



The Bridge

Making community connections

2020 Year in Review

By Mayor Don Bennett

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 7

January 2021

2020 was a challenge for everyone. The City of Lowell staff employed the guidelines for social distancing and protection and were able to safely provide the expected services to our residents. Additionally, many noteworthy improvements and additions were achieved: two streets were paved with new curbs and sidewalks; a crossing caution light and ADA curbs were added, with more improvements planned for 2022; Downtown and Parks Plans were finalized to guide Lowell’s future growth and development; downtown properties were purchased to support the Downtown Plan; and, a clean Financial Audit was completed with no write-ups, comments or corrections, zero.

The City processed several individual housing starts and renovations. The Crestview residential development for 26 lots is nearing plat completion. Sunset View residential development for another 17 lots is in its final approval stage. Courtland Cabinet’s new manufacturing facility opened. Grant funding was sought for the Maggie Osgood Library.

There was a seamless transition from City Administrator Jared Cobb to the new City Administrator Jeremy Caudle who starts January 4th under the guidance of Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller.

You can be proud of all of our City staff and what was accomplished in 2020. I am looking forward to and planning for an exciting 2021.

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

Take a deep breath. Inhale, exhale and know that we have almost officially made it out of 2020. This year has been a difficult one to say the least. The year of 2020 will be the year I tell my grandchildren about and have them look at me like I am crazy. The year we couldn't have school live and in person (except for Kinder through 3rd Grade), social distancing has taken place all over the world, rather than just at middle school dances, having to end one school year online and starting another online as well, Zoom meetings, we couldn't really go to restaurants, we always had to wear a mask in public, people getting sick and having to quarantine for 14 days at a time and having to enter on one side of the grocery store and exiting through another. If I didn't experience this year myself, I probably wouldn't believe it either. However, it's over (almost) and although I don't know what lies ahead in 2021, I know that it can't be much crazier than 2020.



That being said, we have plenty to be thankful for in the district. We have a new gymnasium (that we can't wait to use), all our classrooms have been remodeled with new lighting, new heating and air conditioning. We have a phenomenal new wrestling room, new security fencing with electronic key card access, and, the most amazing staff members that rival anyone in the state.

This year has shown us that even though we have experienced trials, tribulations, pandemics, adversity, illness, despair and loss, we have not backed down. We continue to support our families the best way we know how. We are serving meals to children and their families, we are one of two districts in Lane County that have opened our doors to Kindergarten through Third grade live and on site and we may feel an extra sense of stress during these times but we won't quit. We will prevail and keep on moving forward. That's what this community does. We rally around one another, especially in times of need, and lift each other up rather than let them fall.

I have been so impressed by everyone this year by their ability to support one another and put others first, not because we have to, but because we want to and know it's the right thing to do. I have been humbled by our ability to realize what's best for our students and go the extra mile, not because we are told to, but because we know in our hearts that they deserve the best version of us during these unprecedented times.

As I stated earlier, we may not know what 2021 has in store for us but I hope it's better and not worse than 2020. However, I can say that no matter what the future brings, we will come together as one and keep conquering because we refuse to be defeated. This community knows no other way. We assess the situation, dig deep, and become victorious no matter what issues we are facing.

I hope you have taken some time this break to relax and take some deep breaths. Take some time to reflect on the past year and instead of dwelling on all the negatives, think about the positives. Think about what we can and will continue to do to ensure that we are all going to come out stronger and more resilient than we were going into it. In the words of Greg Kincaid, "No matter how much falls on us, we keep plowing ahead. That's the only way to keep the roads clear."

Enjoy the rest of your break and have an amazing New Year. You all deserve it!

Respectfully, Johnie Matthews
Lowell School Superintendent

Lowell Music Surviving and Thriving

In spite of the extreme challenges presented by COVID-19 and distance learning, Lowell Music has been working double-time this fall to keep our young musicians engaged and growing. “It’s definitely been the most challenging time for our program in recent memory,” says Music Director Paul Burch. “Music is by its nature a communal, in-person activity. But we’ve come up with some creative solutions to keep kids involved and looking forward to the future.”



In addition to online classes, Band and Choir students at LHS have recently been able to receive instruction and rehearse on campus by following OSAA and ODE “limited in-person” procedures.

In December, this culminated in a “virtual” Winter Concert presented by the high schoolers, creatively recorded and mixed for viewing by the community (links still available on the District website!).

“I was so proud of the way the kids handled themselves in the face of such adversity,” says Mr. Burch. “My hope is this will be an inspiration for our students at Lundy, many of whom are currently unable to have music. Our program has had so much success in recent years, and I hope we can get through our current circumstances with a new crop of kids eager to join up!”

A Christmas Miracle Comes to Lowell!

With only a couple days notice, Lowell became a recipient of a huge delivery of toys, just in time for Christmas. Santa “flew” in with his red Corvette to help hand out over 1,000 gifts to 140 children.



Thanks to contacts that our Family Resource Director Dan Silver has, The Hope Project provided 25 huge boxes full of toys to be handed out. His father-in-law Rod Dilliplaine (aka Santa) arrived to hand out candy canes and assist families with their gift selections. As if that wasn’t enough, a branch of United Way contacted Dan and gave 65 \$50 Walmart gift cards that were given to families in need. We are truly a blessed community.



Students of the Month



Jennaya Harris (at left) is a 7th grade student at Lowell. Her parents are Diane and Dennis Harris. In her free time she likes to listen to music and draw. She doesn’t have a favorite subject because she likes them all! Her favorite food is hamburgers and the hobbies she likes best are cooking and playing games.

Matt Peters is a 12th grader and his parents are Amy and Richard Peters. He spends a lot of time drawing, playing music and working on various projects. Another favorite is playing Animal Crossing or other similar games. His favorite subject in school is band, though leadership was a close second before online learning. When he’s not doing any of that he enjoys walking dogs and skateboarding with his friends.



Congratulations Jennaya and Matt on being selected as Students of the Month!

City Beat by Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

City Administrator Recruitment

The City Council hired Jeremy Caudle to be the new City Administrator. Jeremy has been a City Administrator for a small city in South Carolina and more recently was the Budget Manager in Colorado. He comes with a wealth of experience in city administration, economic development and finance. I believe the City is very fortunate to have him coming onboard. As I turn things over to Jeremy, I just want to say what a pleasure it has been to serve as your Interim Administrator. I have truly enjoyed my time here in Lowell (even through the pandemic) and will have fond memories of this community, the staff and the residents. Below is a letter from Jeremy to the community. Welcome Jeremy!

Dear City of Lowell Community Members:

I'm excited to be joining the City of Lowell as your next City Administrator. The natural beauty of Lowell and the hospitality of everyone I met convinced me that this was the perfect community for my family and me to put down roots.

I'm coming to Lowell from Grand Junction, Colorado, where I served as the Budget Manager for Mesa County. Before that, I was the City Administrator for Inman, South Carolina. I'm passionate about Main Street America, having worked on downtown revitalization for my previous city. One of my priorities with Lowell will be to work with you, the City Council, and other stakeholders to implement the city's recent "Downtown Master Plan."

Joining me in this move is my fiancée, Leslie, and our cats. Leslie and I enjoy the outdoors, and we can't wait to explore all the outdoors recreation opportunities that Oregon has to offer.

My goal is to be an accessible, engaged, and visible City Administrator. I look forward to becoming a part of the community and getting to know you.

Warm regards,

Jeremy B. Caudle



Coronavirus Update

Lane County remains at "Extreme Risk Level". As of December 22, there have been a total of 6,335 cases reported in Lane County. That is up from 3,913 one month ago. There are currently 46 hospitalizations, 9 of those in the ICU and 81 deaths. Cases in our zip code, 97452, are now 17 confirmed.

The good news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel with the release of the vaccine. The Oregon Federal Allocation is approximately 35,000 doses per week at this point. Between McKenzie Willamette and Peace Health Hospitals, almost 2,000 doses have been received locally. Health care workers will receive the vaccine first since they have been on the front lines of this since the beginning. Long term care facilities will be the next areas to receive the vaccine. Until everyone can be vaccinated, Lane County Public Health is recommending continuing with the following personal guidelines:

- Take measures to limit contact with those outside of your immediate household.
- Modify everyday activities to reduce personal exposure.
- Limit gatherings to essential activities.
- Limit in person social activities for children and teens.
- Take precautions when in shared spaces including wearing a face covering and maintaining 6 feet of physical distance.
- Limit to essential travel.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap frequently. Use hand sanitizer when soap is not available.
- Clean highly touched surfaces often.

- Monitor yourself and household members for COVID-19 symptoms and call a healthcare provider if you are showing symptoms.
- If someone in your household is feeling sick, isolate them when possible.
- Answer the call from Public Health to help us reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Take time for self-care and mental health.
- Check in with friends, family, coworkers and neighbors to see how they are doing.

City Hall will continue to be closed to the public until there is a change in our status. Staff are available by phone, Mondays through Thursdays. Payments can be paid through xpress Bill Pay 24/7 at 866-785-8380 or they can be dropped off in the box at City Hall.

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 December 15th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved Ordinance 302—Planning Commission Membership
 - Accepted the City of Lowell’s Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Audit Report
 - Approved Change Order #7 for Downtown Paving and Utility Improvements and additional contract with Wildish Construction for the installation of a railing at Lakeview and Pioneer Streets for a cost of \$3,360.
 - Approved Planning Commission appointments: Mary Wallace for Position 4 and Suzanne Kintzley for Position 5. Approved Blackberry Jam Committee appointments: Lon Dragt and George Wild. Approved Parks and Recreation Committee appointment: George Wild. Approved Budget Committee and Economic Development appointments: Bill George.
 - Approved \$100 gift cards for six city staff members and Layli Nichols, and, authorized the days prior to the holidays of Christmas and New Year’s Day off.
- All actions were approved 5-0.

Monthly Police Log (November 16—December 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
11/16	12:50 am	Alarm	60 block of S Pioneer St
11/17	8:08 am	Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle	60 block of S Pioneer St
11/17	8:43 am	Unlawful Entry Motor Vehicle	400 block E 1 st St
11/21	10:11 am	Subject down	N Everly St and Loftus
11/22	11:54 pm	Suspicious Vehicle	30 block of E Main St
11/29	11:45 am	Vehicle Stop	W Main St and S Moss St
12/04	4:49 pm	Follow Up	70 block of E 2 nd St
12/05	2:04 pm	Motor Vehicle Accident	70 block of W 7 th St
12/05	7:05 pm	Vehicle Stop	N Hyland Ln and E 2 nd St
12/06	5:25 am	Suspicious Conduct	50 block of N Alder St
12/07	8:07 am	Burglary	60 block of S Parker Ln
12/08	2:17 am	Alarm	60 block of N Pioneer St
12/09	7:47 am	Theft	60 block of S Parker Ln
12/09	10:38 pm	Alarm	60 block of S Pioneer St
12/12	11:38 pm	Suspicious Conduct	100 block of N Cannon St
12/14	2:38 pm	Fraud	1100 block of Industrial Way

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

District Training Program Update

Lowell Fire has just completed another Fire Academy. We are happy to report that we have nine new volunteers that we will be adding to the ranks. In the coming months your firefighters will, as always, be looking to improve their skills with training opportunities locally. We also aim to continue our cooperation with our neighboring districts as we work to put on more local classes in the coming year. I would like to thank our patrons for their support this past year, and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Are You Ready for Winter?

With the onset of cooler wetter weather, the Lowell Fire District would like to urge everyone to ensure all their heating appliances are in good working order. Have your woodstoves, fireplaces, and chimneys, cleaned and inspected by a qualified specialist before using them this winter. Portable space heaters also pose a high risk so use these with extreme caution and follow all space heater safety tips. Although woodstove and fireplace-related fires are more common, the deadliest home heating fires result from misuse of portable electric heaters. Stay safe from heating-related fires using these safety tips:

Portable Space Heaters

- * When using portable heaters, make sure they come with an automatic tip-over switch and a high-temperature limit switch. The tip-over switch turns the heater off if it is knocked over. A high-temperature limit switch prevents the heater from overheating.
- * When using portable heaters make sure they come with an automatic tip-over switch and a high-temperature limit switch. The tip-over switch turns the heater off if it is knocked over. A high-temperature limit switch prevents the heater from overheating.
- * Give heaters space. Keep at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.
- * Check heater electrical cords. Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace before using the space heater.
- * Never use an extension cord or power strip with a portable electric heater. It can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- * Never allow children to play with, or around the heater.
- * Unplug heaters when not in use, before going to bed, or when leaving the room.

Electric Baseboard and Wall Heaters

- * Be aware of electric baseboard and wall heaters. These heaters are thermostatically controlled and may turn on without warning when temperatures drop.
- * Give heaters space. Just as with portable space heaters, keep at least three feet of space between your baseboard/wall heater and combustibles items such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.

Fuel Burning Space Heaters

- * If using a fuel burning space heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use. Read all manufacturer instructions and ensure it is properly vented.
- * Allow the heater to cool before refueling. Refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- * If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances, or thermostats. Leave the building and call 9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- * Have chimney and woodstove flues and vents inspected and cleaned every year by a qualified chimney specialist. Ask them to check for creosote deposits, soot build-up, or physical damage.
- * Always use a fireplace screen. Make sure the screen is made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping.
- * Keep a clutter-free environment. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.
- * Store kindling, fire logs, and wood at least three feet from any heat source.
- * Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue and chimney temperatures.
- * Use proper fire starters. Proper fire starters include a small amount of newspaper, kindling, or specially manufactured starters designed for indoor use. Never use flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline to start a fire.
- * Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can release lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- * Use fire-resistant materials on walls around woodstoves.
- * Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing of them.
- * Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container and place the container outdoors, at least ten feet from the home and any other nearby buildings. Ashes may retain heat for days after they appear out.



Lowell Fire District—continued

Smoke Alarms and Home Escape Plans

- * Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in each bedroom.
- * Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
- * Follow manufacturer's instructions on regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.
- * Replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older.
- * Make a home escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year.

Carbon Monoxide Dangers

- * Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- * Home heating and cooking equipment that burn fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane are sources of carbon monoxide.
- * Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal if not detected early.
- * Test and maintain your carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

For more home fire safety tips, call the district office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org

Local Real Estate News & Tips



There is a new statewide eviction moratorium (HB 4401) that will last until June 30, 2021. This means that, with limited exceptions, landlords cannot evict renters for nonpayment or without cause until July of 2021. Here are the key points:

- The protections for renters under the new statewide moratorium are not automatic! To be protected from eviction for nonpayment after December 31, 2020, renters must provide a sworn declaration of financial hardship to their landlords. There are serious legal penalties if someone signs a declaration that isn't true, so renters should not sign a declaration unless they're experiencing financial hardship. Once a renter gives a signed declaration to their landlord, the landlord is not allowed to move forward with an eviction for nonpayment until after the moratorium ends.
- If a renter has not given their landlord a signed declaration, landlords can give termination notices based on nonpayment of rent, fees, or utilities. But the landlord must also give the renter information about the moratorium protections, with a copy of the declaration, and must accept a signed declaration from the renter if the renter isn't able to pay the rent, fees or utilities.
- Landlords can give termination notices after the first year of occupancy if the landlord plans to demolish the rental, convert it to a different use, or make repairs that would require the renter to move out. Landlords are also allowed to give termination notices if the landlord has sold the rental to someone who plans to move into it, or if the landlord or a member of the landlord's family plans to move into the rental. Landlords must give at least 90 days' notice before terminating a tenancy for any of these reasons. Depending on how many rentals the landlord owns, the landlord may also have to pay the renter one month's rent. Landlords can give termination notices and file for eviction if the renter violates the rental agreement or the rules, or does something dangerous, illegal, or outrageous on the property.
- Renters who give their landlords a signed declaration will have until June 30, 2021, to pay back money that they owe. Renters who do not give their landlords a signed declaration will need to pay back rent from April 2020 through December 2020 by March 31, 2021. After the moratorium ends on July 1, renters will owe their landlords any back rent, fees, or utilities that built up during any of the moratoriums. Before the moratorium ends, landlords are not allowed to charge late fees or to report debt to credit agencies.
- Landlords can send a notice and / or evict based on nonpayment for money that was owed before April 1, 2020 because that debt is not covered by the moratorium.

The new statewide moratorium also includes money for landlords to help pay back part of the rent.

- Landlords can apply for help from the state to pay back 80% of rent that's owed. If the landlord gets help from the state, then the landlord has to agree not to try to evict renters based on the unpaid rent.
- If landlords don't get help from the state, then landlords can sue for the unpaid rent, or file for eviction after the statewide moratorium ends on June 30, 2021.

December RMLS Data:	# of Homes	Average Price
Active Listings	2	\$ 832,000
Pending	1	\$ 257,500
Sold	5	\$ 336,900

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

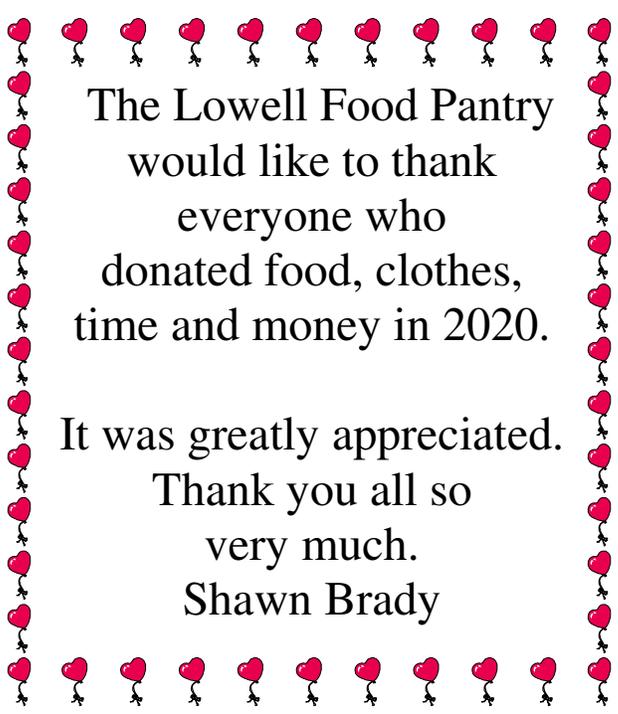
Lowell, OR 97452

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: January 2021

- 1—Texas Hold 'em Poker — cancelled
- 2—Cans/Bottle Drive — cancelled
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
- 5—**Special City Council Work Session & Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street**
- 6—Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Osgood Library
- 13—**Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station**
- 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — No School, City Hall Closed
- 19—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library**
- 25—**School Board Executive Session, 7:00 p.m.**
- 29—Senior Potluck Luncheon — cancelled
No School! Grading Day
- 30—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon



The Lowell Food Pantry
would like to thank
everyone who
donated food, clothes,
time and money in 2020.

It was greatly appreciated.
Thank you all so
very much.
Shawn Brady