



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## City Administrator Annual Report

By Jared Cobb, City Administrator

The Bridge

Volume 19, Issue 7

January 2017

We've all heard the saying, "You have to learn to walk before you can run." Successful organizations take care of the basics before they achieve greatness. They build a foundation by hiring the right people, managing finances effectively, and establishing a system to plan for continual improvements.

For 2016, we focused on these three key areas. The following is a review of our major accomplishments:

### Human Resources

- A performance evaluation system was implemented. Staff are now evaluated on eleven (11) job-related criteria and develop objectives for the upcoming year. The tool is designed to communicate job expectations, promote accountability and encourage professional development.
- The Accounting Clerk position was left unfilled, with the job duties reassigned to the City Clerk and a new contract accountant. This saves the City over \$20,000 per year in personnel expenses.

### Finance

- The City adopted fiscal evaluation criteria, which are used to determine the overall health of our finances. We established minimum cash reserves of 17% of planned operating expenditures. This conforms with professional standards established by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- The annual budget was restructured, with the budget developed by department (i.e., Parks) instead of by category of expenditure (i.e., Personnel Services). This conforms with professional standards established by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- A contract accountant was hired. The position assisted with the annual audit and implemented new procedures to resolve prior year audit findings, increase transparency, and safeguard our assets.

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### Did YOU know?

Lundy Elem. was built in 1941  
Lowell High was built in 1930

The School District received a \$1.1 million grant to retrofit the high school, which will be completed prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

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

### Lowell School District: Committed to helping students be successful in school

At Lowell Jr./Sr. High School there are several options students have to improve grades. After-school tutoring by subject matter is Monday-Thursday from 3:15-4:15. The tutor subject days are as follows:

Monday: Math with Mr. Llewellyn

Tuesday: English with Ms. Cramer

Wednesday: Science with Ms. Beckett (formally Ms. Taylor)

Thursday: Social Studies with Ms. Sawitzke



The “Athletes Study Hall” is Monday – Wednesday from 3:05—3:30 in Mr. Todd’s room. This study hall is primarily for student athletes assigned to study hall who need extra study time. However this study time is open to any student and is held in the health room.

With all of the available services for students, there is no reason why students cannot be successful. Students and parents may also access teachers by appointment after school outside of the regular tutor sessions. The end of semester one is rapidly approaching. The first semester ends on February 2<sup>nd</sup> so please make sure your student accesses the help he or she needs to pass classes! For more information please contact the Lowell Jr./Sr. Office at 541-937-2124.

### Lowell High School Drama presents...

Event: The Very UnMerry Adventures of Robin Hood  
— a Short Comedy by Patrick Greene and Jason Pizzarello

Dates: Thursday, January 26th  
Friday, January 27th  
and Saturday, January 28th

Time: 7:00 p.m. Showtime

Location: LHS Drama Room Theater (Room 11, next to the main parking lot)

Donations will be accepted to support the development of the LHS Drama Program — thank you for your support!

### Lowell Music Concert Rescheduled

Due to widespread illness, injury and inclement weather, the December 13th Winter Concert for Lowell Music students grades 7-12 has been re-scheduled for **Tuesday, January 17th.**

Please join us for the show at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym.



### Junior High Students of the Month



**Nyah Jalof** is the daughter of Heather and Amandus Jalof from Fall Creek. Nyah is a vibrant young lady who works hard to keep her grades up and her attendance near perfect. Nyah is also in the junior high band and she sings in the school choir as well. She is also a vital member of a local traveling soccer team. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, shopping and snowboarding. **Tyler Chambers** is the son of Kari and Ray Eccles from Lowell. He is an impressive athlete and contributes a lot to our junior high basketball and football teams. Tyler works hard to keep his grades up and his attendance near perfect. In his free time, Tyler enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing sports.



Congratulations Nyah and Tyler for being selected as students of the month for Lowell Jr. High!



### Varsity Girls Basketball

This year's team is led by senior Anna Cardwell, juniors Lily Lane and Daisy Schnee, sophomores Nature Letts, Jenna Martini, Dayce Riberal and Raelynn Trimble, and, freshman Kaitlyn Sinnett. Head coach Daniele McCallum is assisted by Nellie Arthur.

Come out and support your Lowell sports teams this winter and cheer them on to victory!!



### Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys Basketball

Team members include seniors Brennen Gilmore, Braydon Long and Ryan Sinnett; juniors Cody Brooks, Jackson Christiansen, Devin Maughan, Zack Smith, Cole Staggs and Trevon Young; sophomores Carson Gardner, Logan Miles, Bryce Pickett, Ian Sotomayor, Jason Stratis, Mason Wendt and Anthony Yarbrough; and, freshmen AJ Devereaux, Josiah VonDoloski and Taysian Williamson. Head coach Pat Todd is assisted by Kim Beer and Jimmy Martini.



### Varsity Wrestlers

This year's squad includes seniors Mahsen Asher, Justyn Barton, Tommy Harvey, Zach Kintzley, Kenny Lane, Braydon Long and Hayden Trimble; juniors Thomas T-Ward and John Clarke; sophomores Justin Corp, Kasey Erwin, Andrew Hinrichs, Kody Jenks and Symon Thurman; and, freshmen Owen Chapman and Andy Kintzley.

Head coach Jeff Cardwell is assisted by Heath Harvey and Mark Kintzley.



### Fall Sports Wrap

Lowell Girls Volleyball team were undefeated and won 1st place in their league. The Varsity Football team finished 4th in the state. Ryan Sinnett was voted MVP as offensive player of the year. 1st team all league honors went to Kenny Lane RB, Hayden Trimble DE, Thomas T-Ward Center, Zach Kintzley LB and Justyn Barton Corner. 2nd team included Tommy Harvey DE and Mahsen Asher Defensive Tackle, Honorable mention went to Colton Riggs Guard. Kenny Lane, Hayden Trimble and Ryan Sinnett will all be playing in the 8-man all star game in June. Kenny Lane will be representing Lowell and the league at the East/West Shrine game in August. Congratulations!!

# FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

## Fire District's ISO Rating Improves

The Insurance Service Office, Inc., (ISO) is a company that assesses, evaluates and classifies fire service agencies for the purposes of providing statistical data to insurance companies for underwriting fire insurance policies. ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, insurance regulators and others by providing information about risk. ISO collects information about municipal fire suppression efforts in communities throughout the US. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Class, (PPC) grade – a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. Lowell Rural Fire Protection District completed this survey in October of this year.

Prior to this evaluation, the classifications were as follows: structures within City limits of Lowell Class 4; structures outside the city limits but within five miles of a fire station Class 8B, structures within fire district but greater than five miles from a fire station Class 10.

The new classifications effective March 1, 2017 will be as follows: structures within City limits will remain a Class 4; structures outside the city limits but within five miles of a fire station become a (new) Class 4; structures outside the city limits greater than five miles from a fire station but within seven miles of a fire station will become a (new) Class 10W; structures greater than seven miles from a fire station remain a class 10. The change to a rural Class 4 should afford significant insurance premium savings for property owners in that area, and those in the 10W class should also see some slight savings depending on the insurance carrier. **The bottom line is that rural residents should see a reduction in fire insurance premiums.**

ISO's, Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. Most insurers in the US utilize the ISO, PPC information as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property fire insurance. Each insurance company independently determines the premiums it charges its policyholders. The way an insurer uses ISO's information on public fire protection may depend on several things – the company's fire-loss experience, ratemaking methodology, underwriting guidelines, and its marketing strategy.

The PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. A community's PPC grade depends on:

- Needed Fire Flows, which are representative building locations used to determine the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.
- Emergency Communications, including emergency reporting, telecommunicators, and dispatching systems.
- Fire Department, including equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction.
- Water Supply, including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, alternative water supply operations, and careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fire up to 3,500 gallons per minute.

Emergency Communications accounts for 10% of the total classification, Fire Department accounts for 50% of the total classification and Water Supply system accounts for 40% of the total classification.

For more information on the PPC and ISO, please contact the District Office at 541-937-3393 or stop by the main station in Lowell. The district would also like to offer a special thanks to Max Baker, City of Lowell Water Superintendent and Jared Cobb City of Lowell Administrator for their assistance in the very time consuming but important ISO, PPC evaluation process. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.



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

## Open House & Community Dinner Was A Success

We would like to thank all those folks that came to the district open house and community dinner. Our rough estimate shows that about 111 adults and 61 kids visited and had dinner at the station.

We would like to also thank the contributors for their door prizes and gifts: WalMart Springfield, Bridge Town Market Lowell, Giddy Goat Coffee Lowell, Jerry's Home Improvement Springfield, Wilco Springfield, Peaceful Pony's Creswell and Willamalane Recreation "SPLASH" as well as the Lowell Volunteer Firefighter Association. We hope everyone had a good time and got enough to eat.



## As Colder Weather Arrives Use Heating Appliances Wisely

With the onset of colder weather, citizens should ensure that all their heating appliances are in good working order. Have woodstoves, fireplaces, and chimneys, cleaned and inspected by a qualified specialist annually and before using them for the winter. Portable space heaters also pose a high risk. Use these with extreme caution and follow all space heater safety tips.

### Portable Space Heaters

- \* Only use portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- \* Give heaters space. Keep at least three feet of space between the heater and combustibles such as furniture, curtains, bedding, and papers.
- \* Check heater electrical cords. Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace before using the space heater.
- \* Plug portable electric space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Never plug them into a power strip or extension cord.
- \* Never allow children to play with, or around a heater.
- \* Turn heaters off 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 these 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, bedding, and papers.

### Fuel Burning Space Heaters

- \* If using a fuel-burning space heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use. Read all manufacturer instructions and make sure 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 light the heater, operate any electrical switches, or thermostats. Leave the building and call 9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

### Smoke Alarms and Home Escape Plans

- \* For increased protection, have working smoke alarms on every level of your home (including the basement), in each bedroom, and outside any sleeping area (hallways).
- \* Test smoke alarm batteries at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- \* Look at the date on the back of your smoke alarm, if it's 10 years old or older, replace it. If there is no date, it is more than 10 years old and should be replaced.
- \* Ensure you have a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family.

### Carbon Monoxide Dangers

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

## City Beat — Continued from Cover Page

### Planning

- The City adopted its first Strategic Plan. For 2016-17, the City Council prioritized a total of fifteen (15) objectives with associated evaluation criteria. Copies of the plan are available for review at City Hall and on our website at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us).
- City Committees were adopted by ordinance. These Committees will assist the City Council and staff to engage the public and accomplish the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

### Acknowledgements

The City Council and staff made large strides in 2016, 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 2017!

### Open Burning Restrictions

The City of Lowell continues to conduct research on the topic of open burning and would like to hear from residents. Open burning includes the burning of yard debris, construction or demolition waste, field, ditch or weed burning. Residents may provide input through one or more of the following methods:

- 1) Providing public comments at the next City Council meeting on January 3.
- 2) Providing comments in writing to Jared Cobb, City Administrator via email at [jcobb@ci.lowell.or.us](mailto:jcobb@ci.lowell.or.us) or by mail to P.O. Box 397, Lowell, OR 97452.

For additional information on open burning, please review the LRAPA Outdoor Burning Brochure available on the City's website at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us).

### 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 6th regular meeting:

- Approved the appointment of Frank Segarra to the position of Municipal Judge for a four-year term ending December 31, 2020 and authorized the Mayor to sign the proposed Agreement for Judicial Services. In support: Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood and Paulson; Opposed: none.

### Monthly Police Log (November 24—December 27)

12/01 02:30 PM	Suspicious Conditions at East Fourth Street and D Street
12/03 05:36 PM	Theft at 100 Block Lakeview Avenue
12/03 09:15 PM	Disorderly Juvenile at 100 Block East North Shore Drive
12/07 01:18 AM	Suspicious Vehicle at 200 Block North Damon Street
12/08 06:43 PM	Vehicle Stop at North Pioneer Street and West Boundary Road
12/09 04:49 PM	Repossessed Vehicle at 100 Block South Pioneer Street
12/10 06:18 PM	Fraud at 200 Block Marina Vista Drive
12/14 10:18 AM	Civil Service at 100 Block West Fourth Street
12/22 09:42 AM	Arrest at 100 Block North Cannon Street
12/22 05:22 PM	Suspicious Vehicle at North Canon Street and East Second Street
12/22 07:59 PM	Welfare Check at 500 Block North Moss Street
12/23 12:40 PM	Abandoned Vehicle at 500 Block D Street
12/24 12:56 AM	Follow-up at 500 Block North Moss Street
12/24 10:18 PM	Illegal Fireworks at 100 Block North Moss Street
12/27 06:01 AM	Alarm at 100 Block South Pioneer 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.**

## In and Around Our Community

### 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. after January 16th.



Choices include all your old favorites plus a new one this year — S'mores!

### Help Reduce Child Abuse in Lane County

You are invited to participate in making decisions about strategies that will be used to decrease child abuse. Meetings are scheduled for January 10th, 16th, 23rd and 30th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Oakridge School District boardroom. For more information please call Susan at 541-912-3308. All are welcome!



### BINGO!

The Lowell Grange Fundraising committee sponsors monthly Bingo games to help continue the renovations of the Grange Hall. Each month games are held on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



All games are held at the Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street. Hours are from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Children under 18 can play if they are accompanied by their parents or legal guardians, or they bring a note from their parents giving them permission to play.

### 2017 Blackberry Jam Planning Underway

Committee meetings will restart this month on January 10th, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to start 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 not 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!

### January 7th Free Movie Night!

The Lowell Boy Scouts are offering this month's Free Movie Night on **Saturday, January 7th** with the showing of **The Secret Life of Pets**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:00 p.m., at the Lowell Grange, 51 East 2nd St.





Children of all ages are welcome but those under age 7 should have an adult present to supervise. It's important for all moviegoers to practice good theater etiquette so all can enjoy the movie. Admission is free; sales of refreshments support sending scouts to summer camp. For more information call Heather at 541-937-2643.

### Grange Events in January

Breakfast on Sunday, January 8th  
Texas Hold 'em Poker on January 6th and 21st  
Bingo! on January 18th

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

## Lowell High School & Community Blood Drive

Friday, January 20th  
2pm - 5pm  
65 South Pioneer Street, Lowell

Please contact Ms. Taylor at 541-937-2124  
or [ttaylor@lowell.k12.or.us](mailto:ttaylor@lowell.k12.or.us) for more information  
and to schedule an appointment.

laneblood.org
(541) 484-9111

# 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: January 2017

- 3—Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball @ Triangle Lake, 5:30/7:00 p.m.  
**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
  - 4—JH Wrestling v. Thurston, 6:00 p.m.
  - 5—JH Girls Basketball v. Oak Hill, 4:00 p.m.  
Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
  - 6—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.  
JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Siletz, 4:00/5:30/7:00 p.m.
  - 7—Free Family Movie Night at the Lowell Grange, 6:30 p.m.  
JV Boys/Varsity Girls Basketball @ Hosanna Chr., 2:30/4:00 pm  
Varsity Wrestling @ Alsea Bay Classic, Waldport, TBA
  - 8—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
  - 10—JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Mohawk, 4/5:30/7:00 pm  
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell City Hall  
**Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station**
  - 11—Liisa's Puppet Show, Lowell Library, 3:30-4:15 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling @ Riddle, 5:00 p.m.  
JH Wrestling @ Creswell, 6:00 p.m.  
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
  - 12—JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ McKenzie, 4/5:30/7 pm  
Kids Club, Fall Creek Events Center, 6:00 p.m.
  - 13-14—Varsity Wrestling @ Redmond Classic, TBA
  - 16—Martin Luther King Day — No School, City Hall closed
  - 17—Lowell Band & Choir grades 7-12, 7:00 p.m., High School Gym  
**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
  - 18—Varsity Wrestling @ Mohawk, 5:00 p.m.  
JH Wrestling v. Kennedy, 6:00 p.m.  
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
  - 19—JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Mapleton, 4:15/5:30/7 pm
  - 20—Community Blood Drive, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Lowell High School
  - 21—Varsity Wrestling 1A State in Lowell, 10:00 a.m.  
JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Crosshill, 4/5:30/7 p.m.  
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
  - 23—JH Boys Basketball @ Mohawk, 4:30 p.m.  
**School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.**
  - 24—Girls Varsity Basketball @ Mapleton, 5:30 p.m.  
JV/Varsity Boys Basketball v. Eddyville, 5:30/7:00 p.m.  
Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
  - 25—Ben's Fables, Lowell Library, 3:30-4:15 p.m.  
JH Boys Basketball v. Mapleton, 4:00 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling @ Myrtle Point, 5:00 p.m.  
JH Wrestling v. Pleasant Hill, 6:00 p.m.
  - 26—Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball v. Triangle Lake, 5:30/7:00 p.m.
  - 27—Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
  - 28—JH Wrestling Regionals @ Kennedy, 9:00 a.m.
  - 30—JH Boys Basketball @ Oak Hill, 4:00 p.m.
  - 31—JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Siletz, 4/5:30/7:00 p.m.
- In February:
- 1—Varsity Wrestling @ Thurston, TBA  
JH Boys Basketball v. Mohawk, 4:00 p.m.
  - 2—Varsity Wrestling v. Oakland, 5:00 p.m.  
JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Mohawk, 4/5:30/7:00 pm
  - 3-4—Varsity Wrestling @ Cottage Grove, TBA
  - 4—JH Wrestling Districts @ Monroe, TBA
  - 7—JVB/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. McKenzie, 4/5:30/7 pm