



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## Fire Prevention Week October 3rd - 9th

The Bridge

Volume 24, Issue 4

October 2021

Why is October National Fire Prevention Month? The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 3rd – 9th) is to raise fire safety awareness, and help ensure your home and family is protected. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!” works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action.

What if someone in my home is deaf or hard of hearing? There are smoke alarms and alert devices that alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices include strobe lights that flash to alert people when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers designed to work with your smoke alarm also can be purchased and installed.

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This year’s Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday, October 31st.

For more information, please check out Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop’s Facebook page.

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

Lowell/Fall Creek Families,

We have been back together for a while now. The preparation for this year has again run the gambit of pandemics, wildfires, power outages and the normal back-to-school issues. We have had four weeks of K-12 onsite learning as well as having our extra curriculars back in full go. We have had some quarantine hiccups (to be expected) but have kept our head down and continued to move forward. 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 into 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. 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 difference in your children's (our students) lives, and healthy in both mind and body.

Please be kind, be safe and be healthy

Sincerely, Johnie Matthews, Superintendent

### New Teachers at Lundy Elementary!



**Kimberly Fisher**, at left, is the new Kindergarten teacher at Lundy Elementary. Most recently a first grade teacher at Coburg Community Charter School, Kimberly is excited about being at Lundy Elementary. She has two grown children and a one-year-old black lab named Sasha.



**Rachelle Bowden**, at right, is teaching 2nd grade at Lundy Elementary. She

graduated from U of O and did her student teaching in a 2nd grade class so she's excited about returning to that age group since they are so eager to learn. Rachelle shares her household with her 13-year-old daughter and their two cats.

## Cross Country Teams in Full Swing



Check out the schedule on page 8 of this newsletter and mark your calendar to attend one of the remaining cross country meets and root our Lowell student-athletes on!

The middle school girls team (pictured at left) includes, from left to right, Tatum Clark (5th grade), Kaedyn Ivey (8th), Mila Dahl (8th), and Piper Fisher (8th).

At right is our only high school team member, Elizabeth Stewart, a 9th grader.



Pictured at left are the middle school boys team members. From left to right are Ryder Ortiz (6th grade), Devon Jones (7th), Henley Garner (6th), Rowan Odonnell (6th), and, Dylan Stutesman (7th). Not pictured is Callum Plahn (8th).

Coaches are Jill Chapman, Brandon Chittim, Cody Brooks, and student assistant Faith Cabrera.

## New Teachers at Lowell High School!

Pictured at right is Lowell's new Language Arts teacher, **Sally Miller**. Having graduated from Lowell High School in 1985, she is happy to be back in Oregon after spending 19 years teaching English in China. In her spare time she likes to read, sew, garden, hike and just about anything else outdoors.



**Matthew Winn** is teaching Math primarily to 7th and 8th graders at Lowell High School. He and Brandi have one grown son and two others at home aged 5 and 14. He loves working with kids and making math pertain to his students in their lives.

**Marie Poteete** (pictured at right) is a very busy lady with three kids in school (kinder, 3rd grade and 6th grade) and is working on her Master's of Education degree. Marie is teaching Spanish half-time at Lowell High School. She became interested in language when her family hosted a foreign exchange student from Chile.



**Please welcome our new teachers when you see them!**

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## City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

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### Town Hall Meeting Recap

Since June, City Council, staff, and library volunteers have worked with an architect on designing a new City Hall and library. The new City Hall and library will be located at 70 N. Pioneer Street-the building with the "Maggie Osgood Library" sign out front.

After working through the design process, the City Council, staff, and volunteers reached a consensus on two options. The first uses the existing building with minimal modifications at an estimated cost of \$393,417. The second modifies the existing building to build a larger library and a permanent City Hall at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

Prior to selecting one of the two options, City Council directed staff to mail household surveys to all Lowell utility customers. The surveys ask which of the two options that utility customers and citizens prefer, and we mailed the surveys on September 13. The City Council also held a Town Hall meeting on September 27 to discuss the project in more detail with the community. The Town Hall meeting was an opportunity for community members to ask questions of the architect and City Council. The City Council will use the feedback from the household surveys and Town Hall meeting to inform their final decision. The City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 5 where they may vote on selecting one of the two options.

The deadline for submitting the household surveys is Friday, October 1. Interested members of the public may comment on this project at the October 5 City Council. We also accept comments and questions by email at: [admin@ci.lowell.or.us](mailto:admin@ci.lowell.or.us), or in person by visiting City Hall.

### "From the Mayor's Desk" by Mayor Don Bennett

Making safe drinkable water and processing wastewater are essential functions of the City of Lowell. Public Works Director Max Baker supervises the Water facility operated by Hunter Harris and Sewer facility operated by Nick Harris (not related). Special thanks to Max for providing detailed information for this article.

Lake water is drawn in via a pipeline from a deep-water site near the covered bridge. Sediment and fine particulate are settled from the water before filtering using PASS-C, a polymer base coagulant. The water is then filtered through silica sand and anthracite. Chlorine is added for disinfection and pumped to two storage tanks having a total capacity of over a million gallons. During periods of blue-green algae blooms, activated carbon is added before filtration to eliminate any taste or odor. Each morning, and periodically throughout the day, the entire crew taste tests the water for consistency and quality. Max has entered our water in annually held Best Tasting Water Contest that includes cities from the Cascades to the Coast. We always place very high. If lake water became unavailable, Lowell can revert to using three City-owned ground wells but would need to test for contaminants and may need to treat to lower any arsenic levels. Specific mandated lab tests for contaminants are collected weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually. We have 455 water customers, primarily residential.

Wastewater from homes flow through the collection system to the sewer plant. Wastewater is first

processed using mechanical screens, where inorganics are removed. Then it flows through a series of settling tanks to remove any solids. Microorganisms are introduced to reduce the amount of waste matter by up to 98%. The final stage is disinfection. Chlorine is added to kill pathogens such as e-coli and Sodium Thiosulfate to remove Chlorine traces. Treated wastewater is discharged through a pipeline ending near Dexter Dam cleaner than the water initially drawn from the lake. Daily and weekly samples of processed wastewater are tested for e-coli, BOD, TSS by a certified lab. We have 490 sewer customers, primarily residential. Our system can process 150,000 gallons per day. Rain-water from down spouts and storm water from streets go through a separate system and discharged at one of three locations into Dexter Lake.

Water and sewer services are billed separately as the money can only be used to support either water or the sewer operations.

### **City Council and other committee/commission actions:**

At its September 7 work session, special meeting, and executive session, City Council took the following actions:

- ◆ Directed the City Administrator to send household surveys to City of Lowell utility customers. The surveys are asking residents and business owners which of the two library/city hall designs they prefer.
- ◆ Interviewed 2 applicants for the vacant Position 3 on City Council and voted to appoint Maureen Weathers to fill the remainder of the term.

At its September 21 regular meeting and executive session, City Council took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved a scope of work with Dougherty Landscape Architects for the Rolling Rock Park renovation.
- ◆ Held a public hearing regarding the sale of the city's property at 205 E. Main Street.
- ◆ Approved 2 sales order for holiday decorations.
- ◆ Directed the City Administrator to negotiate an agreement with Lowell Investment Properties, LLC regarding the sale of the city's property at 205 E. Main Street and to bring the agreement back to City Council for review and approval.

At its September 22 meeting, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved a conditional use application for Lowell School District regarding a proposed 13 space parking lot.
- ◆ Denied a conditional use application for a home-based business.

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In the past, a monthly crime log has been published in this newsletter. The information from this crime log comes from the "Online Crime Mapping Computer Assisted Dispatch Log," as prepared by the Lane County Sheriff's Office. The crime log will no longer be published in "The Bridge," as this information is easily available to the public at the following link:

[https://lanecounty.org/government/county\\_departments/sheriff\\_s\\_office/online\\_crime\\_mapping](https://lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/sheriff_s_office/online_crime_mapping)

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 another emergency, always dial 9-1-1.

# FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt



## LOWELL RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

389 N. Pioneer Street  
Lowell, Oregon 97452  
541-937-3393

Whereas, the United States Congress and the President of the United States have designated the day of the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service as a day to honor firefighters and emergency services personnel who have sacrificed their lives to save others by lowering the American flag on all federal buildings to half-staff; and whereas, an average of 80 firefighters courageously make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty each year; and

Whereas, firefighters and emergency services personnel play an essential role in the protection of lives and property in our local community; and

Whereas, the National Fallen firefighters Memorial Weekend marks the beginning of the Fire Prevention Week 2021 observance; and

Whereas, it is a major importance that we increase our efforts to reduce deaths, injuries and property loss from fire;

Therefore, I Lon Dragt, Fire Chief of the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District, now call upon all citizens of the Lowell Fire District and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the day of October 3, 2021, in recognition of the patriotic service and dedicated efforts of our fire and emergency services personnel by lowering American flags on all buildings to half-staff.

I respectfully encourage the same organizations as well as citizens of the Lowell Fire District to remember all fire and emergency personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community and to pay respect to the survivors of our fallen by participating in **Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters**. Toll a bell, pause for a moment of silence, or read a special passage to honor the sacrifices of these public servants and their families. I encourage our citizens to honor fire and emergency personnel, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to duties, have rendered invaluable service to our community and its citizens.

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District will be hosting a Bells Across America and a Sound of the Sirens starting at 11:00 am. This will be for all fallen over the last year as well as for our fallen colleague Sarah Susman.

In witness thereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District to be affixed.

X   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lon Dragt  
Lowell RFPD Fire Chief



# **In and Around Our Community**

## **Grange Breakfast Postponed — again**

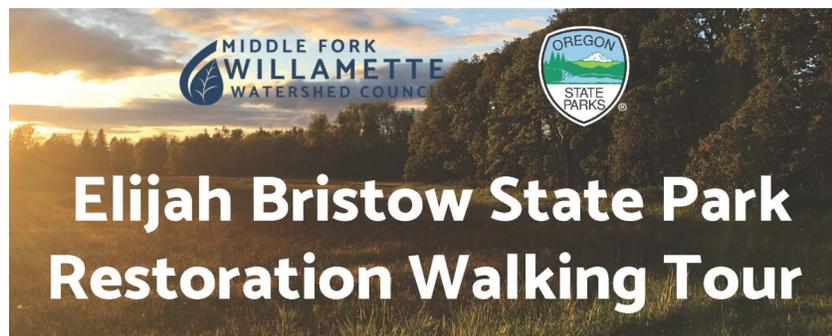
Unfortunately, due to continued high risk/cases of COVID-19, the restart of the Grange's monthly breakfasts has been postponed until further notice.

## **Osgood Park Improvement**

Thanks to the generous donation of a long time Lowell resident, Osgood Park now has a set of stairs. They access the river and a nice lounging area for enjoying the river.

Non-profit organizations rely on donations to make improvements such as this one. If you would like to donate, please make your check out to Fall Creek Park Association and mail it to P.O. Box 1123 Fall Creek, Or. 97438. You will receive a receipt for your Tax-Deductible donation.

Donations are appreciated as we supply our own tools, tractors, mowers, etc. We also supply our own fuel and, although the County pays for trash disposal, we are required to take it out to the transfer site. However, what we would like most of all is a few more volunteers. We have a formal schedule that gets us to the park on the third Wednesday of every month. We try to work when the park is not busy. But, if anyone would like to help and can't make the Wednesday schedule, we could arrange for some work to be done on other days or other times. For more information Call 541-912-3977 or 541-206-4345.



Join the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and Oregon State Parks as we walk the River Trail and talk about the need for restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park. We will walk about a mile and a half and talk about human impacts on the park, where habitat is already healthy, and what restoration might look like on the ground. Our tour guides will be Ka-Voka Jackson, Restoration Projects Manager at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, and Sean Stewart, Park Ranger at Elijah Bristow State Park.

We will be walking on a level trail with some uneven surfaces for about a mile and a half. We are also offering accommodations via motorized vehicle if you are unable to walk this distance

Registration is required, we will be holding two tours in October so please note the date you are registering for! Register here: [www.middleforkwillamette.org/events/](http://www.middleforkwillamette.org/events/)

We ask that everyone who attends wears a mask as we walk the trail. All Lane County public health recommendations will be followed.

# The Bridge

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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](http://www.lowell.k12.or.us)

## Making community connections

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*NON-PROFIT*

*ECRWSS*

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*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: October 2021

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- 1—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 2—Varsity Volleyball @ Creswell Tournament, TBD
- 3—Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters
- 4—Varsity Football v. Oakridge, 7:00 p.m.  
JH Volleyball @ Eugene Christian, 4:00 p.m.
- 5—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Jefferson, 4:30/6:00 p.m.  
**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- 6—JH Football v. Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.
- 7—Lifetouch Picture Day  
JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Central Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 8—**No School! Teacher In-Service Day**  
Varsity Volleyball v. Oakridge/Regis @ Oakridge, 1:30/3:00 pm  
JV Volleyball v. Regis @ Westridge Elementary, TBD  
Varsity Football @ Monroe, 7:00 p.m.
- 9—Varsity Volleyball @ Oakridge Tournament, TBD  
JH/Varsity Cross Country @ Campbell Park in Eugene, 9 a.m.
- 11—JH/Varsity Cross Country @ Harrisburg H.S., 4:00 p.m.  
JH Volleyball @ Cottage Grove, 4:30 p.m.  
JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 12—JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Monroe, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 13—**Half-day of School! Release at 11:50 a.m.**  
JH Volleyball v. Creswell, 4:30 p.m.  
JH Football @ Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.  
JV Volleyball v. Mohawk, 5:00 p.m.  
**Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station**
- 14—JH Cross Country @ Avery Park in Corvallis, 3:30 p.m.
- 14—JV/Varsity Volleyball v. Oakridge, 3:30/4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Football v. Central Linn, Homecoming, 7:00 p.m.
- 15—JV/Varsity @ Central Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 16—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 18—JH Volleyball @ Oakridge, 5:15 p.m.  
JV/Varsity Volleyball @ Regis, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 19—**City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- 20—JH Football v. Monroe, 4:30 p.m.  
JV/Varsity Volleyball v. East Linn, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 21—JH WVYL Cross Country Districts, Monroe City Park, TBD
- 22—Varsity Football @ Toledo, 7:00 p.m.
- 25—**School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 27—JH Football v. Creswell, 4:30 p.m.
- 28—HS Cross Country Districts, Gold Hill, TBD
- 29—Varsity Football @ Jefferson, 7:00 p.m.
- 31—Trunk or Treat, Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop

### Scholastic On-line Book Fair! October 11th through 24th

Over 6,000 products, books from pre-K to 8th grade.  
Shipped directly to you and free shipping if over \$25.

Visit: <https://www.scholastic.com/bg/lundyelementaryschool1>