



The Bridge

Making community connections

November is Check Your Smoke Alarm Month

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 5

November 2020

November is the month that everyone should take the time to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for proper operation and to ensure the batteries are good. Newer smoke alarms are required to have 10-year batteries in them, and alarms over 10 years old should be properly disposed of and replaced with the newer models. In addition, smoke alarms should have the “hush” feature so that when a false alarm does occur, the alarm can be temporarily silenced to allow the inadvertent (burnt toast) smoke to clear.

Properly working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can save lives by alerting you to a fire or to poisonous carbon monoxide in your home. Almost 70% of failures are due to missing, disconnected or dead batteries!



Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives. For more information go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org or contact the District office at 541-937-3393.

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

Dear Lowell-Fall Creek Community,

We have been back together for a while now. The preparation for this year has run the gambit of pandemics, wildfires, power outages and the normal back-to-school issues. We have had four weeks of K-3 on-site learning, 4-12 distance learning, and a daycare cohort. We have worked to modify our daily operations based on the ever-changing regulations and requirements from ODE, CDC, Lane County Public Health, and the Governor's office. To say the very least, we have experienced some hiccups along the way. I know that I am experiencing stress, and I know that you are as well.

Working through all of this is not easy. Education in general is not easy. It is, however, extremely important to note that there is not a greater group of staff out there, and I am so grateful to be working alongside them on a daily basis. My wish for each of them is that they can find some joy in their work as we all get through this together.

To give you some insight in how decisions are made from the Superintendent's office, I first ask myself, "Is this what is best for our kids?" Each time there is a change in the metrics I once again ask, "What will be best for our kids?" Sometimes the answer is not easy or what we want to do, but if we all wanted the easy way out, we would not have entered the world of educating children.

It is clear that in-person instruction is what is best for our students. Imagine trying to teach a kindergartener how to read over Zoom? I am committed to finding the best avenues to teach our children, protect their mental health, and help them thrive in these less-than-ideal circumstances. Our students will not fall through the cracks.

This is a time that I hope that we are of one mind. I believe that we are all focused on the task at hand. We need to come together more now than ever before. While we have had some issues along the way, we are constantly monitoring and changing to fix areas in which we are lacking and do better. We want to know how we can do better.

Finally, give yourself, your children, and our wonderful staff as much grace as possible. We are all working towards the same goal. We all want to leave these buildings feeling fulfilled in our work knowing that we have made a positive difference in your children's (our students') lives, and that we are all healthy in both mind and body.

Please be kind, be safe and be healthy.

Johnie Matthews
Lowell School District Superintendent



Tutoring Available at Lowell High School

After school tutoring has begun at the Jr/Sr High School. Students can come to the school between 3-4 pm and meet with teachers on the designated days below. Space is limited to nine students, so contact either the teacher or office for a spot. It is possible for students to come in at other times as well, under the same conditions. Please let us know if you are interested in meeting in person with a teacher.

Weekly schedule:

- Monday-Math (Farrier)
- Tuesday-Language Arts (Cramer)
- Wednesday-Science (Beckett)
- Thursday-Social Studies (Free)



LHS Drama presents a Live Virtual Production...

The EIGHTH ANNUAL

“An Hour of Improv Comedy!”

Three FREE 7 PM Shows:

THURSDAY, November 19th

FRIDAY, November 20th

SATURDAY, November 21st

Now performing VIRTUALLY via Google Meet

A live streaming link will be posted on the LHS Homepage (lowell.k12.or.us)

Please log in a few minutes early to contribute audience suggestions!

Donations will be accepted, to support the development of the LHS Drams Program.
Please contact Mr. Klatt (mklatt@lowell.k12.or.us) if you would like to support LHS Drama.

Attention Parents:

Take the survey at: bit.ly/GEARUPParentSurvey Win a Lowell t-shirt!

GEAR UP, oregongearup.org, welcomes you and your students to a new and virtual school year. Hopefully, it will change, and 7-12 grades will be on site later in the school year.

Each year we have asked you to answer our parent/guardian survey, and this year is no different; however, this year it's only two pages and it's an online survey. Please fill out only **one** survey even though you may have more than one student.

GEAR UP is also purchasing a black and red Lowell t-shirt for you or your student as an incentive to complete the parent/guardian survey.

T-shirts will be available in the office hallway on Thursday, December 3 from 5-7 P.M. Masks and physical distancing will be used if still needed.

Please contact Jeanie May at jmay@lowell.k12.or.us if you have any questions.

GEAR UP will support your students to find a college of their choice and/or a career that suits them. Working together with Aspire, your student will be ready for the next step after high school.

Take Your Picture with Santa!

Lowell Football will be bringing Santa back in December so watch for details in the next edition of The Bridge. Thank you for your support of Lowell Football.



City Beat by Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

City Administrator Recruitment

Information about the City Administrator 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.

Coronavirus Update

Lane County cases are on the rise. The number of cases more than doubled from 818 to 2,242 in one month. The County has recently been added to the Governor's watchlist. What that means is the County is monitored for at least three weeks and if the numbers don't go down, there could be additional restrictions. Lane County Health and the Board of Commissioners are encouraging everyone to: 1) wear a mask, 2) maintain social distancing, 3) avoid gatherings, and 4) use good hygiene, wash hands frequently. Doing these four simple things will help local businesses and help open our schools.

Pine Needlers Support Community with Donations

The Pine Needlers got very creative this year and held a drive-through Quilt Show. They made \$1,500 at the show this year. The group got together and agreed to use the proceeds to support the Fire Department with \$800, the Food Bank with \$400, and the City's Utility Fund with \$300 to assist those having trouble paying utilities. Thank you to the Pine Needlers for their continued community support.

Increase in Code Compliance Complaints

The City has seen an increase in the number of complaints recently regarding several issues, especially concerning dogs and abandoned vehicles. If there are questions about code compliance, please call the City for clarification.

Regulations Concerning Dogs

Please remember that the City requires all dogs over six months in age to be licensed. Issuance of the license requires verification of a vaccination for rabies. In addition, the City Code also requires all dogs to be on leash when not contained on the owner's property. Violation of these requirements could result in a Class C Violation and subject to a \$500 fine. Exposing the public to a dangerous dog is a Class A Violation and subject to a \$1,000 fine.

Regulations Concerning Vehicles

Storage of a vehicle on public property or within the right-of-way for 72 hours is prohibited. Also, allowing a vehicle to be a public nuisance or in an unsafe condition is also prohibited. Violations of the City Code pertaining to vehicles are subject to a \$250 fine.

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 please use the link below.

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

Downtown Street and Utility Improvements Update

All paving and water line installations are complete on Main Street and Lakeview. Striping, and sidewalks on Lakeview and signage on both streets will be completed this month.

Update on Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant

Lane County applied for a grant on behalf of the City of Lowell to construct sidewalk improvements for a portion of Main Street and North Shore Drive. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$466,506. Lane County is providing the 20% match. On October 20th the SRTS Advisory Committee recommended funding the project. The Oregon Transportation Commission will be making the final decision at their meeting in December.

Maggie Osgood Library Project

We recently received an additional \$1,150 in private donations to support the Maggie Osgood Library project. That brings the total donations to date to over \$15,000. We received letters of support from the School District, the Lowell Grange, and the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District and have sent the letters on to the Ford Foundation. We now have a timeline for hearing back from the Ford Foundation. They have informed us that we should have a recommendation by the end of November.

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.

Seeking Candidates for City Committees

During COVID-19 the City’s advisory committees are typically not holding meetings. The City however still needs to fill vacancies on the committees so they can be ready to meet again in the future. Participating on one of these committees is a great opportunity to be involved in decisions about Lowell’s future. Here are the vacancies that need to be filled: Budget Committee, one position open; Parks and Recreation Committee, one position open; Planning Commission, two positions open; Economic Development Committee, two positions open; Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, two positions open; Library Committee, one position open.

Also, if you are a member of one of the committees and your term expires on December 31, 2020, the City would greatly appreciate your willingness to continue. The City of Lowell is in a great place for future growth and the City really needs community members to help plan, direct and guide that future.

Please consider serving on one of these committees. 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 October 20th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved Resolution 754—A Resolution Recognizing State of Oregon Department of Administration Services Grant No. 1783 and Changing Appropriations. Motion was approved 5:0.

Monthly Police Log (September 16 – October 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location	Date	Time	Call Type	Location
09/16	10:49 pm	Alarm	S Pioneer St	09/30	4:59 pm	Suspicious Condition	W Lakeview St
09/16	11:23 pm	Alarm	S Pioneer St	09/30	10:28 pm	Dispute	N Cannon St
09/17	7:00 am	Civil Service	W 4 th St	10/03	3:57 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
09/17	12:10 pm	Alarm	W 4 th St	10/03	11:55 pm	Patrol	N Moss St
09/17	7:23 pm	Drunk Driver Locate	E N Shore/Moss	10/04	12:23 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St
09/18	11:12 am	Civil Problem	N Everly St	10/04	12:57 am	Menace	Carol St
09/18	7:40 pm	Alarm	E 4 th St	10/04	5:07 am	Suspicious Condition	W 7 th St
09/19	7:29 pm	Follow up	N Cannon St	10/06	7:18 pm	Welfare Check	N Alder St
09/20	2:21 pm	Dispute	Carol St	10/07	5:55 pm	Assist Agency	W 7 th St
09/20	7:27 pm	DUII	E Main St	10/07	7:08 pm	Assist Agency	W 7 th St
09/21	7:02 am	Unlawful Use Veh	S Alder St	10/08	8:03 am	Assist Agency	W 7 th St
09/21	11:48 am	Civil Service	W 4 th St	10/08	10:54 am	Assist Agency	W 7 th St
09/21	7:42 pm	Dispute	S Damon St	10/08	11:43 pm	Suspicious Condition	Trailblazer Ct/1 st St
09/22	7:22 am	Civil Service	W 4th St	10/09	8:34 am	Water Patrol	N Moss St
09/25	9:54 am	Trespass	E 1 st St	10/10	12:18 pm	Arrest	W Main St/S Moss
09/25	5:06 pm	Drunk Driver Locate	N Cannon St	10/11	10:11 am	Citation	E 4 th St
09/29	12:17 am	Alarm	S Pioneer St	10/12	12:05 pm	Assault	N Hyland Ln
09/29	3:17 pm	Trespass	E 4 th St	10/14	1:10 pm	Welfare Check	N Moss St
09/29	4:57 pm	Welfare Check	N Hyland 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 emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt



New Fire Engine Has Arrived!

As mentioned in the October newsletter, 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.

Annual Community Dinner Cancelled

Over the last several years, the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District has hosted an annual Community Dinner in December. Due to circumstances in regards to the COVID pandemic, we will not be able to hold the event this year. We are very sorry! We hope to be able to resume this event in the future.

Outdoor Burning is Open

Outside burns are open at this time. You will need to follow LRAPA and City of Lowell Guidelines for Outdoor Burn piles. While in the City Limits or outside of the limits, you will need to contact LRAPA to determine if it is a burn day. LRAPA Burn Advisory number is 541-726-3976; website is www.lrapa.org. The Fire District can answer questions about burn piles at 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 and dispatch can notify us wherever we are. Thank you for understanding.

Local Real Estate News & Tips

For the past seven months or so, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down. The economy has struggled. Jobs have been lost and people are under a tremendous amount of stress.

Realtors can usually count on their biggest season being spring, followed by summer. But nothing about 2020 has been normal, including home-buying patterns. With shutdown orders in the spring, summer became the new home-buying season, and homebuyers were still incredibly active in September. Now, believe it or not, fall home-buying season is in full swing. Traditionally, home-buying season slows down during the fall because families have settled in their new homes just in time for school to start. Now that school is mostly virtual, that calculation may be changing a bit.

Our market, like many others, remains competitive as buyers continue to experience bidding wars amid historically low housing inventory, an uptick in home prices, and the lowest interest rates in modern history.

September RMLS Data:	# of Homes	Median Price
Active Listings	3	\$ 699,900
Pending	9	\$ 459,800
Sold	8	\$ 427,500

On a personal note... This year's traditional Thanksgiving holiday will be unlike any other we've experienced in our lifetimes. But Thanksgiving, reminds us to look on the more positive side of life – to express gratitude, thanks and appreciation, and to count one's blessings. .



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. We are located at 113 East Main Street.

Lowell/Dexter Lake Farmers Market completes 12th Summer Farmers Market this Year!

The year started with a shock. A contagious respiratory virus was found in China, spread quickly, and by March there were quarantines. Could the farmers market open?

State-wide, small farms and farmers markets advocates talked with Oregon state health department and rule makers about local food sustainability and networking. It was decided that, like small country convenience stores, a farmers market is considered an essential service and we opened at level 1 pandemic regulations.

So we had a small market in 2020; kept the crowd under 25, and made it a local crowd. No outside advertising, no live bands, masks required. We featured the consignment booth and tried to make things easy for our customers and vendors. We had three different independent vendors at intervals throughout the summer.

We are proud to announce that the market's gross receipts over the summer of 2020 were \$5,172.55. Of course this is ALL RECEIPTS, money earned by consignment and independent vendors. Twenty percent of the money spent in consignment goes to the market and 80% goes to the producer. For those who set up their own booth, there is a \$5 booth fee and a payment of 10% of gross sales. We managed to bring \$5,000 gross revenue into the community and pay our expenses as well.

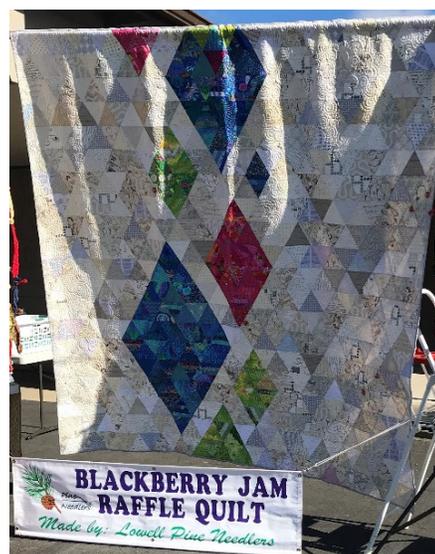
Thanks for all the people of the Lowell/Dexter area who supported us this summer in various ways. We enjoyed seeing you and working with you.

Pine Needlers Make Community Donations

The Pine Needlers are very happy to announce to our local community that due to the success of our first ever Drive Thru Quilt Show, we were able to donate \$1,500 to the City of Lowell to help residents with any past due water bills, the Food Bank for ongoing needs, and the Fire Department to help with much needed Emergency equipment.

Thanks to all who attended and purchased tickets for our beautiful quilt (to be drawn in 2021), and the four wonderful Gift Bags: Italian Dinner, Coffee & Tea, Gardening, Bike Riding and Family Fun.

We look forward to next years Quilt Show.



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: November 2020

- 1—Daylight Savings Time Ends, Set clocks back one hour
- 3—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
Lowell City Council Executive Session, 6:30 p.m.
Lowell City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 4—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
- 6—**No School! Teacher Grading Day**
Texas Hold 'em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 10—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Center, Lakeview St
- 11—**Veterans' Day; No School, City Hall closed**
Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
- 17—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
- 18—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop
- 21—Texas Hold 'em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 23—**School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 24—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Ctr, Lakeview St
- 25—Free Storytime, 1:0 p.m. Grounds Coffee Shop
- 26-27—**Thanksgiving Holiday; No School, City Hall closed**
- 28—Green Waste Facility — closed



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour
the night of Saturday, October 31st!