLaneCounty.org



Although the coronavirus pandemic has curtailed many of the activities associated with Child Abuse Prevention Month, please keep this important issue in the forefront, especially in light of these stressful times. You can check on families to make sure they are okay; offer help to those who need it; and if you're up to it, place pinwheels in your yard to bring attention to this important effort!