



The Bridge

Making community connections

Who owns the Grange?

Lowell Grange is not owned by the City but by the Oregon State Grange organization of which Lowell Grange is a member. The Lowell Grange building was built in 1913 as our community's new elementary school, to replace a one-room log schoolhouse located north of the current building. The school district and Hyland family sold the building and land to the Lowell Grange in 1941 when Lundy Elementary opened. Prior to this, Lowell Grange met in the High School. The Grange is a non-profit, fraternal organization that welcomes new members who are interested in promoting and supporting their community, helping people in need, developing leadership skills and having fun.

You may be contacted to join the Lowell Grange Restoration Committee to assist with the fundraising events held to continue improving the Grange building and to provide fun, wholesome activities for our community. Please consider saying yes and join us in the fun!



The Bridge

Volume 24, Issue 3

September 2021

Inside this issue:

School News

Superintendent's Letter	p. 2
Link Crew	p. 2
Varsity Volleyball	p. 2
Varsity Football	p. 2

City Beat

Smoke Testing	p. 4
Planning for Lowell's Future	p. 4
From the Mayor's Desk	p. 5
Council Actions	p. 5

Fire District

Fire Season is now over	p. 6
Become a Firefighter	p. 6

Other

Who Owns the Grange	Cover
Drag Boat Races	p. 6
Grange Breakfasts Postponed	p. 7
Oregon RAIN Events	p. 7
Calendar of Events	p. 8



See Lundy school supply list on the web at www.lowell.k12.or.us. Click on Schools, then Lundy Elementary, then School Supply List.

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

Welcome back Lowell/Fall Creek Families!

We are wrapping up all of the summer activities we look forward to annually, such as sports camps, the summer recreation program and KITS. Each of these programs brought our students together to laugh, learn and play, reminiscent of pre-Covid days.

Just when we thought things were going back to “normal” we are thrown another curveball! But that doesn't mean this isn't going to be a spectacular year, it just means it is going to cause our school, staff, parents and students to be creative and resourceful. Some of the greatest wins came from the swing of a bat that connected with a curveball. It will be no different for Lowell School District.

All of our staff will head back to the classrooms, hallways, buildings and buses on August 31 to prep for all of the eager students ready to learn. School begins on September 8. Back to school night for Lundy Elementary is September 7.

While many are concerned about the masking and other guidelines for our schools, our administration and school board are committed to doing all that we can to keep our doors open and make in-person learning possible. Our personal and professional belief systems may not be in alignment with the guidance mandated by the state; however, we will continue to make decisions based on what is best for our students.

So while our staff are getting ready for the wind up, we expect our students to take a big swing and hit it out of the park this year!

Sincerely, Johnie Matthews, Superintendent

When you think a fastball is coming, you gotta be ready to hit the curve. -- Jaja Q

Students Assisting Students: Lowell Link Crew

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

7th Grade: We feel that it is very important that the transition from elementary to junior high to be as smooth as possible. There is bound to be a few bumps in the road, but we would like to give your student several tools they can use to make the transition a little bit easier.

When: 9am on Thursday, September 2nd

Where: Cafetorium (the old gym) which is inside the main building.

9th Grade: Even though your 9th grade student might be a professional at finding their way around our building, there are quite a few changes that happen now that they are an official high school student. To help make sure they are prepared for the next four years, we want to give them a few pointers that can help keep them on track.

When: 12:30pm on Thursday, September 2nd

Where: Cafetorium (the old gym) which is inside the main building.



How to Register for Orientation: So that we can have an accurate count of students, please confirm your child's attendance by filling out the Google Form that can be found on our school webpage (www.lowell.k12.or.us) and the Lowell School District Facebook group. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming orientation, please feel free to contact us at 541-937-2124 or you can e-mail Ms. Beckett at tbeckett@lowell.k12.or.us.



Varsity Volleyball Underway After a hugely successful jamboree, this year's season is already underway. Team members include seniors Alexis Curry and Ashlee Brooks; juniors Amadalla Plagmann, Esperanza Guzman-Fields, and Lydia Plahn; sophomores Amerika Baszler, Annabelle Pickett, Brooke Davis, Elizabeth Able, Kameron Baszler, Kenadee Hermansen, and Lillianah Neet; and, freshmen Aly Curry, Cheyanne McNamee, Dixie Marchi, Hazel Garner, Jada Cantrell, and Kiahna Baszler. Head coach Kristen Prenevost is assisted by Mollie Garcia-Cash and Maddie Maher. Their first home game is September 14th versus Central Linn.

Shirts are available! The team will be selling their t-shirts throughout the season. They can be purchased at home volleyball games, or you can contact Coach Kristen to place an order that can be picked up at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop. Current season's shirts (sizes youth medium to adult 3X) are \$10; and all previous season shirts are \$5 (sizes youth medium to adult XL, styles vary).



Lowell Varsity Football gets underway this Thursday, September 2nd in Gervais. Team members include seniors Deacon Savio, Odin Sinnett, Austin Smith, Cody Prom, and Raymond Fassbender; juniors Lehi Zylstra, Hayden Vaughn, Dylan Scott, Aric Coleman, Jaxon Alexander, Jesse Neet, Trenton Edwards, and Brenton Whitney; sophomores Justus Thurman, Rowan Files, Justin Brooks, and Brody Thurman; and, freshmen Harley Hardison,

Jamar Thurman, Paul Clark, Zander Rogers, Dylan Allen, and Ryan Pelroy. Head coach Pat Todd is assisted by Jesse Funez, Mark Kintzley, Brody Scott, and Anthony Wallace. The first home game is Friday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Come out and support your Lowell Red Devils!!

City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

City of Lowell Smoke Testing

The City of Lowell has contracted with Civil West Engineering Services to perform smoke testing of the sewer lines. Smoke testing activities are tentatively scheduled to occur between Wednesday, September 15th through Friday, September 17th. Smoke testing will be undertaken throughout the community during the week.

Smoke testing is an efficient and cost-effective way to identify system leaks and locations where unwanted storm water is entering the sewer lines. These problem areas are quickly identified by the smoke escaping through the holes in the system and being observed above ground by workers.

During testing, residents may notice smoke escaping from their eaves and yard drains. Smoke should not enter the building unless there exists faulty or improper traps or drains. To minimize the smoke entering your building, please pour water into all drains (sinks, showers, floor drains) prior to the testing. Residents can rest assured that the smoke is non-toxic, non-staining, non-flammable and is harmless to people, animals, and plants.

During testing, smoke should exit the vent stack of houses and possibly escape through manholes. Any other observed smoke may suggest there is a problem with the sewer system. The presence of the smoke in your house can be an indicator that there are available pathways for dangerous and toxic gases entering your house. If this is the case, a plumbing professional should be contacted. If you notice smoke in your house or on your property please report it immediately to the personnel conducting the test or call the City of Lowell City Hall at (541) 937-2157.

Planning for Lowell's Future

Oregon requires cities to publish futuristic Master Plans to help guide Council actions. Master Plans cost \$10,000+ to survey the community, compile results, organize, and have professionals write. Few plans are implemented. Recent Councils and City Administrators have taken a more active approach about enacting your plans. I say "your plans" because we use your money and use your survey responses to develop Master Plans. Implementing the plans are not cheap, but this Council is planning to offset costs by selling City-owned properties. Here is a timetable of what we have done and are planning.

Completed

2019 – Purchased 70 N. Pioneer Street building to replace snow damaged Library and City Hall.

2020 – Purchased two adjacent properties at Main and Pioneer for a commercial business IAW (in accordance with) the Downtown Plan.

2021 – Installed an irrigation system in Paul Fisher Park IAW the Parks Plan. Tested wells in Paul Fisher and Rolling Rock Parks for flow.

In Process

2021 – Sell Main and Pioneer property. Also sell City-owned properties at 8 Hyland and the east end of Rolling Rock Park to offset costs.

2021/2022 – Renovate JW building at 70 N. Pioneer Street.

2022 – Renovate Rolling Rock Park.

2022 – Move into new Library and City Hall.

2022 – New sidewalks and crosswalks around the Main and Pioneer property.

2022 – Sell present City Hall and Library property.

The Goal

By 2023, downtown Lowell will have a new Library and City Hall. Rolling Rock Park will have new walking trails, leveled and irrigated lawns, picnic tables with shade trees, covered pavilion, playground, terraced seating in front of the amphitheater, and more. New sidewalks and crosswalks on Pioneer, Main, and North Shore. New businesses at Main and Pioneer and hopefully across the street on east end of Rolling Rock Park. New home on 8 Hyland, and new residences planned for the present City Hall location. Lowell's future downtown will be amazing and a source of pride.

Lowell City Council Actions

On August 3, City Council held special council meeting was held and the following actions were taken:

- Approved Resolution 769, “A resolution to authorize the issuance of a city credit card to the city clerk under the City of Lowell general account.”
 - Approved the “Professional Services Proposal” from Historical Research Associates, Inc. for a cultural resources inventory in the amount not to exceed \$10,139.
- Both actions were approved 4:0.

Also on August 3, City Council held a work session and the following topics were discussed:

- Reviewed task outline and fee estimate for landscape architecture services from Dougherty Landscape Architects for the Rolling Rock Park improvements project.
- Reviewed cost estimates from Graham Landscaping for landscaping work around the city.
- Received an update on and discussed the recruitment process for the vacant City Council position.

On August 12, City Council held a work session to follow up on the July 1st visioning workshop and presentation of library design options.

On August 17, City Council held a regular meeting and took the following actions:

- Approved the “Professional Services Proposal” from Historical Research Associates, Inc. for a cultural resources inventory in the amount not to exceed \$10,139 and authorized the City Administrator to sign.
 - Approved Estimate #8310 from Graham Landscape and Design, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$5,679.80 and to authorize the City Administrator to sign.
 - Appointed Max Baker as City Administrator pro tempore during City Administrator’s absence due to a scheduled vacation.
 - Appointed Mike Galvin to the City of Lowell Planning Commission.
 - Approved and “Exclusive Authorization of Sale” agreement with Campbell Commercial Real Estate for the sale of 8 N. Hyland Lane and to authorize the City Administrator to sign.
- All actions were approved 4:0.

“From the Mayor’s Desk” by Mayor Don Bennett

The City Council has heard and read your comments about criminal activity. Present and past City Councils have considered the policing issue and identified questions, without answers. What hours should be patrolled? Day, night, staggered? How many officers do we need, where do we get them, at what cost, how do we pay for them? How do we measure the benefit of having our own officer, and what would success look like?

Creswell budgets \$1,000,000 for the services of four deputies and a sergeant from the Lane County Sheriff’s Office. Creswell increased their property taxes and added a public safety fee to everyone’s monthly utility bill to cover the cost. Veneta and Oakridge are considering adding public safety fees to utility bills to cover increasing policing costs.

The City of Lowell purchases 40 hours of monthly police coverage from Oakridge Police Department. Oakridge PD’s staffing will not allow increasing our hours. A few years ago, the City Council considered having our own full-time officer. Oakridge PD was the cheapest option. They would hire and train our officer. The officer’s salary, benefits, training, and support equipment could total over \$140,000 per year. Splitting the cost between the 450 homes in Lowell could cost each household more than \$300 per year.

Until Lowell can afford a dedicated officer, City Staff is working closely with Oakridge PD to direct local patrols to areas where citizens have submitted complaints.

Please, if something is important enough to tell your neighbors, report to LCSO, or post on Facebook, fill out a Complaint Form.

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/administration/page/621/complaintform.pdf>

Identities are protected. City Staff will review and advise Oakridge PD. Keeping our community secure requires a group effort.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

A Reminder that Fire Season Is Not Over Yet

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

Please also make sure that we leave the roadways open for fire personnel to respond when they are needed. It is very important to us to keep our community safe. While we appreciate the offer of assistance, we have the proper protection and training to get the job done safely.

Ever Think About Becoming A Firefighter?

Ever want to do something new and exciting? Want to learn new and valuable life skills? Think about joining the Fire Service and help your community.

Volunteers are critical to our nation's fire and emergency services. 69% (or 786,150) of firefighters in the U.S. are volunteers. These volunteers save communities \$140 billion annually. However, the number of volunteers has declined by about 12% since 1984. During the same timeframe, call volume has nearly tripled, largely due to the increase in Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls. In 2013, there were over 31 million calls to local fire departments.

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. Since 2000, there has been a 14.9 percent drop in the number of firefighters under the age of 40 in communities like ours. Communities our size rely almost entirely on volunteers.

There are many reasons for these trends, including:

- increased time demands placed on firefighters and EMTs or more rigorous training requirements
- proliferation of two-income families whose members have less available time
- younger people moving out of smaller communities for better job opportunities

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District is almost all Volunteer. We have a full-time (40+ hour per week) paid Fire Chief and 3 full-time (48/96) paid Shift Officers.

The District currently has three Resident Volunteer Firefighter/EMTs, 14 shift Volunteer Firefighter/EMTs and five Volunteer cadet Firefighter/EMTs. The District needs more volunteer members to help protect the communities of Lowell, Fall Creek and Unity. You will receive all the training you want locally; all you need to do is apply.

Contact the District office for more information and the opportunities being a Lowell Fire District volunteer might bring. Go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org or call 541-937-3393 to see how to volunteer.

CDBA Drag Boat Races — September 18-19

The Columbia Drag Boat Association (CDBA) is the premier racing association in the Pacific Northwest. CDBA prides itself in offering a wide variety of class competition in a safe, fun and family-oriented atmosphere.



Four races are held locally in Oregon. Racers of all levels are encouraged to join. CDBA was established to enhance the growth of drag boat racing at a local level. The last race of the season will be held on Dexter Lake September 18-19. Come to the races and check it out!

Races begin at 9am each day
 ADMISSION: \$10 Saturday, \$12 Sunday (\$20 for a weekend pass)
 Parking \$5 per day

September Community News & Events

Grange Breakfast Postponed

Unfortunately, due to high risk/cases of COVID-19, the restart of the Grange’s monthly breakfasts has been postponed until further notice. We hope to see you in October so stay tuned...

Fall 2021 RAINmaker Sales and Marketing Accelerator

Registration has opened for the Fall 2021 RAINmaker Sales and Marketing Accelerator. This is a 10-week virtual digital sales and marketing accelerator to help Oregon entrepreneurs generate revenue online. Sessions are Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. from September 29th through December 15th. To register please go to www.oregonrain.org. Contact Ariel Ruben at ariel@oregonrain.org for additional information.



September 29 - December 15
Wednesdays 9:00 - 10:30AM

RAINmaker Accelerator
10-week Digital Sales & Marketing Accelerator **2021**

New team member, Rick Hood, is hosting a webinar about capital access called “Learn to raise from ‘the crowd’ in Oregon” This will be a good one to attend if you are looking to raise capital, but come either way as we are sharing exciting news about a soon-to-be launching fundraising platform. This webinar will be held September 7th from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Additional resources have come on board to provide excellent mentoring and resources for local entrepreneurs. Seth Clark, owner of Blue Valley Bistro, is just the person you need to chat with about your business finances.



Financial Help & Business Coaching
with Seth Clark

FREE

RAIN OREGON

Email Seth to schedule a time:
seth@oregonrain.org



EUGENE'S TABLE
A FOOD & BEVERAGE PARTNERSHIP

Food & Beverage Business Coaching
with Micah Elconin

FREE

8am-11am on the last Tuesday of every month:
micah@eugenestable.org

Micah Elconin is the Director of Eugene’s Table and President of Season to Taste, Inc. and is offering free consulting for Food and Beverage businesses on the last Tuesday of every month from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Oregon RAIN’s mission is to partner with communities to catalyze entrepreneurial ecosystems, connect entrepreneurs to resources—including overlooked entrepreneurs—and contribute to the creation of prosperous economies. Go to www.oregonrain.org for more information.

The Bridge

Lowell School District #71
65 South Pioneer Street
Lowell, OR 97452

Phone 541 937-8405 Fax 541 937-8709
On the web: www.lowell.k12.or.us

Making community connections

NON-PROFIT

ECRWSS

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit #1

Lowell, OR 97452

Postal Customer Lowell/Fall Creek

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events: September 2021

- 2—Varsity Football @ Gervais, 6:00 p.m.
 - 3—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 4—Varsity Volleyball @ Reedsport Tourney, 10 a.m.
Cross Country @ Tillamook, 8:15 a.m.
 - 7—Teacher Meet & Greet at Lundy Elementary, 6:00:7:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Oakland, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
City Council Work Session, 7:00 pm
 - 8—First day of school!
Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station
 - 9—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Jefferson, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
 - 10—Varsity Football v. Glide, 7:00 p.m.
 - 11—Cross Country @ Monmouth, 9:00 a.m.
 - 14—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Central Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
 - 15—Jr. High Football @ Cottage Grove Jamboree, 4:30 p.m.
 - 16—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
Jr. High Cross Country @ Monroe City Park, TBD
 - 17—No School, Teacher In-service day
Varsity Football v. Oakland, 7:00 p.m.
 - 18—Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge Tourney, TBD
Cross Country @ Lane Community College, 10:00 a.m.
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 21—**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge, 6:00 p.m.
 - 22—Jr. High Football v. Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.
 - 23—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Regis, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
 - 24—Varsity Football @ Creswell, 7:00 p.m.
Cross Country @ Cheadle Park Lebanon, 3:00 p.m.
 - 27—**School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
 - 28—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ East Linn Christian, 5:00/6:00 p.m.
Varsity Cross Country @ Jefferson High School, 4:00 p.m.
 - 29—Jr. High Cross Country @ Jefferson High School, 4:00 p.m.
 - 30—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Oakland, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- In October:
- 1—Varsity Football v. Oakridge, 7:00 p.m.
 - 2—Varsity Volleyball @ Creswell Tourney, TBD
Varsity Cross Country @ Honeyman State Park, TBD