



The Bridge

Making community connections

Lowell School District: *Believing in Options for Parents*

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 3

September 2020

Believing in options for parents has been a tagline for several years here in the Lowell School District. Especially with this year's uncertainty regarding what school will look like, we are lucky that our small school district is able to provide various options so parents have viable choices.

Educational programs sponsored by the District are:

- Lundy Elementary, serving students in grades K-6
- Lowell Jr/Sr High School, serving students in grades 7-12
- Mountain View Academy, a charter school located within Lundy Elementary, serving students in grades K-8 and also providing preschool activities for three-year-olds and Pre-K instruction for four-year-olds
- Bridge Charter Academy, a home-based instruction charter school serving students in grades K-12 at two campuses, one in Lowell across from the high school and another campus in Bend

Additional programs in the District are:

- Lowell Community Preschool serving three- to five-year-olds, located at Lundy Elementary
- Head Start of Lowell serving eligible three- to five-year-olds, also located at Lundy Elementary

Information about each of the District programs is detailed on pages 2 and 3.

For more information, please contact the District office at 541-937-5095.



Inside this issue:

School News

Education Options	Cover
District Programs	p. 2-3
OSAA Schedule	p. 3
LHS National Award	p. 3

City Beat

Admin. Recruitment	p. 4
Street Project Updates	p. 4
Library Project Update	p. 4
Grants Available	p. 4
Committee Vacancies	p. 5
City Council Actions	p. 5
Police Log	p. 5

Fire District

Fire Season Not Over	p. 6
EMT Training	p. 6
Helmet Give-away	p. 6

Other

Real Estate News	p. 6
Free Storytime	p. 7
Preschool Openings	p. 7
Pine Needlers Thanks	p. 7
Farmers Market Report	p. 7
Preparedness Month	p. 8
Calendar of Events	p. 8
Business Directory	Insert



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

Lundy Elementary Program from Principal Jessica Edgerton

Lundy Elementary plans to bring back all Kindergarten through 3rd grade students for live instruction, five days a week. Fourth through sixth grade students will be Comprehensive Distance Learning for the first quarter. Please understand that the state is regularly providing new information and guidelines, so the plan can change at any time. We will be reviewing data regularly and make a determination for the second quarter in a timely manner.

If you have a child in 4th-6th grade, you will hear from their teacher no later than September 11th on what their daily schedule will look like. Student groups for these ages can be no larger than 9, with a maximum time of two hours. With that said, your child's teacher may be reaching out to you in regards to these exceptions. Students are expected to log into all classes/meetings daily. We are required to take attendance daily, as well as return to the traditional grading format.

For Kindergarten – 3rd grade students, school hours have not changed and we are working diligently to make sure your children follow all protocols while enjoying a regular school day. As always, breakfast and lunch will be served to all students.

At this time, we will not be allowing any field trips, assemblies, or volunteers into the building. Parents who are dropping off/picking up their child from the office need to follow all guidelines of wearing a mask/face shield.

Technology needs (chrome books and hot spots) will be delivered the week of September 7th, with the first day of school being September 16th.

Please be prepared for updated information as it becomes available and just know that your child(ren) are our number one priority! I cannot wait to see smiling faces next month. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have. —Jessica Edgerton 541-937-2105

Lowell Jr/Sr High School Program from Principal Scott Yakovich

Throughout all 21 years of my career, none have compared to this last year. We are living in uncertain times, but you can be certain that the staff at Lowell Jr/Sr High School will continue to work hard to provide the best education possible for students. That being said, school will start in a Comprehensive Distance Learning model on Wednesday, September 16th.

Please understand that the state is regularly providing new information and guidelines, so the plan could change. Lowell Jr/Sr High School will operate in Comprehensive Distance Learning for the 1st quarter ending November 5th. We will review data regularly and make a determination for the 2nd quarter in a timely manner. Online instruction will take place two days a week for each class. Students are expected to attend class virtually each day. Periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 will meet on Monday and Wednesday. Periods 2, 4, and 6 will meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Fridays will be used for teachers to meet individually or in small groups with students either online or in person (student groups no larger than 9 are allowed in school). Students are expected to log in to all classes daily, regardless if they are meeting virtually. Attendance will be taken daily. Also, the Pass/Fail grading system that was used in the spring will not be used, and we will return to students being assessed using the traditional grading format.

Canvas will be used instead of Google Classroom to deliver instruction. Canvas is a more robust platform that will allow for better instruction and more interaction between teachers and students. Parents will also have access to see the progress of their child. Login information will be provided the week of Sept. 8-11. Chromebooks, class schedules, and any other important materials/information will also be distributed at this time. Parents will receive an email in the next few weeks providing more information and an opportunity to sign up for a specific time to come to school during this week.

The staff at Lowell Jr/Sr High School will regularly evaluate our model/procedures and make changes to ensure that all students are being served appropriately. We have not waivered from the ultimate goal that all students will be successful. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. —Scott Yakovich 541-937-2124

Lowell Jr/Sr High School Link Crew “Back to School” Orientation from Advisor Toni Beckett

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Lowell Jr/Sr High School. As Link Crew advisor I would like to personally extend an invitation to your incoming student to attend our 6th annual Link Crew “Back to School” Orientation for 7th and 9th grade students. Although this year is beginning quite a bit differently than normal, we want to make sure your student has the best start possible!

Lowell’s Link Crew is a group of dedicated students that work hard to provide a sense of community for all incoming students. Through the virtually planned events, our Link Crew will provide information about the year, answer questions, build relationships, and ensure a smooth transition to middle school or high school, and get your student excited about their future at Lowell.

Orientations for 7th graders will be September 10th (virtual) and 14th (in-person orientation to Canvas); 9th grader virtual sessions will be available on September 10th. Please contact me for questions at 541-937-2124 or email me at tbeckett@lowell.k12.or.us.

Mountain View Academy from Executive Director Jessica Cardwell

Mountain View Academy will hold in-person classes for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students and distance learning - which includes limited in-person learning each week - for 4th through 8th grade students. PreKindergarten classes have been delayed but we plan to open in October. MVA plans to return to in-person learning as soon as the state and county metrics are met.

At Mountain View Academy, we strive to challenge each student at their level. We provide a high-level education through small classes (16 students per grade), high quality curriculum, behavior modification, family involvement, and through community involvement. Feel free to contact me with questions. —Jessica Cardwell 541-735-1709

Bridge Charter Academy from Principal Ben Silebi

In these uncertain times, Bridge Charter Academy is committed to bringing stability and connection while still fostering curiosity and love of learning. We are implementing a virtual plan that we can commit to for this year without fear of increased pandemic numbers and ever-changing regulations. Unlike previous years, we will NOT have an on-campus cohort option but will encourage schooling at home, Zoom meetings, and parent-led activities/gatherings.

To facilitate effective connection, students will attend weekly 30-minute cohorts via Zoom with eight other students and their Learning Coordinator. In addition to these cohorts, Learning Coordinators will meet one-on-one with each student for 30 minutes via Zoom. BCA will also be posting parent organized meet-ups and activities for those who would love in-person interaction.

We understand that many families are not thrilled with the virtual learning option this year. Yet, if we can pool our resources and creativity, I believe this could be the best year BCA has experienced in its five-year history. —Ben Silebi 541-844-5663

Athletics/Activities from Athletic Director Scott Yakovich

The OSAA has adopted a new 2020-2021 School Activities Calendar that provides for three seasons beginning December 28th and ending June 27th. Each season will be seven weeks long, followed by an OSAA Culminating Week. The format of the Culminating Week has yet to be determined. Please note that traditional Fall activities (football, volleyball, cross country) have been moved to Season 3 beginning March 2nd.

LHS Receives National Award

The American College Application Campaign (ACAC) is proud to announce Lowell High School is a recipient of the 2019 School of Excellence Award. Only one high school per state per year receives this honor. “Your school was selected because of your timely submission of data, your demonstrated commitment to student success and for serving as an exemplary model for your state’s application campaign,” (ACAC Newsletter).



City Beat by Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

City Administrator Recruitment

I will be filling in as the Interim City Administrator until a new Administrator is hired. The City will be seeking a permanent City Administrator to fill the position that Jared Cobb vacated last month. The City Council approved working through Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) to work with us to manage that recruitment process. We are hoping to have a posting out for the position by the middle of September. The first review of applicants, assuming we get enough at that time, is planned for October. Hiring during COVID-19 will present its own challenges however we will need to get creative to have a process that includes community involvement.

Downtown Street and Utility Improvements Update

New Caution Lights, Ramps, Curbs, and Sidewalks

The new ramp, curb, and sidewalk construction on Main and Pioneer is part of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program. SRTS is a State funded program dedicated to improving student safety when walking and biking to and from school. Becky Taylor, Lane County Transportation Planner worked with School Superintendent Johnie Matthews and the City Administrator to coordinate the needed improvements. We appreciate Becky's support in selecting Lowell as Lane County's pilot community for the rural SRTS program. Best practices learned by the Lane County street personnel in Lowell will be utilized in other rural communities.

Main Street and Lakeview Street Paving

Roadwork on Main and Lakeview Street's has started and will continue until November. These two streets were identified as most in need of maintenance by the Lowell Street Preservation Plan. In addition to resurfacing these streets waterlines dating to the 1950's will also be replaced. An upgraded safety rail and sidewalk will be installed along Lakeview. The progression of work will be to install waterlines and mains, install fencing, mill the roadways, install electrical conduits, sidewalks and curbs, overlay paving, install safety railing, and street striping. When finished Lakeview will be a One-Way street.

Maggie Osgood Library Project

The estimated cost for renovating the future home of the Maggie Osgood Library is \$300,000. The City is applying for a Ford Foundation Grant to secure funding to renovate the building (previously the Jehovah's Witnesses Church). The City is also seeking donations to help close the funding gap and show community support. To date 29 donations have been received for a total of \$11,000. Securing community donations puts the City in a much better light when the Ford Foundation is reviewing the application. The more donations received the more community support for the Library is evident.

If interested in donating, tax-deductible donations can be made to the City of Lowell in the form of cash, credit card, or check. Donations can also be made in honor, recognition, or memory of a designated person. All donors will be acknowledged in a Book of Benefactors according to their level of giving. Thank you to all those who have already donated to this valuable project.

Emergency Grants Available for Small Businesses

Lane County and Community Lending Works (CLW), in partnership with the Cities of Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Eugene, Florence, Lowell, Springfield, and Veneta, have been awarded \$225,000 from Business Oregon to be provided as grants to eligible businesses. These grants will range from \$2,500 to \$25,000, based on a formula from the State that accounts for employment size and COVID related impacts.

Eligible businesses include those with 25 or fewer employees (including sole proprietors and business owners with ITINs), and only those that have been unable to receive federal CARES Act funding, including the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance program, or other federal programs for emergency pandemic funding to date. Businesses must use the proceeds for any business-related operating expenses, particularly to support businesses that were closed as they move into the first phase of statewide reopening.

To be considered for funding, eligible businesses must go to <https://communitylendingworks.org/emergency-grants/> and submit the pre-registration form. Eligible businesses who pre-registered will be entered into a random lottery and selected until funding runs out. CLW will then work with the business to complete the full application. They can also be reached at 541-345-0446 or at info@communitylendingworks.org.

Committee Vacancies

The City is continuing to seek applicants to fill several vacant committee seats. The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Economic Development Committee, and the Blackberry Jam Festival Committee. All interested are encouraged to apply. Applications can 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 August 18th regular session, the following topics were discussed:

- Approved the Lane County Intergovernmental Agreement for Street Maintenance.
- Approved Resolution 752—Approving Government Capital for the financing of 205 and 295 Main Street
- Authorized Interim CA Miller to move forward with Option 2, working with LCOG to handle the City Administrator recruitment process.

Motions were approved 5:0.

- Approved by consensus the Month of September to be National Preparedness Month and the first week of September is Home Inventory week.

Monthly Police Log (July 3—August 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
07/03	5:56 pm	Theft	E 4 th Street
07/04	12:08 pm	Suspended Vehicle	S Pioneer St
07/05	12:37 am	Information	E Lakeview and S Moss
07/05	10:59 am	Citizen Call	N Moss and 3 rd St
07/05	11:07 am	Speeding Vehicle	E 3 rd St and N Moss
07/05	6:05 pm	HR	S Alder St
07/11	8:45 am	Trespass	N Moss St
07/11	2:29 pm	Theft Vehicle	Wetleau Dr
07/14	2:51 am	Vehicle Recovery	W 2 nd St and Moss
07/14	3:11 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
07/14	11:25 pm	Alarm	S Pioneer St
07/20	10:48 am	Unlawful use Vehicle	N Everly St
07/20	11:25 pm	Dispute	N Hyland St
07/25	11:14 am	Burglary	E Main St
07/29	9:03 am	Public Assist	N Everly St
07/29	9:25 pm	Suspended subject	Wetleau Dr
07/30	7:58 pm	Reckless Driving	N Moss and N Shore
08/01	5:56 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
08/01	9:11 pm	Alarm	E 4 th St
08/02	7:59 am	Theft	N Moss St
08/02	10:31 am	CRMSCH	N Moss St
08/06	3:01 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
08/06	7:26 pm	Dispute	S Damon St
08/08	3:34 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
08/09	4:15 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
08/10	10:31 am	Information	W 2 nd St and Moss St
08/10	11:23 am	Fraud	N Moss St
08/11	2:53 pm	Fraud	Wetleau Dr
08/12	12:57 am	Suspicious Conduct	N Cannon St
08/15	1:50 pm	Repossession	D St

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

A Reminder that Fire Season Is Not Over Yet

Fire Season is still with us and it is important to keep fire safety in mind at all times. Outdoor burning is prohibited and may open in October depending on weather and environmental conditions. Campfires and/or warming fires in most locations are prohibited and will remain prohibited until vegetation fire levels are greatly reduced by significant moisture. Contact the district office for more information on current fire safety considerations in the area.

Volunteer Members involved in EMT Training

We are proud to announce that we have several of our volunteers that are working hard at completing EMS training. Six EMRs: Sam Smith, Jude Layton, Megan Rasmusson, Sam Lierman, Bo Morris and Cody Brown. We have five volunteers working on the Advanced/Intermediate License also: William Priser, Jorge Garcia Cosby, Sarah Susman, Michael Gibbens and Tommy Supple. We will be starting another fire academy on September 3rd where we will have 13 new members working on their training to become firefighters.

Helmet Give-Away in Lowell

New rural Safe Routes to School program coordinator, Cassidy Mills, has collaborated with the Lowell School District and PeaceHealth to give out about 150 bicycle helmets to students during the drive-through food line at Lundy Elementary on August 17th. Northwest Credit Union provided funding for the helmets and Safe Kids, under the umbrella of PeaceHealth, has expertise in helmet donations — as well as COVID prevention measures, which they implemented during the event.

“It’s great to have something tangible to improve safety and strengthen relationships — especially as we continue to advance Safe Routes to School initiatives,” explained Becky Taylor, Senior Transportation Planner with Lane County Public Works. In addition to this programming success, the infrastructure grant under development for additional sidewalk construction and pedestrian crossing safety improvements in Lowell is coming together strong.



Local Real Estate News & Tips

Have you noticed fewer “for sale” signs in the area? Yep, you’re right! For the past several years the available inventory has been low, and right now it’s even tighter. Data suggests people are interested in moving and there seems to be an increasing appeal in properties outside of cities. With our three lakes, endless potential for outdoor activities, and our extensive educational opportunities coupled with a strong sense of community, Lowell / Fall Creek is recognized as a wonderful place to call home.

With the increase in demand for rural living, our existing subdivisions are seeing new homes under construction, and several subdivisions are in various stages of development. With just a few more rooftops, our area businesses benefit from increased patronage and the ripple effect continues to reach more parts of the community than those directly related to real estate.

According to RMLS, there are two homes listed active, while seven others show pending sale or contingent. Since early spring, 20 homes have sold in our immediate area for an average of \$354,000; \$237 a square foot. Additionally, many buyers seeking a fixed 30-year mortgage are discovering rates under 3%.



In and Around Our Community

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.



Lowell Community Preschool Has Openings!

Lowell Community Preschool has very limited spots open for fall. Morning and afternoon classes operating on T/W/Th are available.

Please contact Jessica at 541-953-9200 ASAP to enroll before school begins on Wednesday September 16th.



Pine Needlers Would Like to Thank...

Lowell City Hall and the community for all their support for our First Ever DRIVE THRU Quilt Show. Special thanks to Bridge Town Market for their wonderful donation to the Italian Basket. Special thanks to Stomping Grounds for their wonderful donation to the Coffee/Tea Basket. Also to Pine Needlers members for all their donations to the Gardening Basket. Gale & Melissa for their donations and work on the Bicycle Basket. Warren & Maureen Weathers for stepping in and helping throughout the day. All the wonderful Pine Needlers' husbands for their hard work setting up and keeping the quilts up and hanging during our beautiful, breezy day.

We hope to be back in our preferred location, Lundy School, next year. See you then.



Farmers Market Report

Locally raised pork and farm fresh eggs will be sold at Lowell-Dexter Lake Farmers Market through the rest of the 2020 season. Dexter farmer Fergus McLean has used antibiotic and hormone free feed for his animals and then finished them on organic feed. The chickens are cage-free and have a good size run. The pork is processed in a USDA facility and frozen.

We continue to offer a range of fruits and vegetables of the season. We have had blueberries, blackberries, strawberries and raspberries. Vegetables have varied and include green beans, collards, zucchini squash, onions, cabbage, garlic, swiss chard, Anaheim peppers, and other flavorful offerings.

We follow all Covid-19 epidemic guidelines for your safety and protection. Forgot your mask? Cloth masks are for sale in Consignment, and we can offer you a free disposable mask.

We started a special program in honor of local gardeners and other food producers in July; on July 23 and 30, local residents were invited to set up and sell for free. We like this program so much that we are going to continue through September. Come in between 10:30-11:30 and set up to sell. Bring your chairs, table, umbrella or canopy, and signage. Each vendor's first two Sundays are free. After two Sundays we will charge you 10% of all income over \$10. We can bill credit, debit or SNAP for you if needed. Crafters are included in this offer. Only products you or a family member made yourselves please.

At present DJ, who sells jewelry, semi-precious rocks, and tie dyed shirts is our only craft vendor. He is a very popular presence! All local crafters are welcome. Hope to see you at the market in September!

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: September 2020

- 1—Clothing Bank, Noon-3: p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
**City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library (70 N. Pioneer) and online**
- 2—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 4—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 6—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 9—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood
Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 13—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 15—Clothing Bank, Noon-3: p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 16—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 19—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 20—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 23—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 26—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon
- 27—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 30—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee

National Preparedness Month

The month of September is National Preparedness Month. Over the past five years, 10,000 wildfires have burned more than 2.5 million acres and forced several thousand Oregonians to leave their homes.

National Preparedness Month is a time of year to get ready for all kinds of disasters and to build an emergency kit and plan an escape route. In addition, it is also a time to create a home inventory and review insurance coverage. To prepare now and learn how to get ready, go to dfr.oregon.gov/preparenow to get more information.

