



The Bridge

Making community connections

What If No One Answered the Call?

The Bridge

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July 2020

A storm breaks out unexpectedly in our community. A candle starts a fire in a home. A car crashes in the blinding rain. People of all ages call for help every day and night. What would happen if no one answered the call? Who would respond to protect the lives and property of our community? Who would be there to help?

Every day in our community, emergency responders (volunteers), answer the call of our families, friends and neighbors who are in need. From car accidents to heart attacks, from house fires to technical rescues, Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs are there to protect lives and property.

Emergency responders are a special type of people, with many different reasons for answering the call to duty. Some like the challenges and the adrenaline rush, while others like to sharpen their emergency skills and techniques. Every one of them answers the call so that they can help someone in need.

Today's Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs do far more than put out fires or bandage wounds. Volunteer Emergency Responders are the first line of defense in the management of natural and man-made disasters or calamity. They respond to vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, specialized rescue situations and a vast array of emergency medical complaints.

Becoming a Volunteer Firefighter or EMT can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life and allow you to reach out to someone in need. Together with the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District you can ensure that there is always someone to "answer the call". For more information about volunteering, call the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393.

Inside this issue:

School News

Superintendent Message	p. 2
Thanks from Ms. Graham	p. 3
Scholarships Awarded	p. 3
Food Service Update	p. 3

City Beat

Downtown Street and Utility Improvements	p. 4
Utility Assistance	p. 4
Radar Speed Sign	p. 4
COVID-19 Policy	p. 4
Committee Vacancies	p. 4
City Council Actions	p. 5
Police Log	p. 5

Fire District

What If No One Answered the Call?	p. 6
Defensible Space	p. 6
Burning Season Ends	p. 6
Fireworks Safety	p. 6

Other

Preschool Openings	p. 7
Fireworks Shop	p. 7
Quilt Show!	p. 7
Farmers' Market	p. 7
Business Directory	p. 8
Calendar of Events	p. 8



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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

Summer is finally here, although it seems like it has been going on since March. This is especially true if you have kiddos at home. We have been working diligently in the district trying to close out this year and start preparing for next year. The district administration team usually gets part of July off to decompress, however, due to the pandemic we will be busy this summer preparing for the next school year to start and will be giving out guidance as soon as we receive it. Without beating around the bush, things are changing every day.

We are living and operating in unprecedented times and things will look differently next year. To what scale, I am not sure yet. I wish I had the answers. All Superintendents throughout the state wish they did too.

We are supposed to be the ones with all of the answers or at least be able to access the resources to get them. However, we are all doing our best with the constantly changing guidance and will continue to do so on a daily basis. I know that's not very clear. To put it bluntly, we are trying our best and will do our best to ensure that when kids return to campus, it will be as safe as it possibly can be, while doing our best to ensure all safety protocols are in place and we get to return to normal (or as close as we can get) as soon as we can.

Now for the fun stuff. Three staff members that have meant so much to this district are starting a new chapter in their lives and I want to take a minute to recognize each of them.

Glenda Green has retired and we are genuinely sad to see her go. She has been here for three generations of families and if you have ever had the chance to be around her, you know what kind of positive influence she is on a person's life. To do what she has done over the course of her tenure in this district has been such an asset and she will not be forgotten. She has the kindest soul I have ever been around and I only wish that my kids could have had the chance to have learned from her in their schooling careers. Not being able to see her face every day will be sad, but we will always remember the amazing person and teacher that she was and how much she meant to all the kiddos she taught.

Junior Senior High School Principal Kay Graham is also starting a new chapter of her career as the Assistant Principal at Sheldon High School. Kay started here the same time Dr. Hanline did and has been instrumental in increasing our freshman on track to graduate, graduation rates and College and Career readiness as well as reducing chronic absenteeism. She has been an amazing mentor to me over the years and she will be greatly missed. The trajectory that Lowell has been on over the course of the last seven years has been nothing short of remarkable as she has had a huge part in it and we are glad that we were able to be included in a chapter of her life.

Amber Hansen has served as our Special Education Teacher and Student Services Director as well as our Special Education Director over the course of the last 14 years. She has also chosen to enter a new chapter in her life. Although she will still be involved in a consultant capacity with the district, she will be missed very much. Amber has been a main cog within this district for years and we are so very fortunate to have had her grace us with her presence. She is a tireless worker who has worked diligently to provide quality Special Education Services to the students that needed them during her time here. She has been a strong advocate and we are sad to see her go.

To all these wonderful people that have moved on, we greatly appreciate their wisdom, insight, countless hours, care and compassion that they have shown our students and staff over their illustrious careers here in Lowell. While I am sad to see them go, I am happy that they have been a part of the Lowell School District family. We wish them all the best and they will always be remembered as people who contributed to making Lowell School District a great place to be!

Be Well, Be Healthy and Be Kind, Johnie Matthews, Superintendent



Dear Lowell Students, Parents, and Community,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to the Lowell School Board and Community for allowing me the opportunity to work as an administrator in the Lowell School District for the past seven years. Your commitment to the youth of this city is outstanding. But then, Lowell has a rich history of wanting its area youth to receive a great education. Right now, a picture of Mrs. Lee Wetleau (taken on her 100th birthday by the late renowned photographer, John Bauguess, of Dexter, Oregon) is sitting on my desk as a reminder of that commitment. From the first time I “met her” in the photograph and heard the story about how she basically donated the land that Lowell High School sits on, it was clear to me that this community was special. Indeed, the commitment of the Lowell School Board, staff, parents, and Lowell citizens to the area youth is unmatched. This is demonstrated daily as the LHS alumni come back to the school and work with students in athletics as coaches, as guest speakers, and a whole spectrum of volunteer activity. And of course, the passage of the school bond is also a testament of your commitment to our area children.



I would also like you to know how appreciative I am for the creation of the Kay Graham Achievement Scholarship. Thank you for your very generous donations into that scholarship fund. Please know that I consider that the greatest of honors and am so pleased that many hard-working LHS students will be beneficiaries of that scholarship.

Indeed, my time at Lowell has been the most rewarding in my career. I have always had an affinity for this area and, as a 4th generation Oregonian, the more I learned about the history of Lowell, the more connections and ties I found I have to this area. So, while I have “turned in my keys,” so to speak, I will see you at future Lowell “happenings.” I can’t wait to see the finished gym for example!

Again, thank you for a wonderful seven years. My absolute best to the Lowell students, families, and community.

Go LHS Red Devils!!! Kay Graham

Lowell Graduates Earn Scholarships for College

On June 12, 32 seniors graduated from high school and took home over \$355,000 in scholarships! Among the awardees were the first graduates honored with the new Kay Graham Achievement Scholarship. From left to right, the awardees are: Shyann Pocholec, Taysian Williamson, Paige Griffith and Andrew Kintzley. Thanks to all the staff, parents and community members who made this graduation a success, in spite of the coronavirus pandemic.



Food Service Summer Update: New Lundy Drive-through Menu

Starting on Monday, June 29, we are serving hot, ready-to-eat food. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, please come on by and grab a hot lunch and an ice cold ICEE. We will also have our regular Take-and-Bake options for pickup on Thursday for the weekend.

We will continue to be open Monday through Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm until the end of August. This program is designed for all children 18 years old and under. You do not need to be a student of the District to participate, all children can eat for free. Children do not need to be present for an adult to pick up the meals for them. Stop by and grab a meal on your way to the lake, river, parks or for a picnic.

We are honored to be able to provide this program and we are grateful for all the warm and kind words of how much it helps. Please be aware that while this is a great service to offer to the community, it is also a way for the school district to raise much needed funds. Every meal that is served generates funds for the school and we would like to thank you all for helping us as we try to help you. With school closed for the summer, we need you more than ever, so please come by and grab a tasty free lunch for the kids and grab our weekend bag on Thursdays.

City Beat by City Administrator Jared Cobb

Downtown Street and Utility Improvements

Last year we completed a Pavement Preservation Plan and adopted a Downtown Master Plan. We're excited to announce that the first two projects to improve Main Street and Lakeview Avenue will be underway within the next two weeks. Improvements are as follows:

Main Street

- Repaved from Moss Street to Pioneer Street
- Existing 6" water main replaced
- Conduit placed for electric and telecommunication utilities

Lakeview Avenue

- Repaved from Moss Street to Pioneer Street
- Existing 6" water main replaced
- Flush curb installed on the south side; upright curb installed on the north side of the street
- Right-of-way regraded on north side of the street and sidewalk replaced
- Conduit placed for electric and telecommunication utilities
- Upon completion, street will be made one-way from Moss Street to Pioneer Street to improve traffic flow and safety for pedestrians



Lakeview Avenue looking East

New Utility Assistance Program

The City's Local State of Emergency expired on June 16. Starting July 1, penalties and shutoffs will resume. We recognize the hardship that COVID-19 has created on many of our residents. To assist, staff will work with residents to setup a payment plan. A Utility Assistance Pilot program has also been created, which will provide a 25% reduction in base water and sewer fees for residents that meet household income criteria. Please call or visit City Hall for more information.

Radar Speed Sign

The City purchased a solar radar speed sign to collect data and reduce speeding on neighborhood streets. Currently, the sign is placed at the intersection of North Hyland Lane and Third Street. Data is collected in real-time and transmitted every 15 minutes to the cloud. For a summary of traffic statistics, residents may visit the following link: streetsoncloud.com/public/City+of+Lowell+Radar+Sign.

New State COVID-19 Policy

On Monday, June 29, Governor Kate Brown announced that Oregonians statewide will be required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces beginning Wednesday, July 1. The guidance applies to businesses and members of the public visiting indoor public spaces. Face covering requirements are already mandated in eight counties. The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) will take the lead, along with other state and local agencies, in enforcing face covering requirements for all covered Oregon businesses.

Board and Committee Vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Parks and Recreation 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.*

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 June 2nd work session, the following topics were discussed:

- Oregon RAIN contract; City Council interview with John Myers; Pine Needlers Special Event Application for a Drive Through Quilt Show in the library parking lot; Lowell High School Special Event Application to have a car parade for graduation; Crestview Subdivision Agreement; Utility Payment Assistance Program; Utility Payment In Lieu of Franchise Fee; Fiscal Year 2020/21 Utility Rates; Main Street and Lakeview Avenue Bid Award; Main Street and Lakeview Avenue

At the June 2nd special meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Appointed John Myers to the City Council Position 2 (passed 4:0).
- Awarded bid to Wildish Construction in amount not to exceed \$425,854.75 and authorized the Mayor to sign any necessary agreements or documents to approve the project.
- Approved the Special Event Application for the Lowell Pine Needlers as a City-sponsored event.
- Approved the Special Event Application for the Lowell School District.
- Authorized the Mayor to sign the Agreement for Improvements for the Crestview Subdivision, as written.
- Authorized the City Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with RAIN and the City of Oakridge, as written.
- Designated the City Administrator to enter into negotiations with Mary Lawson of 205 E. Main Street and Jerry Bjornstad of 295 E. Main Street and report back to council on his findings.
- Designated the City Administrator to investigate the surplus property Tax Lot #1901142407000 for possible sale.

Motions were approved 5:0.

At the June 23rd regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Amended the bid award to Wildish Construction in an amount not to exceed \$433,094.75.
- Approved the Agreement for Improvements with Courtland Manufacturing, as written.
- Awarded the accounting services contract to Layli A. Nichols, as submitted.
- Approved Resolution 742—FY 2020-21 Water and Sewer Rates.
- Approved Resolution 743—FY 2020-21 Proposed Uses of State Revenue Sharing.
- Approved Resolution 744—Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for Fiscal Year 2020-21.
- Approved Resolution 745—FY 2020-21 Budget and Imposing and Categorizing Tax.
- Approved Resolution 746—Utility Payment Assistance Program.
- Approved Resolution 747—Utility Payment In Lieu of Franchise Fee.
- Approved the procurement of 205 E. Main Street and 295 E. Main Street in an amount not to exceed \$298,500.
- Approved the procurement of a carport from Carports and More in an amount not to exceed \$5,500.

Motions were passed 5:0.

Monthly Police Log (May 24—June 29)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
06/02/20	10:06 AM	Information	400 Block East First Street
06/03/20	1:22 PM	Welfare Check	South Pioneer Street and East Lakeview Avenue
06/08/20	9:18 AM	Information	500 Block North Moss Street
06/10/20	10:26 AM	Suspicious Conditions	100 Block North Pioneer Street
06/11/20	1:03 AM	Suspicious Conditions	100 Block East Lakeview Avenue
06/15/20	11:03 AM	Mental Subject	400 Block D Street
06/19/20	10:01 AM	Recover Stolen Vehicle	100 Block Wetleau Drive
06/19/20	11:47 AM	Warrant Service	100 Block North Cannon Street
06/19/20	1:22 PM	Warrant Service	100 Block North Cannon Street
06/20/20	11:18 PM	Disorderly Juvenile	400 Block East First Street
06/23/20	1:32 PM	Motor Vehicle Accident	West Boundary Road and South Parker Lane
06/27/20	4:11 PM	Water Patrol	Dexter Lake
06/27/20	5:30 PM	Drug Info	800 Block North Shore Drive

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

Does Your Home Have Wildfire Defensible Space?

Homes with a defensible space have a much greater chance of surviving a wildfire than homes without. A defensible space breaks up the continuous path of plants that could carry wildfire to your home. It also gives firefighters a safe zone from which to fight a wildfire. It's worth a little effort, to help protect your home.

What you can do –

- Remove all flammable vegetation around all structures. Provide a 100-foot fire free zone around you home.
- Trimming trees so branches are at least six feet from the ground and 10 feet from structures. Remove branches that overhang structures.
- Call the power company for help trimming trees near power line. Never trim these yourself.
- Remove any dead trees.
- Cut weeds and grass to six inches or shorter.
- Always work early in the morning and make sure your power tools have spark arresters to prevent equipment-caused fires.
- Plant fire-resistant plants in your fire free zone.
- Maintain your defensible space by keeping it clean and free of plant debris and watered properly.
- Clean dead leave and fir/pine needles from your roof and rain gutters.
- Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies, decks and vent openings with fire resistant materials to keep out flying embers.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Locate LPG tanks at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clear space around the tank.

For more information, please contact the Fire District office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.firewise.org

Backyard Burn Season Ends

Just a reminder that the “Backyard” open burning season is closed. Outdoor burning is prohibited in Lane County. The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Lowell Rural Fire District will be enforcing open burning regulations during the summer months. If you have questions concerning outdoor burning, contact the Fire District Office at 937-3393

Treat Fireworks with Respect

Fireworks may add excitement to Independence Day celebrations, but they are inherently dangerous. If not used wisely, fireworks can cause very serious injuries and even death. Most patients who visit the Hospital emergency department for fireworks-related injuries have small burns on their arms and legs, or eye injuries. Each year in the United States, approximately 2,400 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for eye injuries caused by fireworks. Twenty-five percent of those injuries result in permanent vision loss or blindness. According to the OHSU Casey Eye Institute, eye injuries happen in less than a second but often cause lifelong visual impairment.

Doctors at OHSU offer the following tips to avoid injuries:

- Never allow children to play with fireworks. About half of those injured last year were under age 15.
- Read and follow all fireworks warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of an accident or fire.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface and should be lit away from houses, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Do not use bottle rockets. They are the most dangerous type of fireworks by far because they fly erratically, frequently injuring bystanders. Bottle rockets cause 67 percent of all fireworks eye injuries. Firecrackers cause 7 percent of eye injuries and Roman candles cause 4 percent.
- Protect your eyes with safety glasses or safety goggles. Regular prescription glasses, sunglasses or contact lenses provide little or no protection and can actually contribute to an injury.
- Never put fireworks in glass bottles, tin cans or clay pots because these objects can shatter and cause eye injuries.

Please note:

Unity Covered Bridge will be closed from July 6 till July 30 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for painting and repairs.

Due to Governor Brown's recent proclamation The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District will be closed to the public. If there are questions please do not hesitate to call 541-937-3393.

In and Around Our Community

Lowell Community Preschool Has Openings for Fall 2020!

Lowell Community Preschool has limited openings for the fall due to Gov. Kate Brown's executive order for childcare programs. Currently, we are required to limit each class to 10 students. Available spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis. To learn more about how to register your child, please contact Jessica Pelroy at 541-953-9200.

Free Storytime at Stomping Grounds Coffee

Kids of all ages are welcome for free storytime at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. We are taking social distancing measures so that our young friends can come read with us.

New Summer Hours for Clothing Bank

New summer hours are Noon until 3:00 p.m., first and third Tuesdays. One bag of clothing per person please.



4th of July Celebration
INDEPENDENCE DAY
PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION
FAMILY FRIENDLY
DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE
LAWN CHAIRS AND PICNIC BLANKETS SUGGESTED
FIREWORKS BY TANNERITE
NO PRIVATE FIREWORKS PLEASE
FUN STARTS @ 7pm

SORRY, NO BBQ THIS YEAR
DUNK TANK AND FIELD GAMES
FUN, FUN, AND MORE FUN!!!
FIREWORKS START AT DUSK
84520 N. ENTERPRISE RD.
PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SEE YOU THERE!!!!



The Pine Needlers present: The Worlds 1st **DRIVE-THRU** Quilt Show
 Saturday, July 25th 10 am – 3 pm
 Maggie Osgood Library, 70 North Pioneer Street, Lowell

Come check out the fun....
 Raffle tickets 6 for \$5.00.

Tickets for this quilt will be available, with drawing in 2021.
 Or purchase raffle tickets for 4 different, special, fun filled baskets with the drawing on July 25th.

Farmers Market Report

Last Sunday May 28 was Lowell and Dexter Lake Farmers Market's fourth market day for 2020. We were excited to have a hotdog cart. "The Slingshot Weiner" served up a delicious and amazing selection. They will be with us all summer if they get enough customers. And they **WILL** be there on Sunday, July 5. Come check out their offerings, plus a selection of local fruits, vegetables and crafts, at Lowell and Dexter Lake Farmers Market every Sunday from noon to 4 PM.

We are instituting safety guidelines which we hope will make you feel comfortable getting out to shop at the market. All vendors are required to wear face coverings unless there is a medical reason not to. In accordance with Oregon State regulations for farmers markets and outdoor spaces, we recommend but do not require our customers to wear face coverings. We wipe down all surfaces with disinfectant before market, and use hand sanitizer. Ask at the information booth or at consignment if you want to want to sanitize your hands. You can buy a face mask at the consignment booth. We request our customers avoid handling merchandise until purchased. We pay attention to social distancing except among family members, and attempt to adhere to 6 feet. If closer than 6 feet then masking up is recommended. There is currently rapid increase in Covid-19 infections in Lane County and more and more rural areas are affected. If you are a vulnerable individual and would like to shop at the market at a time when everyone there would be masked, we can talk about what kind of arrangements might be made in the future. If anyone would like to discuss this issue and make recommendations or take part in planning for safety, e-mail toepkclean@gmail.com, or call 541-937-3034 and ask for Marion.

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: July 2020

- 1—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 3—Texas Hold 'em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 4—4th of July Celebration, PH Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- 5—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 7—Clothing Bank, Noon-3: p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
**City Council Work Session/Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library and online**
- 8—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
- 12—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 15—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 18—Texas Hold 'em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 19—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 21—Clothing Bank, Noon-3: p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 22—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 25—Pine Needlers Quilt Show, 10am-3pm, 70 N. Pioneer Street
Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon
- 26—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 29—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee

Last Call for Business Directory Listings!

A business directory is being put together to highlight all of the local services, organizations and businesses. Given the hit a lot of our businesses have taken during the pandemic, we would like to include as many local businesses as possible and distribute it with a future edition of the newsletter to the entire community.

If you have a business you would like included, please email bridge@lowell.k12.or.us or phone your information to Maureen at 541-954-5765.

In the meantime, please do what you can to support local businesses, non-profit organizations and especially, your neighbors. We are definitely all in this together! Thank you for your support.