



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## City's Administrator's State of the City Message

The Bridge

Volume 17, Issue 8

February 2015

Following is the text of the City Administrator's message to the City Council on January 20th.

This is my first year for delivering a State of the City message to the residents for the City of Lowell and I will keep the message as brief as possible, yet emphasizing some of the key highlights of where we are and where we want to be over the next year.

First, I would like to address the overall management of the organization. Over the past year, there have been some significant difficulties encountered in the working relationship between the administration and the governing body. This coming year, it is my intention to break down those difficulties by getting back to the basics of public administration and expressing the administration's views in a better light. Communication is the key to any successful organization, and we will be improving that communication so we enhance our ability to avert any adversarial relationship between the governing body and administration.

Moving on to the financial area of the City, we are now over 50% of the year in our working budget. I am not going to go into any details, but I am pleased to say that our spending in most of the fund accounts are well below the 50%, which means we are on target. The only fund that will be seeing some difficulty is the Sewer Fund, which for example, we are about 92% in spending. Part of that is due to the expensive contract for two months this fiscal year with C2HM Hill, the temporary contracts with Orenco, the purchase of a generator, and the conversion of Chlorine gas to Sodium Hypochlorite. However, the council has tentatively approved a \$23,000 loan from SDC funds so when the project is completed and funds are transferred, it will bring that 92% down closer to the target goal.

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

### Lowell Continues to Benefit from Local and State Grants

In an era when school funds ebb and flow in Oregon, it is wonderful when local businesses, foundations, and state and federal agencies make it possible for school districts to access extra dollars through grant funding. This year Lowell has been the recipient of several small grants and larger grants as part of a consortium through the Lane Educational Service District (LES D).

Lowell is a recipient of the Oregon GEAR-UP grant. The grant is a matching grant that is renewed for up to seven years. The purpose of the grant is to help students think about their future beyond the high school years. This year funding from the grant will go toward improvements to the College and Career Center, now located in the Lowell Library. Improvements to the center include added technology and materials. Additional funds will go toward college visits, teacher training to improve course rigor, additional instructional support at the high school (implementation of Saturday School for students needing extra help or work time at the school), and the development of a mentoring program using older students to mentor younger students.



This year Lowell participated in a state “revitalization of Career and Technical programs” grant that has brought the Health Occupations coursework into Lowell through teacher led on-line courses out of LCC and community health internships. Additionally Lowell Jr./Sr. High School received funding for expensive anatomy and physiology college level textbooks, and other materials such as a full size skeleton and human torso. Students have also been able to attend Health Occupations workshops with hundreds of other students from around the state.



Most recently the CTE (Career and Technical Education) in conjunction with the science program was able to join a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) consortium and will, through grant dollars, be able to purchase a CMC machine which is used to help students construct engineered parts they have created through computer drafting.

Lowell was recently selected to participate in a writing project called STELLAR where teachers learn new skills in helping students become better writers and enjoy the writing process more fully.

The Lowell School District also has been the beneficiary of many volunteer hours and donated dollars to help beautify our school and campus. Additionally, local businesses have been generous in support of our athletics and large school functions.

It can't be said enough how much we appreciate the grant funding we receive from our local businesses and the funding received through other sources. Each extra dollar brought into our district serves to help provide students with access to extended educational opportunities beyond our core program. We also greatly appreciate the generous donations we receive from our community and the Booster organization to help support our academic programs and athletic programs. Lowell students have rich educational opportunities because of our community's generosity.

### 2014 1A All-State Football Selections Named

The following student-athletes were named 1A All-State:

2nd Team Running Back—Tanner Harvey

2nd Team End/Receiver—Alex Norris

2nd Team Center—Grant Chapman

2nd Team Linebacker—Tanner Harvey

Honorable Mention Defensive Line—Sam Thurman

Honorable Mention Defensive End—Alex Norris

Congratulations to these hardworking guys and the coaches that helped them get there!

### Basketball Update

The boys basketball team is 7-2 in league, tied for 2nd with a big game coming up Friday. The girls are in the middle of the pack with a 3-3 record in league, improving every week.

### Happy 100th Day of School!

February 17th is the 100th day of school and will be celebrated by recognizing the achievements of Lundy students at the 2nd quarter assembly at 10:15 a.m. in the gym. Everyone is welcome.

## Lowell Music Program News

### Lowell Music Valentine's Dinner & Concert — February 16th

On Monday, February 16th, Lowell Music will be hosting a Valentine's Dinner & concert for the community. This special fundraising event will feature a three-course gourmet meal with full table service and entertainment provided by the Lowell concert Choir, Concert Band and more. Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. in the LHS Gymnasium. The evening's proceeds will go directly to fund travel expenses for our wonderful high school musicians, who will be competing this spring at a regional competition in the bay area of California!



Tickets are \$15, available from Lowell Music students or by contacting the LHS office directly at 541-937-2124. RSVP required by February 13th. Leave behind the crowded restaurants on Valentine's weekend and impress your sweetheart with your support for our school!

(Editor's note: If you aren't able to attend the dinner but would like to contribute to the fund for the trip, you can drop off cash donations or checks at the high school or mail to 65 S. Pioneer Street, Lowell OR 97452. Thank you for your support.)

### Lowell Music Seeking Photos & Photographers

Do you have a trove of concert photos sitting on your hard drive or in your camera? Do you consider yourself a shutterbug and have kiddos appearing in upcoming music events? Mr. Burch is looking to build up the collection of Lowell Music related photos for the purpose of website and yearbook development. Despite the success of the program, our collection of images is almost non-existent. If you have photos to share, please send your best shots to pburch@lowell.k12.or.us. Or, if you'd like to offer your talents to help us in the future, please contact Mr. Burch at the same address. Thank you!

### 1A State Wrestling Champions

Seven wrestlers won individual titles to lead the team to a first place victory at the Class 1A State Invitational at Lowell on Saturday, January 24th. Lowell scored 190 points to beat Crane with 110 points. First place finishers were Josh Connor 132#, Hayden Trimble 160#, Kenny Lane 170#, Tanner Harvey #182, Mahsen Asher 195#, Thomas Ward 220# and Sam Thurman 285#. Second place finishers were Tommy Harvey and Chelsea Byrne and Zach Kintzley took 4th place. Check the schedule on page 8 for more opportunities to root for these hardworking student-athletes.



Lowell Wrestlers posing with 1st place trophy

### LHS Drama presents....

The LHS Drama Showcase is featuring the short play, "Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom"  
Performances are at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday — February 12th, 13th and 14th

FREE admission (donations accepted for LHS Drama)

Location: the new and improved Drama Room Theater at Lowell High School

### Book Fair at Lundy Elementary — February 9-11

The book fair will be located in Ms. Rius's room at Lundy Elementary (near the gym). Hours are on Monday, Feb. 9th and Tuesday, Feb. 10th Noon-2:45 p.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Feb. 11th from Noon until 3:00 p.m. Take this great opportunity to add to your home libraries or make purchases for grandkids.

# FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

## Carbon Monoxide — The Silent Killer

Although we have been having some almost spring like days, it is winter. And in winter we all use our heating systems a bit more often and a bit longer. As the mercury dips, it's important to keep in mind that our homes can be very air tight with a little less outside air circulating throughout the house. This can cause a build up of gasses in the home that we normally don't see other times of the year.

If you use your wood stove, pellet stove or a gas or propane heater, oven or range, carbon monoxide could build up in your 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, carbon monoxide (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 encourages you to keep your heating devices well maintained. 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 or door 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.

## Have a Sound Fire Safety and Escape Plan

The Lowell Fire District can help you with your fire escape plan. Deaths resulting from failed emergency escapes are preventable! It is vitally important to make and practice escape plans. In the event of a fire, time is the biggest enemy and every second counts.

- Live near an exit: although you have the legal right to live where you choose, you'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- Know at least two exits from every room.
- Plan your escape around your capabilities: make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps, and widening doorways, to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Practice opening locked or barred doors and windows.
- Be sure your home address is clearly marked and visible from the street.
- Inform others of your special needs.
- Involve the assistance of a building manager, family member, or an entrusted friend when practicing your plan.
- When a fire occurs, do not waste any time saving property. Leave the home immediately. **Once out, stay out!**

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

## Firefighters Learn New Vehicle Extrication Techniques

If you have been by the Lowell Fire Station recently, you may have noticed a few wrecked cars in the back lot. Some of them even have had the doors, roofs, and hoods removed. No, it's not the result of a massive accident, and no, we are not starting a junkyard. These vehicles were used for training our personnel on the latest techniques for removing injured persons from vehicle crashes.

With the changes in vehicle construction and the use of newer high strength steel and other exotic metals, it has become more difficult and time consuming to get twisted metal from around patients in vehicular accidents and remove them so they might be transported to the hospital in a timely manner.

The fire district purchased new rescue tools last year, that are much stronger and lighter so that we now have the capability of cutting patients out of these newer vehicle. Previously, the rescue tools the district had were not capable of handling the harder and exotic metals that are found in cars nowadays.

In the training class, firefighters learned techniques for gaining access to patients that were not previously available to us, due to the capabilities of the older tools. They learned how to avoid specific areas of the vehicle that can cause further injury to patients and rescuers because of gas cylinders for airbags and struts. Firefighters also learn how to handle crashes that involve hybrid vehicles such as gas/electric, electric, and hydrogen powered vehicles.

Some of the vehicles will remain in the training area for the next several weeks, to provide an opportunity for all our firefighters to practice on the vehicles and to gain valuable experience with new techniques and the more powerful tools.

Vehicle extrication is just one of many skills Volunteer Firefighters must be proficient at to successfully perform their jobs. If this kind of training interests you, contact the District office at 541-937-3393 or visit our web page at [www.lowellfiredistrict.org](http://www.lowellfiredistrict.org) and see how you can become a Volunteer.



On the web:  
[www.lowellfiredistrict.org](http://www.lowellfiredistrict.org)

# City Beat

Continued from Cover page...

The City currently has a lot of debt. By June of this year, I will be submitting to the Council a plan with possible alternatives for extending or paying off the debt.

Another planned priority in the financial area is the financial software used by City staff. I anticipate submitting to the City Council a plan to change the current software to a more user friendly software with an estimated \$3,800 annual savings. That plan is tentatively scheduled for a council meeting sometime in February.

There will be some proposed changes to the City of Lowell's Personnel manual in the forthcoming year. One significant change would be to change the comp time to overtime pay. Both are paid at a rate of one and a half times the base rate of pay. However, overtime is paid on each pay period rather than accumulating. It will provide better management of payroll.

Turning to Public Works, the priorities will be focused on staffing, infrastructure maintenance, and preventive maintenance. Administration will be focused on ensuring that Public Works has adequate staffing so comp time and overtime is reduced significantly and that personnel are trained and available to perform any task in public works. Adequate staffing allows us to better respond to failures with an aging infrastructure. The Public Works Superintendent and I will be looking at developing a corrosion control program to be incorporated in preventive maintenance.

Administratively, we have some plans that are past due for review and update. Throughout the year, I intend on scheduling plans for review by administration. I intend on developing a simple database to keep track of all plans, the relevant information of each plan, and the dates of the next expected review date.

In 2015, the City Administrator will be reviewing the adequacy of zoning and urban growth boundaries to determine if changes could or should be made to encourage growth and development.

Overall, I feel the City is in fair shape and the public should feel confident that we are moving in the right direction. This year will be a good year for the City of Lowell and the Council and I will continue together in serving you.

## City Hall Hours

The council approved the reopening of City Hall on Fridays and to change the daily hours of operation. The new City Hall hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed on weekends and holidays.

## Planning Commission Member

The City is seeking volunteers to serve on the City's Planning Commission. There are currently three vacant positions and interested applicants should contact City Hall to complete an application for volunteer service. Members of the Planning Commission are appointed by the City Council and serve on the Commission for a period of two years.

## Lowell City Council Actions

This report of actions taken by the Lowell City Council is a regular feature of this newsletter and is provided to inform citizens of recent decisions made by the council.

### From the January 6th regular meeting:

- Approved a motion to cease the current city administrator recruitment process and direct the Mayor to enter into negotiations with the city administrator pro-tem to establish a permanent city administrator contract. In support: Bennett, Burford, Osgood and Paulson; Opposed: none; Absent: Rennert.
- Approved the purchase of a new flow meter for the wastewater treatment plant, not to exceed \$4,000. In support: Bennett, Burford, Osgood and Paulson; Opposed: none; Absent: Rennert.

### From the January 20th regular meeting:

- Approved \$2,675 for more trifold brochures and advertising at I-5 rest area kiosks and Discovery magazine. In support: Osgood, Paulson, Rennert; Opposed: Bennett and Burford.
- Appointed Ken Hern and Bill George to the budget committee. In support: Bennett, Burford, Osgood; Opposed: Paulson and Rennert.
- Appointed Pam Bryant as an alternate to the budget committee. In support: Bennett, Osgood, Paulson, Rennert; Opposed: Burford.
- Approved opening City Hall on Fridays and changing the hours to 9:00 until 5:30 on weekdays. In support: Bennett, Burford, Osgood, Paulson. Opposed: Rennert.

## In and Around Our Community

### Cookie Sales

Pre-ordering cookies has wrapped up and your cookies will be here around the 19th of February. The Girl Scouts will be delivering your cookies then. If you didn't get a chance to pre-order, the Scouts will have a booth at Bridge Town Market in March so watch for the signs.

Thanks to all our customers for the orders and thanks for the hard work of the parents for helping the Scouts sell them. Proceeds help to buy patches, pins and pay for camps. Thank you everyone from the Girls Scouts in Lowell and Fall Creek!

### Lowell Food Pantry Thanks You!

The Lowell Food Pantry wants to thank you, Fall Creek Farm & Nursery, the Lowell Post Office and all those who participated in the postal food drives in 2014, Lowell School District students who participated in food drives at the school, the Boy Scouts, and Pantry volunteers. Thanks also to the Grange and City Hall for allowing food to be collected there, and thanks to Fall Creek Church for their support.

Thank you from Mike Ward and Shawn Brady,  
Pantry Managers.

### Blood Drive Planned for February 3rd

Roll up your sleeves and give a pint to help others. The next Lane Blood Center drive is Tuesday, February 3rd from 2:00—5:00 p.m. across from the high school's front door. To schedule an appointment, please call 541-484-9111. Register in the high school library.



### Valentine's Day Dance at the Lowell Grange

Treat your Valentine to a fun event on February 14th at the Lowell Grange, 51 East 2nd Street. Steel Wool will be performing (you may have seen them at the 4th of July fireworks event). Cost is \$5.00 at the door. Hours are 7:00 until 11:00 p.m. with the last hour devoted to slow dances only. Light concessions will be available for purchase.

### February 7th Free Movie Night!

The Lowell Cub Scouts are offering this month's Free Movie Night on **Saturday, February 7th** with the showing of **Mr. Peabody & Sherman**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. to give you time to get some popcorn, hot dogs and beverages before the movie starts at 7:00 p.m., at the Lowell Grange, 51 East 2nd Street.



As always, admission is FREE! Sales of refreshments support sending scouts to summer camp. For more information call 541-937-2643.

### Grange Events in February

Breakfast on February 1st  
Texas Hold 'em Poker on February 6th and 21st  
Bingo! on February 4th and 18th  
Karaoke on February 13th

Your support of these events help restore the historic Grange Hall Building. Thank you very much!

### Bunco & Karaoke to Alternate Monthly

On the second Friday of every month, the Grange will alternately host Bunco and Karaoke. This month is Karaoke on February 13th. From 5:00-6:30 p.m. kids will take the microphone, then adults will have their turns from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Boy Scouts will provide refreshments for purchase.

Next month Bunco will be held on March 13th at 6:00 p.m. The \$10 entry fee goes to the Building Restoration Fund.

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

## Making community connections

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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: February 2015

- 1—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m., 51 E. 2nd Street
  - 2—JH Boys Basketball @ Triangle Lake, 4:00 p.m.  
Varsity Girls Basketball @ Willamette JV2, 5:15 p.m.
  - 3—Lowell Blood Drive, 2:00-5:00 p.m., High School  
Varsity Boys Basketball v. Eddyville Charter, 7:00 p.m.  
**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
  - 4—JH Boys Basketball v. Mapleton, 4:00 p.m.  
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
  - 5—JH Boys Basketball @ Lincoln, 4:30 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling @ Reedsport Duals, 5:00 p.m.  
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
  - 6—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Alsea, 5:30/7:00 p.m.  
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
  - 7—JH Wrestling Regionals @ Oaklea, all day  
Varsity Wrestling @ Cottage Grove Tourney, all day  
Free Family Movie Night at the Lowell Grange, 6:30 p.m.
  - 9—JH Boys Basketball @ Alsea, 4:00 p.m.
  - 10—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Siletz Valley, 5:30/7:00 p.m.  
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Fire Hall
  - 11—JH Boys Basketball v. Siletz, 4:00 p.m.  
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
  - 12—Varsity Boys Basketball @ Mapleton, 6:00 p.m.  
LHS Drama presents "Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom" 7:00 p.m., Drama Room Theater at the high school
  - 13—Dilley Classic Varsity Wrestling in Lowell, all day  
Karaoke at the Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m., 51 East 2nd Street  
LHS Drama play, 7:00 p.m., Drama Room Theater, high school
  - 14—Valentine's Day Dance at the Lowell Grange, 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
LHS Drama play, 7:00 p.m., Drama Room Theater, high school
  - 16—Presidents' Day, No School, City Hall closed  
JH Boys Basketball @ Falls City, 5:00 p.m.  
Lowell Music Dinner & Concert, 7:00 p.m., HS Gym
  - 17—2nd Quarter Assembly, Lundy Elementary, 10:15 a.m.  
**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
  - 18—JH Boys Basketball v. Crow, 4:00 p.m.  
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.  
**Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station**
  - 20/21—Varsity Wrestling Districts @ Riddle
  - 21—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
  - 23—JH Boys Basketball v. Lincoln, 4:00 p.m.  
**School Board meeting, Lundy Comm. Room, 7:00 p.m.**
  - 24—Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
  - 26—JH Boys Basketball @ Lincoln, 4:30 p.m.
  - 27/28—Varsity Wrestling State Championships in Portland
- In March:  
2—JH Boys Basketball v. McKenzie, 4:00 p.m.  
4—JH Boys Basketball v. Mohawk, 4:00 p.m.  
17-21 — Spring Break