



The Bridge

Making community connections

Maggie Osgood Library Project

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 4

We are still hoping to get funding from the Ford Foundation Grant to do improvements to the Maggie Osgood Library, located at 70 N. Pioneer Street. The City received 192 additional donations for an additional \$1,730 dollars bringing our total to \$12,730 thanks to Shawn Watson's fundraising efforts. There has been a total of 221 donors to date. 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 you are 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.



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

Dear Community,

We did it! We made it through the first day of the 2020-2021 school year! We have ramped up our disinfecting process, planned for school entry and exit, discussed meal times and services and used every resource available to start this year right! We began with kindergarten through 3rd grade receiving in person instruction, at Lundy Elementary, Monday through Friday. For our students in grades 4-12, our amazing teachers delivered high quality remote instruction. While we know that there were issues with connectivity for a few families, most students were able to get up and running right away. For students with specific needs, following Oregon Department of Education guidelines, we are also able to bring up to nine students into those classes each day for two hours.



Lundy Principal Jessica Edgerton said, “Lundy's first few days went great! Kindergarten through 3rd grade students were beyond excited to be back in school with friends. What a refreshing sight it is to walk into classrooms and see hands raised and lots of learning happening! Fourth through sixth grade students have successfully signed in every day and are very active online. They are quickly learning how to share their work, access interactive sites, and submit their work! I am very impressed with how comfortable and confident everyone is with following all rules and regulations. Here's to hoping that we can see more smiling faces sooner than later!”

What we look forward to the most is seeing our student's faces each and every day. Our teachers are doing all they can to make that happen. For some, this is in class learning and following rules about masks and social distancing. For others, it means learning a new way of teaching. Sixth grade teacher, Greg Erickson says, “There is a sense of normalcy, although not ideal, to being back in the classroom instructing students online. It takes a lot of work learning a new format for teaching but it motivates us to create the best learning environment possible under the circumstances.”

We continue to talk about “normal.” It may be quite a while before we see the same “normal” as our pre-pandemic days. However, we will continue to follow all protocols, requirements and mandates from Lane County Public Health, Oregon Department of Education and the Center for Disease Control, so that when the time comes, we will be fully prepared and meet the criteria to move towards normal!

Most importantly, stay safe and healthy.
 Johnie Matthews
 Lowell School District Superintendent



Volleyball Volunteers at Fire Relief Site

While dropping off a personal donation of supplies to the Lane County Fire Relief Site, Coach Kristen Prenevost (picture at left, bottom center) learned they were in need of volunteers. So she gathered up the volleyball team and headed on over September 16th. Volleyball players sorted donated items and directed people to different stations at the site.

Thanks, Coach Prenevost and team for helping out during this difficult time. You make our community proud!

Joey Brissette, the 5th grade teacher at Lundy Elementary, actually began teaching full-time in the third quarter of last year. Joey worked for a biotech company in Eugene for years until he decided his true calling was to be a teacher. He earned a Masters' degree in Teaching from Northwest Christian University (now Bushnell). When he did his student teaching with Glenda Green, he fell in love with the district and especially the small school setting. He and his wife Jessica live in Oakridge with their four kids aged two to 17 years old. Joey enjoys coaching sports, especially wrestling, and the family loves to go camping. Building relationships with kids is something he enjoys and says those relationships make it easier for students to learn.



Katie Buckley is our new special education teacher at Lundy Elementary. She was raised in Camp Creek which influenced her love of animals and farming. Originally interested in anthropology and archeology, once she married and had kids in school, she began volunteering often and eventually was hired as an educational assistant. Katie was good with special needs kids and a mentor teacher encouraged her to get her Masters' degree in Education with a Special Education endorsement, which she completed in June 2020. In her spare time she is raising four miniature donkeys, six Nigerian dwarf goats and two dogs. Living in a small, rural community herself, she appreciates how the community supports our school. Katie is committed to provide needed services to our students so they don't have to leave the district for services.

Chris Free, the new high school social studies teacher, grew up in Mapleton and also prefers a small school district where it's easier to engage with students. He enjoys being a role model and mentoring students to help them with post-high school plans. Chris earned a B.A. in History and then Education from Oregon State University in June 2020. He completed his student teaching at South Albany High School. After seeing his non-English speaking school-mates struggle with learning, he obtained his ESOL certification. He enjoys all things outdoorsy like hunting, fishing, snow boarding and rock climbing. Chris is especially looking forward to teaching the Government Economics and Personal Finance class to help prepare students for life after high school.



Andrew Lebovitz (also known as Al) is Lowell's newest math teacher. Al came to Oregon from Arizona where he received his B.S. in Math from University of Arizona and his Masters' degree in Math from Northern Arizona University. He came to the University of Oregon to enter a Ph.D. program then changed his goal from being a college professor to becoming a schoolteacher. He lives in Eugene and enjoys rock climbing, chess, running and yoga. He is assisting with the cross country team and hopes to help with the track team as well. Al also prefers a small school district which allows him to be more involved in his students' lives. He is a believer in problem-based learning and enjoys helping guide students through their process of exploration and learning.

New kindergarten teacher **Erin LeVesque** is no stranger to Lowell School District, having graduated from Lowell in 2001. She earned her B.A. in Elementary Education from Northwest Christian University (now Bushnell) in 2009 and her Masters' degree in Methods and Curriculum from Concordia University in 2011. She also completed her student teaching at Lowell and most recently taught Kindergarten at Mt. View Academy. She and her husband, Robert, have four kids between them and enjoy camping, kayaking, fishing and road trips as a family. Ever since she was little Erin knew she wanted to be a teacher. She especially enjoys when the kids "get it" and their faces light up.



City Beat by Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

City Administrator Recruitment

The City met with the recruiter on September 22nd to review the advertisement, posting and job description for the City Administrator Position. Information about the position is available on the City's website. The position will be posted until filled with the first review date of October 23rd. We are hoping to have candidates for the Council to review in early November.

Please Watch Your Speed

The City installed a new radar speed sign at Hyland and Third Street. The posted speed is 25MPH. The overall results were good. Three weeks data showed 3,814 cars went past. The average speed of all cars was 13MPH. The maximum was 31MPH. The number of cars doing 25-31MPH were very few. Public Works, in communications with residents will be locating the sign to a different street. The City of Lowell contracts with the City of Oakridge for patrols. Several speeding citations were issued over the past months. Whether you are in Lowell or on surrounding roads and highways, please use the 'honor system' and obey the posted limits. Watch your speed and be safe.

Annual Backflow Testing Reminder

Do you have underground sprinklers? If so, chances are you have a backflow prevention device. Oregon State Law requires a backflow preventer assembly to be installed between the home's drinking water piping and irrigation system piping (OAR 333-061-0070). Oregon State Law and City code requires that backflow preventers be inspected annually by a licensed backflow assembly tester. Backflow preventers help to ensure the safety of drinking water by stopping contaminants such as weed killers, fire protection chemicals, common household and industrial cleaning products from co-mingling with clean water. For a listed of certified testers in Lane County, use the link below.

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/backflow.php?county=LANE>

Downtown Street and Utility Improvements Update

The installation of new water lines is complete for Main Street and Lakeview. All water services have been switched over for Main Street. Due to the heavy smoke from the fires, construction was delayed because of hazardous air conditions. Paving should begin in late October.

Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Construction Program

Lane County is applying for a grant on behalf of the City of Lowell for SRTS funding. The project is to construct sidewalk improvements for a portion of Main Street and N Lake Shore Drive. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$466,506. The SRTS Infrastructure Grant requires a 20 percent match. Lane County is providing the match. The grant application was submitted on August 31, 2020. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) received 100 applications. An Advisory Committee is reviewing the applications and will be making a recommendation on October 20, 2020.

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.*

Oregon Mayors Association "If I were Mayor Contest"

The Oregon Mayors Association just announced their "If I Were Mayor" student contest for the 2020-21 school year. There are 3 categories for entries:

- Elementary School grades 4 – 5 – Poster Entry
- Middle school grades 6 – 8 – Essay Entry
- High School 9 – 10 – Digital Media Entry

One winning entry for each category for each city will be sent to the Oregon Mayors Association. Statewide winners will be selected by the Oregon Mayors Association Student Selection Committee that includes Mayors across the state. First place winners will be recognized at an awards luncheon during the Mayors Association Summer Conference July 29 – 31, 2020 and receive a prize worth \$500. If funding is available, there will be prizes for second and third place winners.

Additional information is available on the Oregon Mayors Association website at www.oregonmayors.org Applications and additional information is available at Lowell City Hall 107 E 3rd Street. Deadline for the local applications is April 1, 2021.

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 September 1st work session, the following topics were discussed:

- Downtown Paving and Utility Improvements Project Change Orders; Financing for Acquisition of 205 and 298 East Main Street; Financing with Business Oregon for Downtown Paving and Utility Improvement and discussion of Resolution 747 that established a Payment in Lieu of Franchise Fee for the Water and Sewer Utilities; Update on Election Filing; Update on the Maggie Osgood Library; and, Upcoming Executive Session with Ross Schultz on Recruitment

At the September 1st special meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved Change Orders for the Downtown Paving and Utility Improvements project, 5-0.

At the September 15th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved Resolution 753—Rescinding Resolution 747 that established a Payment in Lieu of Franchise Fee for Water and Sewer Utilities.
- Approved signing the revised Intergovernmental Agreement with Lane County’s Regional Housing and Rehabilitation Program.

Motions were approved 3:0; Councilors Harris and Stratis absent.

Monthly Police Log (August 15 – September 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
08/15	1:50 pm	Repossessed Vehicle	400 Blk D St
08/15	4:35 pm	Water Patrol	Dexter Reservoir
08/15	6:57 pm	Lost Property	Dexter Reservoir
08/15	8:34 pm	Stranded Boater	Dexter Reservoir
08/15	9:34 pm	Water Patrol	Dexter Reservoir
08/16	10:02 pm	Suspicious Conditions	100 Blk S Moss St
08/17	8:33 pm	Suspicious Vehicle	100 Blk S Moss St
08/18	2:42 pm	Alarm	100 Blk N Pioneer St
08/20	10:07 & 10:39pm	Dispute	100 Blk 4 th St
08/20	4:46 pm	Suspicious Conditions	Dexter Reservoir
08/21	3:05 am-11:58 pm	6 Alarm Calls	100 Blk S Pioneer St
08/24	7:39 pm	Suspicious Subject	100 Blk W 4 th St
08/26	8:02 am	Civil Service	300 Blk N Damon
08/26	12:53 am	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
08/27	10:38 pm	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
08/28	10:40 am	Suspicious Vehicle	W Boundary Rd
08/31	2:24 pm	Dispute	100 Blk E 4 th St
08/31	9:05 pm	Follow Up	100 Blk E 2 nd St
09/02	2:59 pm	Civil Service	300 Blk N Damon St
09/03	10:49 pm	Alarm	100 blk S Pioneer St
09/04	11:55 pm	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/05	2:14 & 2:47 am	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/07	12:30 am	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/08	7:36 pm	Theft	100 Blk N Everly
09/08	11:29 pm	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/09	1:40 pm	Illegal Burn	100 Blk Dexter Reservoir
09/09	6:09 pm	Arson	100 Blk Dexter Reservoir
09/10	1:44 pm	Harassment	500 Blk N Moss St
09/11	3:41 pm	Subpoena	100 Blk E 4 th St
09/11	10:57 pm	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/13	4:05 & 4:14 am	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St
09/13	8:04 am	Dispute	100 Blk E 4 th St
09/14	2:08 & 3:27 am	Alarm	100 Blk S Pioneer St

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District has taken possession of our first custom-built fire engine. We took a lot of time to design this engine to meet the needs of our community for the next 30 years. You will see us out training a lot with this new engine while we get all of our staff up to date with the new style. Please do not hesitate to come in and see the new engine. The staff would be happy to show it off.

We have just about made it through another summer. We really appreciate the community’s response during this last fire season. We have information at the station that will help to keep your property fire safe during the summer. If you are interested please come down and talk with the staff on how to be “Firewise” ready.

During the COVID issues we have not been as available to the public as we would like. We are always happy to show the station to any of our community members. We are constantly working on improving our service to our community as well as neighboring communities. We look forward to hearing from you.



We can be reached at 389 N Pioneer Street or 541-937-3393. While we do have 24 hour staffing we are not always in the station to answer the phone. If you need to have us come out and check on fire restriction issues or a welfare check we still want you to call 911. This gives us the ability to track the call as well as dispatch can notify us wherever we are. Thank you for understanding.

Local Real Estate News & Tips

The recent fires have devastated many Lane County families this past month; more than 400 homes have been destroyed along with many popular recreation sites. Now, you might be quietly asking yourself, “what impact does this have on area home values?”

Economists know that the prices of houses tend to drop in the aftermath of a nearby wildfire. But a new study reveals good news for those who have invested in vulnerable woodland property: Unless you can literally see the fire scar from your home, these prices rebound rather quickly.

For houses that had a continued view of the destruction, the return to pre-fire prices took longer. In other words, homeowners who survive a fire soon cease worrying about the possibility of future fires—unless they're literally confronted with a dead forest every time they look out the window.

Perhaps more significantly, research shows that this ruined view is not the reason for the decline in house prices. Rather, properties lose their value because residents briefly become more attuned to the risks of fire, rather than because their homes have lost beautiful forest views.

Therefore, regardless of whether you’re thinking about selling or not, it is important to take steps to reduce the risks of fire. Defensible space is essential to improve your home’s chance of surviving a wildfire. It’s the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

One final note, if you’re currently buying or selling a home, most lenders, title, and insurance companies are requiring certification, just prior to closing, that the property hasn’t been damaged by fire. This certification can cause the closing to take longer than the typical 30-day purchase.



In and Around Our Community

Lowell Food Pantry is Open to Serve!

The Pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, the Pantry is open for Bread Day from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The Pantry is located in the George Hake Center on Lakeview Street (behind the football field). Questions? Please call Shawn Brady at 541-912-1538.

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.



Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop Offers Free WiFi

If you are having trouble with distance learning, students, parents (and all community members) are welcome to use the WiFi at the coffee shop. There is ample distanced seating inside, additional seating outside, and, you are even welcome to work from your car outside. The WiFi is available 24/7 but after business hours the outside/vehicle options would need to be utilized.

There is no required purchase. Please come see us if we can help make this challenging time a little easier. Stomping Grounds is located at 113 East Main Street.

Small Business Emergency Grants Available

Community LendingWorks, Lane County and area cities have come together to create a new Small Business Grant Fund to provide additional financial support to help our local businesses through the pandemic. Eligible businesses must have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees as of the end of 2019 and be located within Lane County.

To apply, businesses will need to submit a 2019 profit and loss statement along with a 2020 profit and loss statement through at least June 30th. Interested businesses will be able to apply starting Monday, October 5th at www.communitylendingworks.com. The application period will close on Wednesday, October 7th.

Grants of \$5,000 for sole proprietors, \$10,000 for companies with 2-10 FTE and \$20,000 for companies with 11-25 FTE will be awarded. Grant recipients will be selected via a lottery until all funds have been exhausted. It is anticipated that selected businesses will receive their funds the week of October 12th. Please direct all inquiries to Community Lending Works at 541-345-0446.

MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL
Annual Celebration
Virtual Edition

Join Us Online
OCTOBER 8TH 6PM
 Join us as we gather virtually to celebrate the amazing community that helps make our work possible. Special guest David Lewis, member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, teacher at OSU, and historian will discuss Indigenous relationships with the watershed. Can't make it to the event? Check out other ways to engage!

Other Ways to Engage
Find An Activity
 Visit our event page to find ways to volunteer, play, observe, hike, and learn whether at home or afield.

Donate
 Buy a raffle ticket (or 10) and enter to win one of the gift baskets from our generous sponsors. Every ticket helps make our work possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT
MIDDLEFORKWILLAMETTE.ORG/CELEBRATION

Join the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council on October 8th at 6pm as we gather virtually to celebrate the amazing community that helps make our work possible.

Special guest David Lewis, member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, teacher at OSU, and historian will discuss Indigenous relationships with the watershed.

Can't make it to the event? Visit the event page to find other ways to engage! For more information and to register for the online event visit our event page at middlefork-willamette.org/celebration.

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

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events: October 2020

- 2—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 4—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 6—Clothing Bank, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
Food Pantry, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview Street
- 7—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
- 8—Picture Day for K-3 Lundy Elementary students
- 11—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 13—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Center, Lakeview St
- 14—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
- 17—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 18—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 20—Clothing Bank, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
Food Pantry, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview Street
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 21—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
- 25—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 26—**School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 27—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Center, Lakeview St
- 28—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
- 31—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon

LUNDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

45 S. Moss Street, Lowell

October 5—October 18

Our Book Fair is online! Support our school and help your child discover new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more!

You'll love the fun new option to shop for Book Fair exclusives directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy free shipping on book-only purchases over \$25.

It's a new school year...
let's instill a new-found love of reading!

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/lundyelementaryschool1>

Book Fair Contact: Colette Ullrich
541-937-2105