



The Bridge

Making community connections

City Administrator Annual Report

The Bridge

Volume 20, Issue 7

January 2018

The focus of the City Council and staff is developing an organization that is successful over the long-term. This means building a solid foundation by investing in staff training and development, managing finances effectively, and establishing a system for continual improvements.

In 2016, we focused on creating a positive culture of staff training, financial health, and the development of a strategic plan. This past year our organization worked on plan implementation. The following is a review of our major accomplishments:

Planning

- ◆ Received a \$1,000 grant to make a minor update to the Land Development Code.

Police

- ◆ Conducted a review and developed a report on available options, costs, and funding to increase public safety services.

Information Technology

- ◆ Installed a dedicated server for use with the new financial management system.
- ◆ Approved a contract for a new City website to provide additional tools for public engagement and community marketing.

Code Enforcement

- ◆ Hosted a community clean-up day, providing two large containers for the disposal of large household items.
- ◆ Disseminated community outreach materials to educate the public and increase voluntary code compliance.
- ◆ Developed a Yard of the Month Program to recognize the efforts of residents who take pride in their home and landscape. The program is scheduled to start in May 2018.

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

From Walt Hanline, Superintendent

Community Members,

First, I would like to thank you for the support you provided in approving the recent \$4 million-dollar bond for the District. This is both an exciting time and a challenging time for the staff, due to work associated with selling the bonds and developing the plans for the \$8 million-dollar building program. Our intent, throughout this process, is to communicate with the community and staff to ensure you know the why, what, how and when of our building program. We will post our Lowell School District Design and Construction Schedule on our website, if you want the details. We also intend to provide a month to month update for your information, via the Bridge.

In summary, the process has begun with walkthroughs of the buildings with the design staff (architect, engineers, and specialists) to ensure we create efficient and effective building plans. Throughout the process, we will be seeking advice from "user groups" and a "local expert advisor group." The user groups include representatives of Lundy Elementary, Lowell High School, Principals, Athletic/Performing Arts, Maintenance/Operations, and Food Service. Those involved within the user groups will be posted on our website. The Local Expert Advisor Group consists of local construction experts including Jerry Valencia from Bridgeway Construction, Chad and/or Richard Lybarger from Brothers' Plumbing, Jason Pickett parent and lead for school construction in Springfield School District, Jason Prenevost from J&K Electric, Brian Chittim from James Heating, John Murray from Lane Electric, Tim Gribble from Preferred Construction and Jack Viscardi or designee from 2G Construction.

In January we will be holding our first user group and expert advisor meetings. The focus will be on providing input on what the users would wish to have happen and from the experts what will be practical to happen. We have enough money to do anything we want, not everything we want. Thus, the advice received will be critical to address the first priority needs, which are focused on modernizing the infrastructure of the two buildings, and then the building of a new gym and creating of the multi-use facility for Lowell High.

Changes in Building Leadership in the 2018-2019 School Year:

It has been a pleasure serving as the principal of Lundy Elementary for the past two years. Due to the demands of the building projects coming next year and with the addition of our two new charter schools, our progressive School Board has elected to have me serve as Superintendent full time beginning July 2018. Serving full time as the Superintendent will ensure the building projects run smoothly and Lowell maintains excellent academic progress, facility upgrades and strong fiscal responsibility. Jessica Edgerton, Lowell's current Learning Director, will assume the role of Lundy Principal in July of 2018. Ms. Edgerton is a wonderful elementary school leader. She will continue to build upon the teaching and learning improvements that have been made at Lundy and will take the elementary school to the "next level" as we strive to become the best district in our state!

While Dr. Hanline is retiring at the end of the school year, he has also been asked, and has agreed, to serve as a consultant to the district. Currently he serves as a consultant to many other school district superintendents on the west coast. I will certainly benefit from his mentorship as I continue to develop in my superintendent duties and responsibilities.

At Lowell Jr./Sr. High School, Ms. Kay Graham has chosen to stay at least one more year in our school district to ensure that the Jr./Sr. High School maintains high standards in student academic growth and continued improvement in student graduation rates. She, along with Ms. Edgerton, will continue maintaining Federal and State grants. Amber Hansen will continue her expanded role as Special Education Director of the Lowell School District. Currently she is the longest serving Special Education Director in Lane County. Her leadership and work continue to be invaluable to the district and to the surrounding Lane County Schools.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lowell School District. We appreciate all that you do for our students. If you have any questions regarding these transitions, feel free to call me at 541-937-2105 (extension 201) or drop me an email at jmatthews@lowell.k12.or.us.

Sincerely, Johnie Matthews



Head coach Alvin Riggs is assisted by Jason Prenevost.

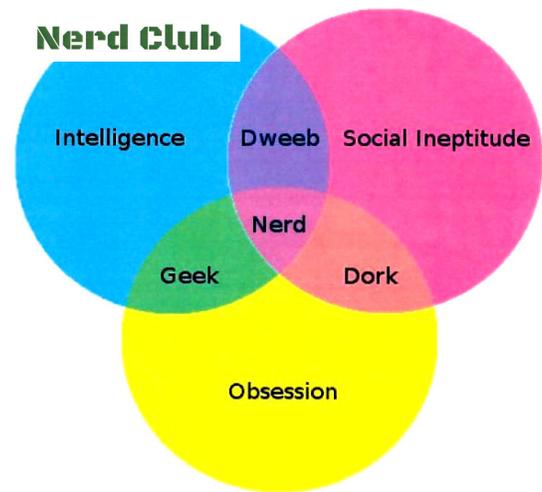
Junior High Wrestling

Team members include 8th graders Benjamin Hinrich and Odin Sinnett; 7th graders Beaudan Asher, Kaylee Astbury, Arik Coleman, Lily Haynes, Sienna Hymer and Trapper Roat; 6th graders Kayden Erlic, Natasha Fuller, Danielle Maxwell, Kelly Scharff and Justus Thurman; and 5th graders Adin Albright, Paul Clark, Harly Hardison, Ashton Moncrief, Ryan Pelroy, Hayden Savio, Levi Stuart and Jamar Thurman.

New Club Welcomes All “Nerds”!

As a student-created and student-led group, the LHS Nerd Club meets once a week to talk about and share mutual interests, from games, to comics, and even movies and anime! So far, the Nerd Club has done a Halo tournament, and a card game smorgasbord; and this coming week, we’ll be branching into RPGs and “meme wars.” The Nerd Club knows that it’s important to feel included in any setting, so we welcome everyone to attend, even if you can’t make it every week!

Nerd Club



WE DO ANYTHING NERDY!!!
TUESDAYS 3:15 - 4:15 PM IN MR. FARRIER'S ROOM
JOIN TODAY!

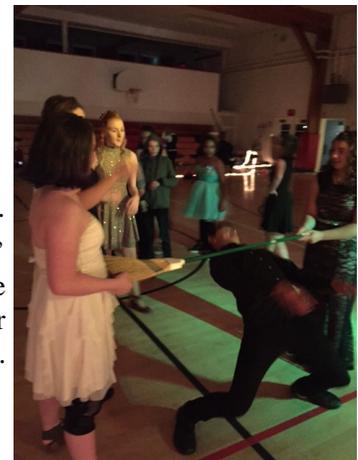
A glimpse at some of the other activities students are involved in...



Rae Trimble displaying a hand-crafted wood bowl she created in her Woodshop class.

At far left: Lowell band accompanying singers at the Bridge Lighting.

At right: doin’ the limbo at the latest junior high dance.



Student of the Month: Aaron Hadley

Aaron is an 8th grade student at Lowell Jr/Sr High School. His parents are Joe and Tammy Hadley. Aaron's interests are PE and playing music in band and choir. He likes to hang out with his best friends. The sports he likes to play the most are Football and Track. Aaron helps with many community projects whenever he is asked. He is a great student and is a joy to have in our school and in the Lowell community.



City Beat by City Administrator Jared Cobb

Continued from Cover Page:

Library

- ◆ Purchased three new PCs for the computer lab, which includes Office 365.
- ◆ Developed webpages with resources to help teach patrons computer skills, assist with job searches, and provide books for preschool age youth.
- ◆ Coordinated the Summer Reading Program with the Lowell School District. The Program was hosted at Lundy Elementary and scheduled after the Summer Recreation Program and lunch service. Average attendance increased from 5 to 20 kids per day.

Finance

- ◆ Developed a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- ◆ Started implementation of a new financial management system.
- ◆ Improved the budget process and document to conform with standards for the Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award.
- ◆ Stabilized the Sewer Fund and exceeded the fiscal evaluation criteria for all operating funds, which requires minimum reserves of 17% of budgeted expenditures.

Economic Development

- ◆ Received a \$30,000 grant to develop a Downtown Master Plan.
- ◆ Partnered with Oregon RAIN to provide technical assistance to local entrepreneurs.
- ◆ Created a Tourism Program to assist with marketing the community and beautification projects.
- ◆ Developed a Community Grant Program to stimulate and assist local non-profit organizations and businesses with community projects, economic development activities, and events.
- ◆ Approved Home, Developer, and Business Development Guides. Guides include introductory information for building a home in Lowell, developing a subdivision, and starting a business.

Public Works

- ◆ Started a Green Waste Collection Site for residents to dispose of yard waste.
- ◆ Implemented an inspection and maintenance program of City facilities.
- ◆ Implemented a routine maintenance program for vehicles and equipment.
- ◆ Installed lighted pedestrian crosswalk signs at the intersections of Moss and North Shore, and Main and Pioneer.
- ◆ Continued to improve operations of the Water Plant, which led to recognition by the Oregon Health Authority as an “Outstanding Performer”.
- ◆ Purchased new water meters and automated reading system. Upon full implementation, meters will be read by a handheld device and uploaded to the Utility Billing system.

Parks

- ◆ Completed a concept plan for Paul Fisher Park.
- ◆ Installed new safety signage around Rolling Rock Park exhibits.
- ◆ Planned and coordinated the 11th Annual Holiday Bridge Lighting.
- ◆ Started monthly maintenance and safety inspection program for all parks.
- ◆ Replaced bark mulch at Rolling Rock Park, Paul Fisher Park, and medians.
- ◆ Received a \$32,000 grant to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- ◆ Assisted with the relocation of the Dexter Lake Farmers Market from the Dexter State Recreation Area to Rolling Rock Park.
- ◆ Hosted a Solar Eclipse Watch Party at Rolling Rock Park, which included music, live NASA feed of the event, free solar eclipse glasses, and refreshments.

Acknowledgements

The City Council and staff made large strides in 2017, but we didn't do it alone. I would like to sincerely thank everyone that volunteered for community events and served on our committees. Your support and engagement is what makes this community great, and I look forward to working with all of you again in 2018!

Call for Volunteers!

The City is still accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Planning Commission, and Economic Development Committee. All interested residents and non-residents (as applicable) are encouraged to apply. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or downloaded online at www.ci.lowell.or.us. *Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.*

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.

At the December 5th study session, the following topics were addressed:

- Review City Tax and Fees Comparison Report; Review Public Safety Report; Review Report on Collaborations with the School District and Fire District; Discussed Committee Vacancies; Discussed Public Facility Site Visits.

Study sessions are held for the City Council to receive background information on City business and to give Council members an opportunity to ask questions and express their individual views. No decisions are made, and no votes are taken on any agenda item. The public is invited to attend, however, there is generally no public comment period.

At the December 19th regular meeting:

- Committee assignments were made as follows. Budget Committee: Bill George and Stacie Harris; Planning Committee: Jerry Bjornstad, Stacie Harris; Parks & Rec: Hall O'Regan, Pat Woodhurst, Tristan Woodhurst; Economic Development: Michael Galvin, Robert Burr; Library: Pat Woodhurst, Heather Woodhurst, Virginia Galvin; Blackberry Jam: Michael Galvin, Gerry Burr, Pam Baumann.

Monthly Police Log (November 24 – December 25)

| Date | Time | Call Type | Location |
|----------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11/24/17 | 7:39 AM | Alarm | 400 Block East First Street |
| 11/24/17 | 9:56 PM | Harassment | 100 Block North Hyland Lane |
| 11/25/17 | 7:34 PM | Harassment | 200 Block East Second Street |
| 11/27/17 | 12:58 PM | Theft of License Plate | 200 Block North Damon Street |
| 11/30/17 | 3:11 PM | Towed Vehicle | 100 Block West Second Street |
| 12/02/17 | 7:27 PM | Follow Up | 200 Block East Second Street |
| 12/04/17 | 2:28 PM | Dispute | 500 Block Caprol Street |
| 12/07/17 | 11:45 AM | Theft | 100 Block North Moss Street |
| 12/07/17 | 2:29 PM | Custodial Interference | 100 Block South Pioneer Street |
| 12/09/17 | 8:20 PM | Assault | 100 Block East North Shore Drive |
| 12/10/17 | 8:37 AM | Civil Enforcement | 400 Block North Moss Street |
| 12/13/17 | 2:10 PM | Burglary | 100 Block West Fourth Street |
| 12/14/17 | 10:10 PM | Medical Info Call | 100 Block East Summit Street |
| 12/17/17 | 10:30 AM | Vehicle Stop | 100 Block North Moss Street |
| 12/24/17 | 9:19 AM | Theft of Identity | 100 Block South Damon Street |

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

Fire District Open House/Community Dinner Success

The Fire District would like to thank all those that attended the Open House/Community Dinner on December 9th. We hope everyone got enough to eat and had a good time visiting the fire station and visiting with neighbors. It is estimated that approximately 187 folks attended the event. Again, thank you to all who attended.

Are You Prepared?

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States and can happen anywhere. How to Prepare for a Flood explains how to protect yourself and your property, and details the steps to take now so that you can act quickly when you, your home, or your business is in danger. Here are some things to consider with winter storms and possible flooding. Flooding is an overflowing of water onto land that is normally dry. Flooding may happen with only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Flooding can occur during any season, but some areas of the country are at greater risk at certain times of the year. Coastal areas and inland regions of the Pacific Northwest are at greater risk for flooding during Winter storms and during heavy spring rains mixed with snow melt runoff. Flooding can happen in any U.S. state or territory. It is particularly important to be prepared for flooding if you live in a low-lying area near a body of water, such as a river, stream, or culvert; along a coast; or downstream from a dam or levee. Flooding can occur in several ways, including the following.

- Rivers and lakes cannot contain excessive rain or snowmelt.
- Excessive rain or snowmelt cannot be fully absorbed into the ground.
- Waterways are blocked with debris or ice and overflow.
- Water containment systems break, such as levees, dams, or water or sewer systems.
- Strong winds from tropical storms or hurricanes cause a storm surge by pushing seawater onto land.

The speed and duration of flooding can vary significantly.

- Flooding can occur slowly as rain continues to fall for many days. This type of flooding, sometimes called a slow-onset flood, can take a week to develop and can last for months before floodwaters recede.
- Rapid-onset floods occur more quickly, typically developing within hours or days. These types of floods usually occur in smaller watersheds experiencing heavy rainfall, particularly in mountainous and urban areas, and the water usually recedes within a few days.
- Some rapid-onset floods known as flash floods occur very quickly with little or no warning, such as during periods of extremely heavy rain or when levees, dams, debris jams, or water systems break. Densely populated areas are at a high risk for flash floods. In urban areas, flash floods can fill underpasses, viaducts, parking structures, low roads, and basements.

The strong winds of a tropical cyclone or hurricane can push large amounts of seawater up onto the land, causing a storm surge. A storm surge combines with the ocean's tide to produce a storm-tide surge. Storm-tide surges have been registered as high as almost 35 feet above normal sea level and can cause significant flooding across a large area. This generally occurs over a short period, typically 4 to 8 hours, but in some areas, it can take much longer for the water to recede to its pre-storm level.

The physical destruction caused by flooding depends on the speed and level of the water, the duration of the flood, terrain and soil conditions, and the built environment (e.g., buildings, roads, and bridges).

- Flooding can cause fatalities and serious injuries for people who are trapped or swept away by wading in, driving through, or boating across floodwaters.
- Transportation routes, power, water, gas, and other services may be disrupted.
- Commercial supplies and government support systems may be temporarily unavailable.
- Drinking water supplies and wells may become polluted.
- Floodwaters can cause erosion, which can damage roads, bridge structures, levees, and buildings with weak foundations, causing their collapse without warning. The floodwaters may carry the worn-away mud, rocks, and other sediment.
- Landslides and mudslides can occur.
- Even a few inches of floodwater in a home can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

For more information about preparing for winter disasters contact the District Office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.ready.gov or www.lowellfiredistrict.org. Its never to late to prepare for winter storms and the possible consequences of a major storm.

In and Around Our Community

Fall Creek Park Clean-up Day, January 17th

Looking for a fun time and a way to give back to the community? On the third Wednesday of each month, friends of the Fall Creek Park will meet to perform light duty landscape maintenance including mowing, raking, chopping, pruning and hauling.

Fall Creek Park is located at 39568 Jasper-Lowell Road at milepost 7.5. Info? Call Maggie at 541-937-1971 or Pam at 541-937-1978 or Don at 541-206-4345. Thanks for your support!

2018 Blackberry Jam Planning Underway

Committee meetings will restart this month on January 9th, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to begin planning for another great festival. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and all are welcome.

If you would like to help but aren't able to attend the meetings, please contact City Hall at 541-937-2157 and Joyce or Jared will put you in touch with the lead person for that area/event. Thank you for your support!



Your Recycling Efforts Benefit Students

A trailer is located on Lakeview Street, in the parking lot next to the school's rental houses. This is to collect cardboard that is bundled by school personnel, then picked up by the recycler, who then sends a check to the district's Nexus Program.



Your newspapers and magazines can continue to be recycled at the box across from Lundy Elementary at 45 S. Moss Street, which benefits the Music Program.

Returnable Can/Bottle Drives Monthly

Help support the local PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) by bringing your returnables to the high school parking lot every 1st Saturday morning of the month from 10-Noon. Thank you!

COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES!

Get your orders in for cookies from the Girl Scouts of Lowell/Fall Creek starting in January. Be watching for girls selling or you can call Debbie at 541-359-8974 and she will take your order. You can also stop by the Lowell Grange on Mondays 3:00-4:00 p.m.



Choices include all your old favorites including last year's newest hit, S'mores. The Lowell/Fall Creek Girl Scouts thank you for your support!

Grange Events in January

- Breakfast on Sunday, January 7th
- Texas Hold 'em Poker on January 5th and 20th
- Bingo! on January 17th

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

Wanted: Stuffed Animals and Toys

Do you need to make room for your NEW Christmas toys? You can donate gently used toys or new toys and stuffed animals for the Blackberry Jam 'Kidz Korner' prize tent. You can drop them off at City Hall during office hours or call 541-937-2157 for pickup.

The 'Kidz Korner' brings so much enjoyment for our local kids. Thank you for your support!



The Jam Quilt Show Needs Your Quilt!

Now is the time to start thinking about what you'd like to enter in the 2018 quilt show. More information will become available as we get closer to July. In the meantime, please contact Teri Harter at gortharter@gmail.com or call 541-937-2343 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: January 2018

- 1—New Year's Day! City Hall closed
 - 2—School resumes from Winter Break
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Siletz, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 - 3—Economic Development Committee, cancelled
JH Boys Basketball @ Triangle Lake, 4:00 p.m.
JH Wrestling v. Creswell, 6:00 p.m.
 - 4—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Triangle Lake, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling v. Gold Beach, 6:00 p.m.
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, cancelled
 - 5—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 6—Varsity Wrestling @ Alsea Bay Classic, 8:00 a.m.
JH Wrestling @ Cottage Grove Tourney, 9:00 a.m.
 - 7—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
 - 8—JH Boys Basketball v. Siletz, 4:30 p.m.
 - 9—JV Boys; Varsity G/B Basketball v. Mohawk, 4:00/5:30/7:00 pm
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell City Hall
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
 - 10—JV B/Varsity G/B Basketball v. Central Linn, 4:00/5:30/7:00
JH Wrestling @ Hamilton Middle School, 6:00 p.m.
 - 11—Varsity Wrestling @ Riddle, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity Boys Basketball @ Eddyville, 7:00 p.m.
 - 12/13—Varsity Wrestling @ Oregon Classic, 9:00 a.m.
 - 15—**MLK Jr. Day**, No School, City Hall closed
 - 16—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ McKenzie, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
 - 17—Fall Creek Park Cleanup, 10:00 a.m.
JH Boys Basketball v. Crow, 4:30 p.m.
JH Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill, 6:00 p.m.
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
 - 18—Varsity Wrestling v. Myrtle Point/Reedsport, 6:00 p.m.
 - 19—Boys Basketball v. Eddyville, 6:00 p.m.
 - 19/20—Varsity Wrestling 1A State @ Crane, All day
 - 20—JH Wrestling, Districts in Lowell, TBA
JV B/Varsity G/B Basketball @ Oakridge, 3:00/4:30/6:00 p.m.
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
 - 22—JH Boys Basketball v. Mapleton, 4:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.
 - 23—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Mapleton, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
 - 24—JH Boys Basketball @ Oak Hill, 4:30 p.m.
 - 25—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Siletz,
Varsity Wrestling @ Reedsport, 6:00 p.m.
 - 26—Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
 - 26/27—Varsity Wrestling @ Cottage Grove Tourney, 8:00 a.m.
 - 30—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Triangle Lake, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
- In February:
- 1—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Mohawk, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
 - 2/3—Varsity Wrestling, Districts in Lowell, 3:00 p.m.
 - 3—JH Wrestling @ Harrisburg, 9:00 a.m.