



The Bridge

Making community connections

Team Lowell and *The Bridge*

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 8

February 2021

In normal times, representatives of Lowell School District, the City of Lowell and Lowell Rural Fire Department meet for lunch once per month to share ideas and investigate opportunities to work together to both improve service and work more efficiently. Representatives from Dexter Rural Fire Department, the Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon State Parks, Banner Bank, U.S. Forest Service and the local Watershed Council also participate from time to time in this effort, known locally as “Team Lowell.”

The Bridge, once known as *The Stentor* that covered primarily school news, became a community-wide, collaborative effort. The idea was conceived at a Team Lowell meeting to find an effective and inexpensive way to inform citizens about important community and local government activities. The cost to print the newsletter is shared by the school, city and fire department. Each agency contributes articles written by their staff or volunteers. Front page coverage rotates, often in conjunction with seasonal community events such as the beginning of fire season or the start of a new school year. School staff edits the contributed articles, formats the newsletters, coordinates the printing, and sorts them for mailing.

Information/input: bridge@lowell.k12.or.us

Inside this issue:

School News

Superintendent Message	p. 2
New Teacher	p. 3
Drama Performance	p. 3
Students of the Month	p. 3

City Beat

2021 Strategic Plan	p. 4
Coronavirus Update	p. 4
Downtown Master Plan	p. 4
City Council Actions	p. 5
Police Log	p. 5

Fire District

The Silent Killer	p. 6
-------------------	------

Other

Team Lowell/Bridge	Cover
Food Pantry	p. 7
Clothes Bank	p. 7
Local Real Estate	p. 7
Presidents Day History	p. 8
Calendar of Events	p. 8



Happy Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14th

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

We have almost survived another winter in Lowell. Knock on wood, we have been very blessed to have had only one delay and no closures yet this year but I do realize that kids and staff alike love the “snow day” phone call in the morning. There is a lot that goes into the process of declaring a snow day. I want to let you know just what it entails so you can have some insight on what tremendously dedicated staff we have out here.



Just think, it's 4:45 am. Jason Pickett and Mark Kintzley are already out driving around the district. Their coverage area is all over the map from Little Fall Creek all the way to Oakridge, driving around and using our laser thermometers to gauge the temperature of the roads the busses will be traveling on. I usually call Jason around 5:15 am to get a status report of the roads. Meanwhile, I am outside in Springfield checking the surrounding roads. During this time I am also communicating with other Lane County Superintendents to see what their status is to ensure that our out-of-town staff will have safe travel as well. Meanwhile, our transportation secretary Jessica Hollenbeck, is patiently waiting by the phone to send out the robo-call if needed. Usually, around 6:15 Jason calls me and to give me a recommendation of business as usual, two hour delay or full day cancelation.

I just wanted to share with you all that takes place while most of the community is still sleeping. These diligent staff members are waking up extra early to ensure that every precaution is taken and carefully discussed so your kids just see it “as another day of school.” That being said, we are almost through the cold spell and can now focus on debatably the best season of the year...Spring. Grass will start growing again and the fragrances of plants blooming will start once again to christen our noses. Of course during the pandemic it will look differently but at least being able to get outside will provide us with some much needed Vitamin D.

With the dark cold evenings still here, the district will continue to have the lights on from 5:00pm – 7:00pm nightly to allow the community to get their steps in at a well-lighted, safe place. This will continue until daylight savings time is over (March 15th) and we spring forward to longer days and shorter nights.

This job continues to be the best job one could ever have. Working with great people that keep doing their best to maintain sanity and get back to as normal as soon as we can is no easy task. But, we have the staff in place to make this transition as smooth as possible. I know this has been a crazy 10½ months but the resiliency that I have seen from this community is second to none.

I would like to leave you with this quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that keeps me going on a daily basis, especially with the unprecedented times we have been facing in our community and our nation. “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

Stay safe, stay humble, stay kind,
Johnie Matthews
Superintendent Lowell School District

New Spanish/Language Arts Teacher: Shea Selby

Originally from Austin, Texas, Lowell's newest high school teacher is a world traveler and has chosen to settle in the Eugene area and teach Spanish and Language Arts here at Lowell. She obtained her bachelor's degree in English and Spanish from the University of Texas then travelled throughout Europe, teaching in Spain for two years. Shea moved to Eugene in 2017 and received her teaching license last Spring from the University of Oregon.

Shea is passionate about language, in that learning new languages opens up whole new worlds and opportunities to communicate with others. She is also passionate about writing, especially as an art form. In her spare time she hosts a creative writing group, loves outdoor activities, enjoys cooking and baking, and likes to sing karaoke.

Please join us in welcoming Shea to Lowell High School!



LHS Drama presents a Live Virtual Production...

"Check Please: Stay-At-Home Edition"*

A short one-act Comedy by Jonathan Rand

Dating can be hard. Especially when your date is pretending to know multiple languages, or giving you a Power-Point presentation, or doing a psychic reading of your feet. As Guy and Girl each endure a series of blind dates, they think it can't get any worse -- until it does. Could there possibly be a light at the end of the tunnel?

Three FREE 7PM Shows:

THURSDAY, February 25th

FRIDAY, February 26th

SATURDAY, February 27th

Now Performing VIRTUALLY via Google Meet

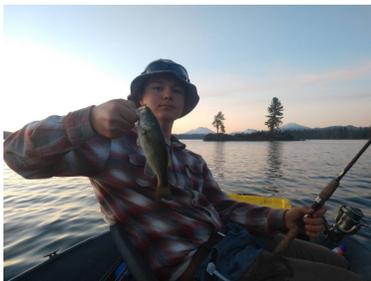
A FREE live streaming link will be posted on the LHS Homepage (lowell.k12.or.us)

***Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)**

Donations will be accepted, to support the development of the LHS Drama Program.

Please contact Mr. Klatt (mklatt@lowell.k12.or.us) if you would like to support LHS Drama.

Students of the Month



Eric Fuller (at left) is a senior at Lowell and the son of Christin McMurrian. Fishing is one of his favorite hobbies because he enjoys going to the creek and feeling the cool breeze. "It's not about catching the fish," Josh explains, "it's about doing nothing for a few hours. Then when you least expect it, you feel something heavy on the end of your line, and you get the feeling of excitement."

Joshua Walker is a 7th grader and his parents are Larry and Diana Walker. Josh enjoys rock collecting and learning about electricity. He plays the violin and trumpet. His favorite subjects in school are math and science. He loves to eat pizza and Oreo milkshakes. Josh likes to make other people laugh and smile. He loves to go on bike rides and hang out with his friends. He's looking forward to returning to in-person school so he can do experiments in science class and play on the football team again.



Congratulations Eric and Joshua on being selected as Students of the Month!

City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

City Council Adopts “2021 Strategic Plan”

At its January 19th regular meeting, City Council adopted its “2021 Strategic Plan.” The City first developed a strategic plan in 2016. Every year, the City Council reviews and updates the strategic plan to reflect completed projects or changes in priorities.

Below is a summary from Mayor Don Bennett on what’s included in the strategic plan:

The “Strategic Plan” is designed to ensure that the human, financial and capital resources are efficiently and effectively allocated based upon the priorities established by the City Council, with the fiscal integrity of the City as the cornerstone of the Strategic Plan.

Our “Vision Statement” describes Lowell as “A rural lakeside community with a high quality of life, great outdoor activities, proud of our history, looking forward to the future through a responsive government.”

Our “Mission Statement” states that we are “A historical rural town surrounded by nature’s beauty on the north side of Dexter Lake where all people are valued, encouraged, and appreciated for their diversity. We desire to maintain the rural and historical character of the town, while striving to be a town where people want to live, work, and enjoy the outdoors.”

The “Goals” section spells out the following services and programs that we are committed to providing:

- Community Development
- Facilities and Infrastructure
- Financial Management
- Human Resources
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Quality of Life
- Responsive Government

There are almost 40 specifically defined “Objectives” to support each of these goals. Examples include:

- Meeting or exceeding sewer system discharge requirements
- Meeting or exceeding water quality requirements
- Ensuring traffic and speed control throughout the City
- Obtaining grants to complete the Maggie Osgood Library project
- Working with our community partners to update the “Emergency Response Plan”
- Repairing the irrigation system at Paul Fisher Park
- Maintaining a minimum fund balance to cover two months of operating expenses in case of emergencies

You can find past and current strategic plans on the City’s website at the following web address: <https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/citycouncil/page/strategic-plan>

Coronavirus Update

Lane County remains in the Oregon Health Authority’s “Extreme Risk” category. City Hall will continue to be closed to the public until our risk level improves. You can reach us by phone, Monday through Thursday, at 541-359-8768. You can make payments through Xpress Bill pay online or at 866-785-8380. Our payment drop-box at City Hall is also open.

Downtown Master Plan Update

The City will hold a virtual open house on January 27th at 7:00 pm to present recommended updates to the development code in downtown. The updates are intended to increase walkability, housing options, and encourage new busi-

nesses. You can find more information, including how to participate, on the City’s website at the following web address: <https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/downtown-master-plan/page/virtual-public-open-houses-lowell-code-amendments>

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 January 5th special meeting, City Council took the following actions:

- Approved Resolution #757—“A resolution adopting guiding principles for the City Council.”
- Made appointments to several City committees: appointment of Robert Prehm to the Library Committee; and appointment of Tony Moreci to the Parks and Recreation committee and to the Blackberry Jam Committee.
- Approved Resolution #758—“A resolution to authorize a change of signatories for the City of Lowell general account with Banner Bank.”
- Approved an “Amendment to Agreement for Improvements”

At the January 19th regular meeting, City Council took the following actions:

- Approved Resolution #759—“A resolution to adopt the City of Lowell’s 2021 Strategic Plan.”
- Approved an agreement to reappoint the current municipal judge.
- Discussed possible letters of support for business identification signage on Highway 58.

All action items were approved 5:0.

Monthly Police Log (December 16—January 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
12/16/2020	5:23 AM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
12/18/2020	6:51 AM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
12/19/2020	3:43 AM	ALARM	60 block of S PIONEER ST
12/19/2020	9:47 AM	SHOTS FIRED	100 block of WETLEAU DR
12/22/2020	3:27 PM	HARRASS	400 block of E 1ST ST
12/22/2020	5:36 PM	SUSPICIOUS CONDUCT	30 block of N EVERLY ST
12/26/2020	7:57 AM	SHOTS FIRED	100 block of WETLEAU DR
12/26/2020	11:47 AM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
12/28/2020	5:36 AM	DISPUTE	30 block of N EVERLY
12/29/2020	8:47 PM	TRESPASS	30 block of N EVERLY ST
12/30/2020	4:24 PM	RUNAWAY	Lowell area
01/01/2021	12:07 PM	BURGLARY	100 block of E SUMMIT ST
01/01/2021	2:11 PM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
01/02/2021	7:00 AM	CRMSCH	100 block of E SUMMIT ST
01/02/2021	3:28 PM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
01/03/2021	7:14 PM	THEFT	400 block of E 1ST ST
01/04/2021	5:39 AM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
01/05/2021	12:54 PM	MENACE	600 block of N MOSS ST
01/05/2021	8:48 PM	SUSPICIOUS CONDUCT	30 block of N EVERLY ST
01/05/2021	10:20 PM	ALARM	40 block of S MOSS ST
01/07/2021	12:59 AM	DISPUTE	100 block of E 1ST ST
01/07/2021	2:07 PM	UNKNOWN PROBLEM	100 block of N PIONEER ST
01/07/2021	3:16 PM	PATROL	300 block of N MOSS ST
01/08/2021	6:57 PM	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	200 block of E 4TH ST
01/15/2021	9:25 AM	ALARM	60 block of S PIONEER ST
01/15/2021	3:08 PM	ALARM	60 block of S PIONEER 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

Carbon Monoxide — The Silent Killer

The winter months are here. As the mercury dips, some families, struggling to pay their heating bills, will turn on the kitchen stove burners and the oven in an effort to take the chill off of their home. What these families don't realize is how dangerous this practice can be. A gas or propane oven or range top should never be used for heating. A fire could start and/or poisonous carbon monoxide (CO) fumes could fill the home. Any fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, space or portable heaters), generators and chimneys can produce carbon monoxide.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) there is an increased risk of dying in a home fire during the winter season. December, January and February are generally the deadliest months for fire.

Often called a silent killer, CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels, such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane, burn incompletely.

CO enters the body through breathing. CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches.

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning, but infants, pregnant women and people with physical conditions that limit their ability to use oxygen, such as emphysema, asthma or heart disease, can be more severely affected by low concentrations of CO than healthy adults. High levels of CO can be fatal for anyone, causing death within minutes.

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection district would like to remind you that carbon monoxide can be a silent killer and discourages anyone from using the range or oven to heat their home. Install CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. Have your heating equipment inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. Use generators outdoors away from all doors and windows and vents.

- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and CO alarms.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window and doors and call for help. Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel say it is okay.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries or other trouble indicators.

The Lowell Fire District wants everyone to be warm and safe this winter.

Make sure your home has carbon monoxide alarms.

For more information, contact the District Office at 541-937-3393.



Clothing Bank Open to Serve

The Clothing Bank continues to be open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays with hours from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Clothing donations are welcome on days that the clothing bank is open, or contact Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or Stewartsx6@fastmail.fm to make other arrangements.

The clothing bank provides free items to anyone in need and all sizes are available. It's located in George Hake Center at 4 East Lakeview Street (behind the football field). Thank you to our community for being so generous with their donations, they are appreciated very much!



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).



Please call Shawn Brady at 541-912-1538 if you have questions or would like to make a donation. Thank you.

Local Real Estate News & Tips

LOW HOUSING INVENTORY

At the end of last year, inventory was tight and homes were selling quickly. Look out for similar patterns in 2021 that lead to favorable conditions for sellers and a competitive market for buyers.

WE NEED MORE SPACE

Homes with extra rooms and closed floor plans are more appealing to buyers looking for space to accommodate home offices, gyms, etc. Properties with ADUs (accessory dwelling units) like a granny flat or converted shed may also attract multi-generational families or those looking for rental income. Motivated by caring for aging parents, 15 percent of buyers who purchased homes after March 2020, purchased a multi-generational home compared to 11 percent of buyers before March.

THE MARKET IS REBOUNDING

Following the uncertainty of 2020, the real estate market has quickly rebounded to prepandemic levels, and remains one of the earliest industries to do so.

INCREASED BUYER DEMAND

Many millennials have fast-tracked plans to buy with the money they saved while staying home. Plus, mortgage rates continue to hover at historic lows, making home ownership more affordable for many. This year could be a perfect time for those with secure employment to buy.

A COUNTRY ON THE MOVE

As circumstances change and businesses offer more opportunities to work remotely, Americans are moving across the board. They aren't just moving from cities to suburbs — in some cases, they are switching from city-to-city, suggesting that many urban markets are still quite healthy. The percentage of us that work from home will be much higher even after vaccinations and a return to a "new normal." This is because there's no longer any stigma to working from home, IT investments to enable working from home have been made, and many employees simply demand it. Bottom line, it's working much better than was expected.

Trending

Pantone released their two colors of the year: Ultimate Gray and Illuminating, a combination of familiar gray and bright yellow.



January RMLS Data:	# of Homes	Average Price
Active Listings	1	\$ 799,000
Pending	3	\$ 584,333
Sold	1	\$ 255,000

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: February 2021

- 2—City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 5—Texas Hold 'em Poker — cancelled
- 6—Cans/Bottle Drive — cancelled
- 7—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
- 10—Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
- 15—Presidents Day — No School, City Hall Closed
- 16—City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 22—School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., PDC
- 25—LHS Drama Virtual Production, 7:00 p.m.
- 26—Senior Potluck Luncheon — cancelled
LHS Drama Virtual Production, 7:00 p.m.
- 27—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon
LHS Drama Virtual Production, 7:00 p.m.

Why do we celebrate Presidents Day? The history behind the holiday.

You probably know that Presidents Day has its roots in George Washington's birthday, but did you know his birthday was changed during his lifetime? Here's the history behind the holiday.

Despite its common name, the federal holiday is officially called George Washington's Birthday. Washington was born on Feb. 11, 1731 but his birthday changed when British colonies switched to the Gregorian calendar, according to the Center for Legislative Archives.

His new birthday, which was Feb. 22, 1732, was celebrated for many years before becoming a legal holiday in 1879.

The Monday Holiday Law in 1968 made it always on Monday to create a three-day weekend and "bring substantial benefits to both the spiritual and economic life of the Nation."