



The Bridge

Making community connections

New Vaccination Process For Lane County Residents

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 10

April 2021

Good news! Lane County no longer requires preregistration to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment for those who are eligible. When you are eligible under Oregon Health Authority guidelines, you can go directly to the [Lane County Vaccine Clinic](#) website and check for an appointment.

To schedule an appointment for a first or second dose:

- **You must be eligible under currently Oregon Health Authority guidelines.** If you are unsure, please visit <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/#prioritization>.
- Complete the scheduling form, including choosing first or second dose, completing the prescreening information and entering your personal information. Taking these steps before viewing the scheduling page helps us ensure that only those who are currently eligible schedule an appointment.
- Select the location, date and time for an appointment. Please schedule a location closest to where you live and reserve the rural locations for those who live in those communities.
- You must have an appointment to attend a vaccine clinic. We will not accept walk-ups and you will be turned away without a vaccine.
- If you need clinic site information, directions or to cancel your appointment, please visit www.lanecounty.org/vaxclinics.

If you prefer to schedule by phone, please call 541-682-1380 (Spanish speakers can call this number to leave a message and receive a call back).

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Thursday, April 22nd

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

Spring has sprung! The sun is shining, the days are longer, and we are seeing a gradual return to the springtime happenings of school years past. We are settling back in after a much-needed spring break. With the additional stresses of the everchanging schedules, guidance, and distancing, we had all experienced higher than normal amounts of stress this year. A brief break to get us recharged and ready to finish the year strong was essential.



The return of daffodils also brought the return of spectators to our sports. To some this may not seem like a major milestone, but to our student-athletes, it was vital. We are continuing to livestream sporting events to allow all of our Red Devil supporters to watch. Additionally, each athlete is now able to also have two spectators at events as well.

Another “spring” in the right direction is the change in distancing mandates for schools. Previously, we were required to maintain a six-foot distance. This guidance, approved by the OHA and the CDC, changes the requirement to three-foot distancing. What does this mean? We can now fit more students in classrooms, gyms, and lunchrooms, allowing for a more normalized schedule for everyone.

For me, what all of this means is that we are moving back towards educating our children the way they deserve to be educated. They are in classrooms, on the field and having opportunities to grow and learn again. In the words of Anita Krizzan, “Spring will come and so will happiness. Hold on. Life will get warmer.” Life at Lowell is definitely getting warmer.

Stay well, Johnie Matthews

School Board Elections Coming in May

On May 18, 2021, you will be asked to vote in a very important special election: School Board Director, positions 2, 3, and 4. Many may not even know that these are elected positions. Each of these seats carries a four-year term. These candidates come forward to give of their time and expertise to serve our school district as leaders and decision makers. They will help guide our district leadership in areas of finances, policy, contracts, negotiations, and many other endeavors.

Stepping down this year is School Board Director, Joyce Donnell. Joyce has served as a member of the board as well as Chairperson. Her quiet leadership, insightful perspective and compassion has served the district and the board beyond compare. She will be missed, and her absence will be felt throughout the district.

Running for Director Position #2 is longstanding community member, Jason Prenevost. He is new to the School Board arena but not to leadership. He is currently the LRFD Board Chair and sits on the Lowell School District Budget Committee. He is a local business owner and is active in Lowell Wrestling. He is currently running unopposed. Director Position #3 is being sought by Michael J. Galvin. He is the incumbent for this position and has served on the Lowell School Board for 14 years. He has also taken on other leadership roles in the community.

There are two candidates vying for Director Position #4. James A. Chapman is the incumbent with many years of School Board experience. He has since retired, but spent many years teaching in Lowell School District as well. The challenger for this position is longtime community member and business owner, Jerry L. Valencia. While not having any experience on the School Board, he has been a part of many organizations and leadership activities around Lowell, through his association with U of O, and as a part of his business.

We wish all of our candidates the best and thank you for your willingness to serve and your commitment to the students and staff of Lowell School District.

Parent Teacher Organization Needs You!

PTO is ready to get back into the swing of things! We would love some assistance from the community as things are opening up. Please reach out to Miranda Plagmann- 541-288-3079 or by email at rogue9653@hotmail.com to see how you can help. We try to be as flexible as possible and appreciate any time or effort you can give. Happy Spring!





Lowell Volleyball

With two games remaining, Lowell sits on top of the 2A-3 Central Valley Conference at 7-1, tied with Monroe. Post-season play will begin April 5th and the schedule will be announced soon. Team members include seniors Lucy Plahn and Kelsie Smith; juniors Ashlee Brooks and Alexis Curry; sophomores Esperanza Gusman-Fields, Amadalla Plagmann, and Lydia Plahn; and, freshmen Elizabeth Able, Amerika Baszler, Kameron Baszler, Faith Cabrera, Brooke Davis, Kenadee Hermansen, Lillianah Neet, and Annabelle Pickett. Head coach Kristen Prenevost is assisted by Mollie Garcia-Cash and Kodye Casarez.

Football Season Update

Lowell football is 2-2 in our first season of 2A 11 man. We lost 26-12 to Monroe, then lost 26-18 to Oakland. Lowell then beat Reedsport 35-0 and Central Linn 39-0. In those wins, Austin Smith ran for all ten touchdowns! No post season play is scheduled but a sixth game was added for April 8th.



Lowell Cross Country

We had a small team this year, but we've had a lot of fun! High school team members are: Katie Chapman, Preston Neet, Autumn Estes, and Caden Durfee (not pictured). Middle school team members are: Dixie Marchi, Mila Dahl, Kaedyn Ivey, Callum Plahn. Head coach Jill Chapman is assisted by Al Lebovitz, Brandon Chittim and Cody Brooks.



Students of the Month



Kaelyn Matthews (at left) is a senior at Lowell and the daughter of Sheri and Cory Matthews. Kaelyn likes hunting with her dad and loves her family time enjoying wilderness areas. She shoots a long bow for fun. Obsessed with plants, she especially enjoys her indoor succulent and cactus garden. She loves strong coffee, roller coasters, and scary movies. Next on Kaelyn's adventure list is sky diving.



Sophie Anderson is an 8th grader and the daughter of Kerry Anderson. Sophie enjoys hanging out with her friends and pets and recently got a White's tree frog she named Quigley.

She spends a lot of her time doing dance with Eugene Ballet. Her favorite food is any type of pasta or sushi and her favorite subject is English.

Congratulations Kaelyn and Sophie on being selected as Students of the Month!

City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

Notice of Owner Responsibility for Destroying Noxious Vegetation

Pursuant to Section 5.120 of the Lowell Revised Code, all property owners within the City of Lowell are advised as follows:

No owner or person in charge of property may allow noxious vegetation to be on his/her property or on the public right-of-way abutting his/her property. It shall be the duty of an owner or person in charge of 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.

The City intends to abate noxious vegetation within not less than ten days of a final notice to abate such vegetation sent to the property owner and that all costs of doing so will be charged to the owner of the property being abated. A citation may be issued in lieu of or in addition to abatement action.

Noxious vegetation is defined as:

Poison oak	Weeds or grass more than 12 inches high.
Poison ivy	Weeds or grass going to seed.
Blackberry bushes that extend into a public thoroughfare or across a property line.	Vegetation that is a fire hazard
Vegetation that is a traffic hazard because it impairs the view of a public thoroughfare or otherwise makes use of the thoroughfare hazardous.	Vegetation that is health hazard
Noxious vegetation does not include an agricultural crop, unless that crop is a health, traffic, or fire hazard.	

City Hall Remains Closed Until Further Notice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, city hall remains closed. The City of Lowell is working to ensure the safety, security, and health of the public and our staff, while continuing to offer you the customer service you expect from us.

Consistent with guidance on limiting the spread of COVID-19 through social distancing, we ask you to please communicate with our staff over the telephone at 541-937-2157 and via internet as a primary method. The Public Works facilities are closed to the public. City staff continues to operate essential functions from those facilities, including water and wastewater services.

Visit the City’s website at www.ci.lowell.or.us for information on services, forms, or other items you need. We are also available via email at: jdonnell@ci.lowell.or.us.

How To Make Payments for City Services and Utility Bills

- **Use the drop box** - Beside the front door of City Hall at 107 E 3rd Street. This drop box can be used for any type of city business to reduce person-to-person contact.
- **Pay online through Xpress Bill Pay** - There is no additional fee to access this service and if you choose, you can set up autopay.
- **Pay by phone** - Call Xpress Bill Pay at 1-800-720-6847 and press 1.
- **Mail your payment** - Please mail it to: City of Lowell, PO Box 490, Lowell, OR 97452.

City Council, Planning Commission, and Committee actions:

At its March 2nd meeting, the City Council discussed the following items:

- Purchase of water meters and back-flow inspection opt-in program; setting the budget calendar for the 2021/2022 fiscal year; master planning for Paul Fisher Park; direction on preparing the City's property at 205 E. Main Street for sale; and, next steps on the Maggie Osgood Library renovation project.

At its March 3rd special meeting and work session, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- Approved a modification of conditions of use for Crestview Estate subdivision
- Approved a condition of use for Crestview Estates subdivision
- Reviewed recommendations on development code update project

At its March 11th regular meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee approved a motion to recommend that city Council prioritize the installation of irrigation and shade trees in City parks, in particular at Paul Fisher Park.

At its March 16th regular meeting, the City Council took the following actions:

- Approved "Modification of Condition of Approval #3" and "Review of Condition of Approval #21" for Land Use File #2019-06 for the Crestview Estates Subdivision owned by McDougal Bros. Investments
- Authorized the City Administrator to make a purchase of \$26,923 for 100 quantity flow IQ2250 water meters from Correct Equipment.
- Authorized the City Administrator to solicit requests for proposals for architectural services for the Maggie Osgood Library renovation project.

Monthly Police Log (February 23—March 24)

Date	Call Type	Address	Time
3/8/2021	UNLAWFUL USE OF VEHICLE	N HYLAND LN	9:47 AM
3/8/2021	UNLAWFUL USE OF VEHICLE	N HYLAND LN	1:50 PM
3/9/2021	ALARM	S MOSS ST	10:42 AM
3/9/2021	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	E NORTH SHORE DR	5:42 PM
3/10/2021	ALARM	S MOSS ST	6:44 AM
3/10/2021	SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS	N CANNON ST	5:48 PM
3/11/2021	THEFT	BLK S DAMON ST	3:13 PM
3/11/2021	THEFT	S DAMON ST	3:13 PM
3/12/2021	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N CANNON ST	12:34 PM
3/12/2021	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N CANNON ST	12:34 PM
3/13/2021	THEFT	N PIONEER ST	11:49 AM
3/16/2021	THEFT	N CANNON ST	2:55 PM
3/16/2021	TRESPASSING	N CANNON ST	6:19 PM
3/17/2021	SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS	W MAIN ST	9:39 AM
3/17/2021	LOCK OUT	N CANNON ST	9:56 AM
3/17/2021	LOCK OUT	N CANNON ST	2:27 PM
3/17/2021	LOCK OUT	N CANNON ST	2:36 PM
3/18/2021	LOCK OUT	N CANNON ST	8:30 AM
3/19/2021	ALARM	S MOSS ST	6:54 AM
3/19/2021	FRAUD	BLK D ST	9:48 AM
3/20/2021	TOWED VEHICLE	N CANNON ST	5:43 PM
3/20/2021	TOWED VEHICLE	N CANNON ST	5:43 PM
3/22/2021	CIVIL SERVICE	BLK N MOSS ST	7:44 PM
3/23/2021	NARCOTICS	N PIONEER ST	3:33 PM
3/23/2021	WELFARE CHECK	N PIONEER ST	6:40 PM

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

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District will be holding their Budget Committee Meeting on April 14, 2021. This meeting is to look over the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Now is the Time to Safeguard your Property from Wildfire Threat

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.

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.

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



Green Waste Drop-off Update

The green waste drop-off facility will only be open the last Saturday of every month from 10:00am - 12:00pm. Lowell residents may drop off acceptable materials at no charge. Proof of residency within the City of Lowell is required and may be confirmed with a recent utility bill or photo ID. Contact the City for a list of green waste materials that the City can accept and a list of green waste materials that the City cannot accept.

Due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, City staff are unable to assist with unloading. Below is a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact City Hall by email at greenwaste@ci.lowell.or.us or phone at 541-937-2157.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

90by30 is a community-campus partnership dedicated to reducing child abuse and neglect in Lane County 90 percent by 2030. We're community-led but county-wide, focusing on local strategies that fit the unique needs of each region or city. Our goal is to make Lane County a safe, healthy, and nurturing place for families and children by engaging our neighbors, focusing on primary prevention that stops child abuse before it starts, and finding a role for everyone in supporting parents. You – and all your neighbors – have an important role. Contact our local East Lane Coordinator Susan Hardy at susanh@90by30.com to see how you can help. Thank you.



MED-Project has issued Lowell City Hall as a site for unwanted medicine mail-back envelopes.

We are distributing these envelopes to residents upon request. These “Unwanted Medicine Mail-Back Envelopes” are to be used for unwanted and/or expired medicine from residents and contain instructions on a paper insert within each envelope.

Contact Lowell City Hall at 541-937-2157 to request a FREE envelope.

Unwanted Medicine Mail-Back Envelopes cannot be used for pre-filled injector products or inhalers.

Local Real Estate News & Tips

Real Estate & Your Wealth

- In 2020, the average homeowner’s equity increased by \$17,000.
- Last year, home values appreciated at their highest levels since 2014.
- Overall, homeowner equity grew \$1 Trillion.
- Many homes in today’s market have multiple offers and sell above asking price.



5 Reasons to Sell Your Home This Spring

- Pent-Up Demand – The Pandemic delayed the 2020 spring buying season, and now, many who waited are ready to get back into the game.
- Low Interest Rates – Financing your next home is affordable with mortgage rates at historic lows.
- Faster Process - Homes are selling quickly, with new listings spending about 7-21 days on the market.
- Solid Home Prices – Low housing inventory and high demand are getting sellers top dollar for their homes.
- Supply May Increase – As new home construction rises in 2021, prices may begin to stabilize. Sell your property now to get the best price!

March RMLS Data:	# of Homes	Average Price
Active Listings	5	\$ 695,000
Pending	9	\$ 445,000
Sold	5	\$ 416,000

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

ECRWSS

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit #1

Lowell, OR 97452

Postal Customer Lowell/Fall Creek

*The Bridge is a cooperative effort of Lowell School District #71,
City of Lowell and Lowell Rural Fire Protection District.*

Upcoming Meetings and Events: April 2021

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1—Varsity Volleyball @ Oakland, 6:00 p.m. | 24—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon |
| 2—Varsity Football @ Creswell, 7:00 p.m. | 26—Varsity Baseball @ Jefferson, 4:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem. |
| 6— City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom | 27—Varsity Softball v. Oakridge, 4:30 p.m. |
| 7—Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom | 28—Varsity Baseball v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
Lowell Budget Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom |
| 8—Varsity Football @ Pleasant Hill Jamboree v. Glide, 7:00 p.m. | 30—Varsity Softball Double header v. Riddle, 2:00/4:00 p.m.
Varsity Baseball @ Regis, 4:30 p.m. |
| 9— No School! Grading Day
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. | TBD - Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting not yet scheduled |
| 13—Varsity Softball v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Baseball @ Monroe, 4:30 p.m.
Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom | |
| 14—Lowell Fire District Budget Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Followed by the District Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. | |
| 15—Varsity Baseball v. Regis, 4:30 p.m. | |
| 16—Varsity Softball Double header v. Glide, 2:00/4:00 p.m. | |
| 17—Varsity Baseball @ Oakridge, 2:00 p.m.
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. | |
| 20—Varsity Softball @ Elkton, 4:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library | |
| 21— Half-day of School! Curriculum Day, release at 11:50
Varsity Baseball v. Central Linn, 4:30 p.m. | |
| 23—Varsity Softball Double header @ Oakland, 2:00/4:00 p.m.
Varsity Baseball @ East Linn Christian, 4:30 p.m. | |

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2021-22

Do you have a child that will be five
on or before September 1st?

Call Lundy Elementary to receive
your Kindergarten Enrollment Packet
541-937-2105