



The Bridge

Making community connections

Team Lowell and *The Bridge*

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

The Bridge, once known as *The Stentor* that covered primarily school news, became a community-wide, collaborative effort. The idea was conceived at a Team Lowell meeting to find an effective and inexpensive way to inform citizens about important community and local government activities and information. The cost to print the newsletter is shared by the school, city, and fire department. Each agency contributes articles written by their staff or volunteers. Front page coverage rotates, often in conjunction with seasonal community events. School staff edit and format the contributed articles, then coordinate the printing and mailing.

For more information/input, email the newsletter editor at bridge@lowell.k12.or.us.



The Bridge

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Lowell/Fall Creek Families and Community,

We are committed to enriching the lives of our students to support them and their futures. Much of this comes through education, relationships, and extra-curricular activities. This isn't all the district provides though. Through the dedication of our staff and administrators, our students are exposed to opportunities for the future beyond these walls. Beginning at the elementary level, our students are provided opportunities to take field trips to our local universities to participate in activities that show the world around us.

When our students move on to Lowell Jr/Sr High School, the real opportunities begin. Karen Cardwell, the coordinator of our ASPIRE and college ready programs, brings in representatives from community colleges, state colleges and universities. This allows students to see the opportunities for a two- or four-year degree. In conjunction with this, the school provides opportunities for SAT and ACT testing as well as support for applying for both scholarships and financial aid. This information can be found at <https://www.lowell.k12.or.us/college-and-career-center/>.

Some students have a different career path in mind. Ray Yarbrough, the CTE teacher for LHS, is readying students for a more hands-on approach to their future by offering courses related to the trades. See next article below.

Other students have a mind towards serving. Students interested in the military also have opportunities to meet with branches of the armed services and get a firsthand account of the experiences they have had during their service. They have had occasions to meet with recruiters as well as listen to a Lowell alumnus talk about his life and his time in the military.

We strive to create a path towards a bright future for each of our Lowell students.

Here's to a healthy, happy new year for all!

Youth in Trades/Apprenticeship Guest Speaker at Lowell High

Recently, our Industrial Arts/Career Technical Education (CTE) teacher, Mr. Yarbrough, created an opportunity for students to learn more about the Youth in Trades Academy through Lane CTE as well as the Lane CTE Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

The Youth Trades Academy is a program designed to give juniors and seniors a basic introduction to the technical and professional skills needed to successfully participate in an apprenticeship or pursue employment in the Building Trades. Successful applications will be placed with highly qualified journeycard holding instructors for a six-week training experience that represent the Sheet Metal, Carpentry, and Electrical Trades.

Also available to Lowell students is the Lane Pre-Apprenticeship program, approved by the Bureau of Labor and Industry. This state-approved program helps high school students be competitive for apprenticeship programs and skilled-trades jobs after high school graduation.

For more information regarding these programs, please contact Ray Yarbrough at ryarbrough@lowell.k12.or.us or contact Lee Kounovsky at lkounovsky@lesd.k12or.us or phone the high school office at 541-937-2124.



Hall of Fame Celebration to return in 2023!

Although a firm date hasn't been set yet, the Annual Lowell Hall of Fame Celebration and Banquet will be held this Fall. If you aren't on the mailing list but would like to be, please email aaf@lowell.k12.or.us or phone 541-954-5765. Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to connect with old and new friends and raise a little money for some very worthwhile programs for our community.



**Lowell,
Fall Creek
Education
Foundation**



RED DEVIL REPORT

Lowell Athletics Update



JUNIOR HIGH WINTER SPORTS

Junior High (6-8) Boys Basketball will have their first practice on Tuesday, January 3 at 3:15 in the Lundy Elementary gym. Make sure your athlete has a current physical and is registered at www.familyid.com/organizations/lowell-school-district.

Junior High Girls Basketball made huge strides before finishing their season in December. Coach Chelsea said, "I am so proud of the progress that both the A and B teams made this season. They grew leaps and bounds from their first to last game, and it's due to their determination and love for the game of basketball. I'd like to make a special shoutout to my 8th graders - Acadia, Aubrey, Aniah, Evelyn, and Jade - thank you for being amazing mentors and leaders for the younger players. Sierra and I are so proud and can't wait to come watch you play high school basketball! Go red devils!"

Junior High Wrestling will be honoring their 8th graders on Wednesday, January 11 in the Cafetorium during their 6:00 dual.

HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS



Our **high school boys' basketball** team is led by Kory Roberts and assisted by Mike Neet, Kole Powell, and Gino Martini. Athletes (pictured left) include seniors Hayden Vaughn, Jesse Neet, and Sasha Silver; juniors Alex Stratis, Brody Thurman, Jaden Jalof, Landon Stephens, Luis Estrada, Rowan Files, Ryder Greco, and Zane Pearson; sophomores Bryson Hoffman and Dayson Debusk; and freshmen Barrett Straight, Callum Plahn, Kevin Silver, Nicholas Baeuerlen, and Wyatt Smith.

Our **high school girls' basketball** team is led by Janet McNamee and assisted by Rob Neet. Athletes (pictured right) include senior Lydia Plahn; juniors Amerika Baszler, Annabelle Pickett, Aurora Bell, Dani Evans, Elizabeth Able, Kameron Baszler, Lillianah Neet, and Vicki Skordahl; sophomores Cheyanne McNamee, Gracie Aldinger, Hazel Garner, Jada Cantrell, Kiahna Baszler, and Oztyn Straight; and freshmen Aaliyah Johnson, Marley Plahn, Matti Skordahl, and Nevaeh Neet.



Our **high school wrestling** team is led by Lincoln Casarez and assisted by Boone Casarez and Dan Casarez. Athletes (pictured left) include senior Lehi Zylstra; juniors Cayden Erlei, Justus Thurman, and Kaili Kirkhart; sophomores Emma Zylstra, Harley Hardison, Levi Stewart, Paul Clark, Ryan Pelroy, Shelby Plagmann, and Zander Rogers; and freshmen Alex Sotomayor, David Finch, Joshua Walker, and Saul Clark.

Join us in honoring our senior wrestler on Wednesday, January 18 in the high school gym during the 5:00 4-way dual.

City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

Library opening. Throughout January, our library team will continue preparing the library for opening day. Starting on January 17, though, members of the public can visit the library to get library cards and browse our collection. We are aiming for a grand opening and celebration in February.

We are accepting applications for service on the Library Committee, as well as library volunteers. The City would like to restart the 5-member Library Committee. The Library Committee assists the Library Director in operating the Maggie Osgood Library.

As a Library Committee member, you will assist the Library Director in developing our collection, scheduling programming, helping with fundraising, and recommending policies and a budget. Library Committee members should commit to volunteering at the library for a set number of hours each month. The Library Committee will hold occasional meetings in the evening.

The term of office is two years. Three Library Committee members must be residents of the City of Lowell, and two members may be non-residents.



Library Director Peggy O'Kane

We are also recruiting volunteers to assist us in staffing the library. We need volunteers to sign up so we can be open during the evenings and weekends. As a volunteer, you will perform a variety of duties, including working at the circulation desk to process book returns and check-outs.

If you are interested in serving on the Library Committee or as a volunteer, turn in a volunteer application to the City.

You can obtain a volunteer application by stopping by City Hall or online at the following link:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/administration/page/691/committee_application.pdf>.

City Hall drop box. For your convenience, you may continue dropping off payments in the drop-box at the old City Hall for now, as we check the drop-box there several times a day. We are planning on installing a drop box at the new location sometime in the next few weeks.

Election certifications. The City of Lowell has issued the following certificates of election for the results of the General Election held on November 8, 2022:

- City Councilor Position 1—Don Bennett – elected to a 4-year term
- City Councilor Position 2 – Jimmy Murray – elected to a 2-year unexpired term
- City Councilor Position 3 – Maureen Weathers – elected to a 2-year unexpired term
- City Councilor Position 4 – Tim Stratis –elected to a 4-year term

The public is invited to attend and testify at a public hearing for Lowell's update to its development code. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District Fire Station 1. The City Council will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the same location. The public hearings are an opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on proposed changes to the development code. For more information, contact City Hall or see the public hearing notice available here:

<<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/bc-planning/page/notice-public-hearing-lowells-update-its-development-code>>

Actions by City Council and other committees/commissions:

At the December 6, 2022 regular meeting, City Council took the following actions:

- First reading of an ordinance to amend section of the Lowell Revised Code relating to the Library Committee and library concept of operations
- First reading of an ordinance related to open burning
- Adopted a water master plan
- Authorized the purchase of gift cards to employees
- Selected January 21, 2023 as the date for an annual goal-setting session

At the December 7, 2022 meeting, the Planning Commission approved a land use application for a high school gym and classroom expansion with the Lowell School District.

The Blackberry Jam Festival Committee met on December 13, 2022 to start planning for the 2023 festival.

Upcoming meetings – Meeting details available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/calendar/month/2023-01>

Meetings will take place at the Lowell Rural Fire Protection District station, unless otherwise specified.

- 1/3/23 @ 7:00 pm – City Council regular meeting
- 1/5/23 @ 7:00 pm – Parks Committee meeting
- 1/4/23 @ 7:00 pm – Planning Commission meeting
- 1/17/23 @ 7:00 pm – City council regular meeting

Land use applications that are pending before the Planning Commission are now available here:

<https://www.ci.lowell.or.us/planning/page/pending-land-use-applications>

Updated Lowell/Fall Creek Business Directory Coming this Spring!



**Business
Directory**

In August 2020, a directory of locally owned/operated businesses was published through The Bridge. An update is in the works so if you would like to be included in this update, please email your contact information to Maureen at bridge@lowell.k12.or or phone her at 541-954-5765.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

Are You Ready for Winter?

With the onset of cooler wetter weather, the Lowell Fire District would like to urge everyone to ensure all their heating appliances are in good working order. Have your woodstoves, fireplaces, and chimneys, cleaned and inspected by a qualified specialist before using them this winter. Portable space heaters also pose a high risk so use these with extreme caution and follow all space heater safety tips. Although woodstove and fireplace-related fires are more common, the deadliest home heating fires result from misuse of portable electric heaters.

Oregonians can keep themselves safer from heating-related fires using these safety tips:

Portable Space Heaters

- * When using portable heaters make sure they come with an automatic tip-over switch and a high-temperature limit switch. The tip-over switch turns the heater off if it is knocked over. A high-temperature limit switch prevents the heater from overheating.
- * Give heaters space. Keep at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.
- * Check heater electrical cords. Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace before using the space heater.
- * Never use an extension cord or power strip with a portable electric heater. It can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- * Never allow children to play with, or around the heater.
- * Unplug heaters when not in use, before going to bed, or when leaving the room.

Electric Baseboard and Wall Heaters

- * Be aware of electric baseboard and wall heaters. These heaters are thermostatically controlled and may turn on without warning when temperatures drop.
- * Give heaters space. Just as with portable space heaters, keep at least three feet of space between your baseboard/wall heater and combustibles items such as furniture, curtains, blankets, papers, and people.

Fuel Burning Space Heaters

- * If using a fuel burning space heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use. Read all manufacturer instructions and ensure it is properly vented.
- * Allow the heater to cool before refueling. Refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- * If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances, or thermostats. Leave the building and call 9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- * Have chimney and woodstove flues and vents inspected and cleaned every year by a qualified chimney specialist. Ask them to check for creosote deposits, soot build-up, or physical damage.
- * Always use a fireplace screen. Make sure the screen is made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass to prevent sparks from escaping.
- * Keep a clutter-free environment. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.
- * Store kindling, fire logs, and wood at least three feet from any heat source.
- * Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue and chimney temperatures.
- * Use proper fire starters. Proper fire starters include a small amount of newspaper, kindling, or specially manufactured starters designed for indoor use. Never use flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline to start a fire.
- * Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can release lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- * Use fire-resistant materials on walls around woodstoves.
- * Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing of them.
- * Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container and place the container outdoors, at least ten feet from the home and any other nearby buildings. Ashes may retain heat for days after they appear out.

Continued on page 7

In and Around the Community



Coats are Available for Winter

Thanks to the generosity of our community, there are plenty of coats and other winter clothes available at the Clothes Bank, located in the George Hake Center (4 East Lakeview Street) on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Hours are from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The clothing bank provides free items to anyone in need and all sizes are available. Clothing donations are welcome on days that the clothing bank is open, or call Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or email her at Stewartx6@fastmail.fm to make other arrangements.

Lowell Food Pantry is Open to Serve

The Pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m., located in the George Hake Center on Lakeview Street (behind the football field).



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

Ballet Classes Continue at the Grange!



Delight in Dance Company is offering ballet lessons at the Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street. Classes are held each Wednesday and are open to ages 5-7 and 8-11. Please contact Meg at 458-205-1212 or contact her via email at meggreccian@gmail.com for more information.

January Grange Breakfast Date Change

Please note that the January breakfast at the Lowell Grange has been moved to January 8th (instead of New Year's Day). Please join us from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Wanted: Cans/Bottles for Senior Trip!

Especially if you've had empties piling up over the holidays, here's a great chance to clean out your garage and help our seniors pay for their end-of-year trip.

Please bring your returnable cans and bottles to the high school parking lot at the corner of Pioneer and Lakeview Streets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9-11 am. Or phone the office at 541-937-2124 to make other arrangements. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Smoke Alarms and Home Escape Plans

- * Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in each bedroom.
- * Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
- * Follow manufacturer's instructions on regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.
- * Replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older.
- * Make a home escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year.

Carbon Monoxide Dangers

- * Make sure your home has a working carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- * Home heating and cooking equipment that burn fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane are sources of carbon monoxide.
- * Carbon monoxide poisoning can be fatal if not detected early.
- * Test and maintain your carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

For more home fire safety tips, call the District Office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org

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

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*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 2023

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| 3—School resumes from Winter break!
Varsity Wrestling @ North Douglas w/Reedsport, 6:00 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview | 18—Varsity Wrestling Sr. Night v. Glendale/Monroe/C.Linn, 5pm
JH Wrestling @ Central Linn, 6:00 p.m.
JH Boys Basketball, TBD |
| 4—JH Wrestling v. Thurston, 6:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball v. East Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 pm
Lowell Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer | 20—Varsity Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill w/others, 5:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ E. Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m. |
| 5—Varsity Wrestling @ Glendale w/Illinois Valley, 5:00 p.m.
Lowell Parks Committee, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer Street | 21—JH Wrestling @ Oakridge, MS Districts, TBD
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. |
| 6—JV/Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball @ Monroe, 3/4:30/6/7:30 pm
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. | 23—JH Boys Basketball, TBD
School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem. |
| 7—Varsity Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill Tournament, 10:00 a.m. | 24—JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Monroe, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m.
25—Varsity Wrestling @ Siuslaw w/others, 5:00 p.m.
JH Boys Basketball, TBD |
| 8—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 am, 51 E. 2nd Street | 26—JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. C.Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m. |
| 10—JV/Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball @ C. Linn, 3/4:30/6/7:30 pm | 27—No School! Grading Day
Senior Potluck, Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church |
| 11—Varsity Wrestling v. Sweet Home, 6:00 p.m., 8th grade night
Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station | 28—JV Boys Basketball @ Reedsport, 1:30 p.m.
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Reedsport, 3:00/4:30 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling @ Glide Tournament, TBD |
| 12—JV/Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball v. Toledo, 3/4:30/6/7:30 pm | 30—JH Boys Basketball, TBD |
| 13—Varsity Wrestling @ Redmond Tournament, TBD | 31—JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Toledo, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m. |
| 14—Varsity Wrestling @ Redmond Tournament, TBD
JV Girls Basketball v. Oakland, 3:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball v. Illinois Valley, 4:30/6/7:30 | Coming in February:
1—JH Boys Basketball—TBD
2—Varsity Wrestling @ Oakland, TBD
3—JV/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Waldport, 3/4:30/6/7:30 p.m. |
| 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—No School and City Hall closed | |
| 17—JV Boys Basketball @ Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball @ Oakridge, 6:00/7:30 p.m.
City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 389 N. Pioneer St.
Clothing Bank/Food Pantry; 2-5 pm; Hake Center on Lakeview | |