



The Bridge

Making community connections

2015 City of Lowell Annual Report

By Don Bennett, Mayor and Jared Cobb, City Administrator

The Bridge

Volume 18, Issue 7

January 2016

The City of Lowell is happy to report to the residents about a year focused on improvement, as well as developing a plan for 2016 and beyond. The City would like to offer special thanks to all of the volunteers who gave of their time to support the various events, Commissions, Committees, and to those who attended our Council meetings. With everyone's support we are making Lowell a better place to live.

Working together, the Council had a year of achievements that included:

- Recruiting and hiring a new City Administrator
- Adopting Guiding Principles to refine cooperation and mutual respect between Council members
- Issuing dog licenses and adopting a new animal ordinance
- Approving out-of-date Systems Development Charges (SDCs), as required by the State
- Developing a City Administrator Evaluation process
- Adopting the 2015-2016 Annual Budget

In 2015, the City of Lowell had much to give thanks for:

- Thanks for Lowell's continued growth and newly issued building permits: "Welcome" to our new neighbors
- Thanks for the awards recognizing Lowell's water quality
- Thanks to Mike Kelly, a true friend of Lowell, who served as the Interim City Administrator, while performing recruitment duties leading to the hiring of the new City Administrator
- Thanks for our close relationships with the Lowell School District and Lowell Volunteer Fire Department
- Thanks for a City staff always willing to help
- Thanks for a successful Blackberry Jam
- Thanks for all those who attended the Christmas Tree Lighting
- Thanks to all of our wonderful residents and friends of Lowell

This list, plus any unknown items, will be demanding to complete. The entire Council and City staff looks forward to working together with the community to meet these challenges and make Lowell a better place to live, work, and play.

The City of Lowell wishes all of you a very prosperous, healthy, and Happy New Year.

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



Junior High Students of the Month

Gwendolyn Gardner is the daughter of Jaclyn Gardner of Lowell. Gwen is an exceptional young lady that always seems to have a smile to showcase! She is currently a 7th grader at Lowell Jr. High. Gwen works hard to keep her grades above par and her attendance perfect. She shows her school spirit by helping the volleyball team out as their score keeper. Gwen also volunteers for the power hour program at Lundy Elementary school



where she helps K-6 students with their homework and such. In her free time she really enjoys taking on DIY projects. **Owen Chapman** is the son of Daniel and Heidi Chapman of Lowell. Owen is very involved in sports, such as wrestling and football. He is a great volunteer when it comes to many school functions. Owen is also in choir and is known to have the voice of an angel! Teachers say that Owen works hard in class and he sets a good example for his peers. Owen has consistently kept his grades and attendance up to par while juggling such a busy schedule. In his free time he enjoys hanging with friends and family! Congratulations to Gwen and Owen on being selected as students of the month for Lowell Jr. High!



Food Drive Winners

Congratulations to Mrs. Burkhardt's Third Graders for donating the most food and/or toiletries during our 3rd annual food drive! All together, the Lowell School District donated 726 items to the Lowell Food Pantry. Thank you to all who participated and made a difference in our community!

The food pantry is located at the corner of Lakeview and Moss Streets and is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Varsity Wrestling

Coach Cardwell is optimistic for more Lowell State champions this year. The team is led by seniors Sam Thurman and Evan Nolan; juniors Mahsen Asher, Justyn Barton, Tommy Harvey, Zach Kintzley, Kenny Lane, Colton Riggs and Hayden Trimble; sophomores Cody Brooks and Thomas Ward; and, freshmen Justin Corp, Kasey Erwin, Andrew Hinrichs, Kody Jenks and Symon Thurman. Head coach Jeff Cardwell is assisted by Heath Harvey.



Winter Sports Underway!



Lady Devils Basketball is off to a 2-0 start in league play led by seniors Marisa Owsley and Taylor Clark; juniors Marisia Ramirez and Anna Cardwell; sophomores Daisy Schnee and Lily Lane; and, freshmen Raelynn Trimble, Nature Letts, Jenna Martini and Anissa Watkins. Head coach Daniele McCallum is assisted by Nellie Arthur.

Varsity Boys Basketball is also off to a 2-0 start in league play. Team members include seniors Cameron Slaven, Mitchell Riberal, Pierce Gossler, Lane Gilliland, Cory Hern and Dylan Gehrman; junior Ryan Sinnett; and sophomores Zach Smith, Jackson Christiansen and Devin Maughn. Head coach Pat Todd is assisted by Jim Burford and Michael Neet.



JV Boys Basketball team members include (front row left to right) Red Villaroya, Zach Smith, Brennan Gilmore, Chance Hickey and Ian Sotomayor and (back row) Logan Miles, Bryce Pickett, Jason Stratis, Mason Wendt, Carson Gardner and Anthony Yarbrough. The team is coached by Dan Smith.

The Junior High Boys Basketball team has a great turnout this year. Members include 8th graders Dustin Astbury, Joshua Cantwell, AJ Devereaux, Brian Lemon, Jordon McCalsiter, Christopher Pyles and Tay Williamson; 7th graders Zac Jenks, Gino Martini, Chamber Schnee, Nic Sotomayor, Tim Stratis, Carter Wendt and Aidden Williamson; and 6th graders Josh Brown, Enoch Carroll, Josh Nehring, Anthony Smith and Sam Smith. Head coach Jack Devereaux is assisted by Jim Martini and Matt Wendt (not pictured).



Check out the schedule on Page 8 and come out to root for your teams!

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

Successful Open House/Community Dinner

We would like to thank all those that attended the Fire District Annual Open House and Community Dinner. We estimate that close to one hundred and twenty folks stopped by the station and joined us for dinner. There were a number of door prizes given away that were provided by area businesses like Wilco Farm Supply, the Willamalane Parks and Recreation District and Sunset Stables of Creswell. We had some great entries in the Kids Coloring contest this year. Our judges had a very difficult job choosing the winners in each age group. We would like to thank Lowell Mayor Don Bennett, Former Fire Board President Mike Galvin and Retired Volunteer Firefighter Sia Wallace, for making the difficult choices. All in all, the event was a great success and we would like to thank all those that participated.



District Training Program Update (Lloyd Hall, Training Coordinator)

Training for the five fire districts along the Highway 58 corridor has been very busy. Multiple training opportunities have been enjoyed by the firefighters of Lowell as well as the neighboring districts. Increased co-operation with our neighboring districts has opened the door for more training opportunities for our volunteer firefighters.

In October Lowell, Dexter, Pleasant Hill, Oakridge and Goshen Fire Districts began their first joint Firefighter I academy. The practical skills portion of the academy ended in late November in Lowell at our training station in Fall Creek. The new training containers were utilized for this final skills day, that included search and rescue drills as well as a "confidence course" designed to test and increase the recruit's confidence in their breathing apparatus and equipment while performing skills learned in the class.

The training containers provided a realistic environment for firefighters to train in, and we are excited to continue building upon the foundation that has already been laid as we will be working to convert one of these containers into a live burn container and adding a second level so firefighters can practice skill in ventilation and high angle rescue.

In October Firefighters were given the opportunity to practice managing flammable liquid fires with the Oregon Department of Standards and Training propane prop for live fire training in Goshen. This training allowed our firefighters to gain experience in dealing with propane and liquid fuel emergencies. In the coming months your firefighters will, as always, be looking to improve their skills with training opportunities locally. In January live fire training and hazardous materials training is scheduled locally with the Oregon State Winter Fire School being held in Salem this February. At the fire school students will be taking a variety of courses ranging from firefighting tactics and strategies to live burn training.

We also aim to continue our co-operation with our neighboring districts as we work to put on more local classes in the coming year. I would like to thank our patrons for their support this past year, and wish you all a safe and happy holidays.



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 most deadly 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.

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

City Beat

By City Administrator Jared Cobb

Councilor Judith Rennert Resigns

Councilor Judith Rennert submitted her resignation, effective January 1, 2016, at the December 15, 2015 City Council meeting. She stated in her letter to the City Council, "I regret that anticipated personal commitments will diminish my attendance at Council Meetings in the immediate future, and the honor of being a councilor comes with the obligation to give public concerns the full attention they deserve". Thank you, Judith, for your time, commitment, and service over the past two years to the City of Lowell.

Call for Volunteers!

The City of Lowell is soliciting applications for the City Council, Planning Commission and Budget Committee. Volunteering for the City is one of the best examples of government and people working together for the good of the community. It will give you an insider's look at how local government works, and an opportunity to share your talents, skills, and feedback on how to better serve our residents. If you are interested in serving, please read the overview of each board and follow the application instructions below.

City Council

The City Council is a legislative body composed of five (5) members from the City of Lowell elected at-large by position number. The Council's primary responsibility is to adopt and enforce policy for the betterment of the community. This includes the approval of the annual budget, passage of ordinances and resolutions, and strategic planning. The City Council also hires a City Administrator to run the daily operations of the City and to implement the policy goals of the Council. The current vacancy is for Position 5, for a term expiring December 31, 2016. This position will be up for re-election in November 2016.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is composed of five (5) members appointed by the City Council. This board operates in an advisory role in the preparation and revision of the community's comprehensive plan and local land use regulations. The Planning Commission also reviews and makes decisions on development proposals, including site plans and subdivisions. There are currently three (3) vacancies on the Planning Commission. These positions are for a two-year term ending December 31, 2017.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee consists of the entire City Council and five (5) citizen members appointed by the Council who examine, analyze and recommend a budget to the Council. This committee is active for about six (6) weeks in April and May of each year, with occasional meetings held throughout the year. There are two (2) vacancies on the Budget Committee. These positions are for a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Application Instructions

Interested residents should submit a completed application in person to Lowell City Hall (107 East Third Street) or by mail to P.O. Box 490, Lowell, OR, 97452. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or downloaded online at www.ci.lowell.or.us. The City Council may conduct follow-up interviews for the vacant City Council position.

The deadline for applications is January 16. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 541-937-2157.

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 December 1st regular meeting:

- Approved Resolution 636, a resolution addressing the deficiencies in the City of Lowell fiscal year 2014 financial audit report. In support: Bennett, Burford, Osgood, Paulson and Rennert; Opposed: none.

From the December 15th regular meeting:

- Approved moving forward to pursue a five-year franchise agreement with Charter (Falcon Systems), and that if staff is unable to achieve that, implement a one-year agreement. In support: Bennett, Osgood, Paulson and Rennert; Opposed: Burford.

In and Around Our Community

Food Pantry Says Thanks

The Lowell Food Pantry would like to say thank you to everyone who helps support the pantry. Thanks to the Lowell Post Office for help with the postal drive and the Lowell Lunch Program for the food donations. Thanks to Lane Electric, the Pine Needlers, Lost Creek Study Group, the Lowell Grange, Banner Bank and individuals who make donations to the pantry. Also, thanks to all the people who volunteer their time and effort. The Food Pantry success is because of all of you. Thank you.

Shawn Brady and Mike Ward, Pantry Managers

Girl Scouts News

The Girl Scouts' Hat & Mitten tree was a big hit at the Food Pantry. The first day all but two hats had been given out.

Girl Scout Cookie Time is coming up soon. If you would like to order cookies you can call Debbie Lynchard at 541-359-8974 or come by the Lowell Grange on January 4th to place an order with the Scouts.

Are You Ready?



...Girl Scouts Taking Orders!

January 9th Free Movie Night!

The Lowell Cub Scouts are offering this month's Free Movie Night on **Saturday, January 9th** with the showing of **Minions**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:00 p.m., at the Lowell Grange, 51 East 2nd Street. Children of all ages are welcome but those under age 7 should have an adult present to supervise.



And now that it's dark when the movie ends, it's important that no children are walking home alone so parents, either pick up your child or make sure he/she has an escort if walking home. Admission is free; sales of refreshments support sending Scouts to summer camp. For more information call Tim at 541-228-5664.

Grange Events in January

Breakfast on January 3rd
Texas Hold 'em Poker on January 8th and 16th
Bingo! on January 20th

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

City Beat—continued from page 6

Monthly Police Log (November 22 – December 22)

11/29	8:14 p.m.	Violation of Stalking Order at 100 Block North Moss Street
12/03	7:46 p.m.	Location of Wanted Suspect at 500 Block N. Moss Street
12/08	5:05 p.m.	Welfare Check at 200 Block East Second Street
12/12	6:09 p.m.	Alarm at 100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/14	1:08 p.m.	Reckless Driving at 100 Block West Second Street
12/14	2:17 p.m.	Drug Overdose at 100 Block North Cannon Street
12/16	5:34 p.m.	In Possession of Narcotics at 500 Block East First Street
12/16	7:23 p.m.	Civil Service at 200 Block East Main Street
12/16	9:06 p.m.	Welfare Check at 200 Block North Damon Street
12/19	3:01 a.m.	Shots Fired at 100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/19	5:01 p.m.	Vehicle Stop at West 7 th Street and North Moss Street
12/20	1:52 p.m.	Criminal Mischief at 100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/22	4:46 a.m.	Incomplete 911 Call at 100 Block North Everly Street

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

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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 2016

- 2—JH Wrestling @ Cottage Grove Tourney, 8:00 a.m.
JV Boys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. New Hope,
2:00/3:30/5:00 p.m.
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 4—JH Boys Basketball v. Eddyville, 4:00 p.m.
- 5—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Eddyville, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- 6—JH Boys Basketball v. Falls City, 4:00 p.m.
JH Wrestling v. Thurston, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling @ Thurston Tourney, 4:30 p.m.
- 7—JH Boys Basketball v. Siletz, 4:00 p.m.
JV Boys Basketball v. Creswell, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Alsea, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
- 8—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 9—Varsity Wrestling @ Alsea Bay Classic, time TBD
Free Family Movie Night at the Lowell Grange, 6:30 p.m.
- 11—JH Boys Basketball v. Triangle Lake, 4:00 p.m.
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
- 12—Varsity Wrestling v. Oakland, 5:00 p.m.
JV Boys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Siletz, 4/5:30/7 p.m.
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell City Hall
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
- 13—After School Puppets Show, 3:30-4:15 p.m., City Library
JH Boys Basketball @ McKenzie, 4:30 p.m.
JH Wrestling v. Creswell, 6:00 p.m.
- 15—JH Boys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Mapleton,
4:30/5:30/7:00 p.m.
- 15/16—Varsity Wrestling @ Redmond, Oregon Classic, 8:00 a.m.
- 16—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 18—Martin Luther King Day, No School, City Hall closed
- 19—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Triangle Lake, 5:30/7:00 pm
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- 20—JH Choir Festival @ Springfield H.S., 8:45 a.m.
JH Boys Basketball @ Mapleton, 4:00 p.m.
JH Wrestling @ Kennedy, 6:00 p.m.
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
- 21—Varsity Wrestling @ Reedsport, 5:00 p.m.
- 22—JV Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill, 6:00 p.m.
4:00/5:30/7:00 p.m.
- 23—JH Wrestling @ Central Linn Tourney, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity Wrestling 1A State @ Crane, 10:00 a.m.
- 25—**School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.**
- 26—JV Boys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. McKenzie,
4:30/5:30/7:00 p.m.
Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
Disaster Preparedness Meeting, EPUD office, 6:30 p.m.
- 27—Fables with Ben, 3:30-4:15 p.m., Lowell Community Library
JH Wrestling @ Pleasant Hill, 6:00 p.m.
- 28—Varsity Wrestling @ Glendale Duals, time TBD
- 29—Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Eddyville, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
- 30—JH Wrestling @ Creswell Regionals, 8:00 a.m.
- In February:
2—JV Boys Basketball @ Creswell, 6:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Alsea, 5:30/7:00 p.m.