



The Bridge

Making community connections

To Lowell, the little town with a big heart



The Bridge

Volume 22, Issue 8

February 2020

My precious wife, Linda Marie Edwards and I moved to Lowell in April 2018. That very day she was diagnosed with the evil of breast cancer. Somehow that information spread through this little town and from that moment, the loving kindness began with the following precious community support: The City of Lowell, Lowell School District, The Good Samaritan Food Bank, Church Communities, Fall Creek Cemetery, Floral Living, Bridge Town Market, Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop, The Lowell Covered Bridge Quilters, and Neighbors.

My wife and I thank all of you for your loving kindness during this hard time. Linda fought a battle that eventually she succumbed to. The cancer took her from me, shattering the dreams of growing old together. We thank Lowell for its love, thoughts, prayers and kindness. We would also like to thank the Fall Creek Cemetery for providing my darling wife Linda a beautiful resting place. We want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your genuine compassion as a community. We love and thank you all to the little town with a big heart, Lowell, Oregon.

Sincerely, Linda and Socrates Edwards

Special thanks to the following. City of Lowell: Joyce Donnell, Jared Cobb and Max Baker; Lowell School District: Johnnie Matthews, Coach Pat and Vallie Todd, Paul Burch, Nathan Bowers, Patrick Brady, Cindy Neet and Jason Pickett; Good Samaritan Food Bank: Ron Ballenger, Jim and Carol Chapman, Richard Renfro and John Lewis; Church Community members; Fall Creek Cemetery: Larry Poggemeyer; Floral Living: Salina Grindstaff; The Bridge Town Market Team; Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop Team; The Lowell Covered Bridge Quilters Team: Richard and Joanne Miller; and Neighbors: Deena, Fred, Brogan; John, Amber, Josh and Ellie Gross; Joe and Peggy Bruzek; and, Ryan and Susan Jackson.

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

Dear Community,

Last year I mentioned how mild of a winter we were having. This year I'm not going to mention anything about the mild winter so I don't jinx it. Oops... I did it again. Snowpocalypse 2019 was something to remember and taught us how fickle Mother Nature can be. I realize that kids and staff alike love hearing my voice at 6:00 in the morning on a "snow day." However, I do apologize if I wake some of you up which would probably make you really dislike the sound of my voice in the morning. We have had a two-hour delay so far but it seemed to go fairly smoothly. We have new staff that are implementing the robo-call to parents and I believe all the kinks have been worked out.

While Lowell/Fall Creek families are still sleeping on those cold frigid mornings, we have diligent staff members waking up extra early to ensure that every precaution is taken and carefully discussed so your kids just see it "as another day of school."

With the dark cold evenings still here, the district will continue to have the football field lights on from 5:30 – 7:30pm nightly to allow the community to get their steps in at a well-lighted, safe place. This also helps with the safety and security of our campuses until all the bond-funded security lighting and cameras are up and running. There are a lot of areas that could be potential hazards, so as a district we need to make sure that we are as cautious as possible when it comes to ensuring these areas are well lit. However, we will be ending the field lighting once daylight savings is over (March 8th) and we spring forward to longer days and shorter nights.

There are many things on the horizon as we continue to build a better district for the future. While it may continue to be a little chaotic around here in the coming months, the end result will get us closer to our goal of becoming the best district in the state. With that said, I leave you with a quote as it sums up all the inconveniences, loud noises, increased traffic and a metaphorical speed bump in our lives in regards to the remodeling and new construction...

"Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow." –A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

We appreciate your patience in working with us during this chaotic time!!! We are not only on the move, we are also well on our way! Respectfully, Johnie Matthews Superintendent of Lowell School District

Lowell Music Featured in Local, Statewide Events

In addition to recent well-received concerts and pep band outings for basketball, Lowell Music has been invited to shine in several unique ways this winter. On February 29th, members of the LHS Choir will be singing the National Anthem and "God Bless America" at the OSAA State Wrestling Championships. This will occur around 6:00pm, prior to the Finals for all divisions -- held at Portland's Memorial Coliseum -- before an expected crowd of 6,000-7,000!

On March 3rd, members of the LHS Band program will perform with the Willamette Valley Honor Band. This year, Lowell had six instrumentalists able to participate in this amazing all-star group: Juniors Zac Jenks, Nicky Sotomayor, Timmy Stratis, Kaitlyn Watson, Ashley Woodhurst, and Serena Yarbrough. Please come support them at their free concert at 7:00pm in the Springfield High School Auditorium.

Finally, on March 5th, the LHS Choir will be featured as "special guest" performers in the Lane Community College Winter Choral Concert, a first for small schools in the area. Please come see our Red Devils shine alongside LCC's outstanding choirs in the 7:30 show at Ragozzino Hall! (Admission is a recommended donation of \$3-10.) We hope to see you at all of these amazing events!



Harley Hardison (at left) is a 7th grade student at Lowell. His parents are Mica Harmond and Tim Brady. He likes football, wrestling and track and in his free time he likes to play video games and hang out with friends. Harley works hard on academics and keeps his grades up. He always has a smile and is a joy to be around.

Austin Smith is a 10th grader. His mom is Esther Doty. Austin enjoys football, track and gaming and likes to hang out with friends and do homework. Austin has worked very hard to keep his grades up. He is always willing to help students and staff.

Congratulations Harley and Austin on being selected as Students of the Month!





Junior High Girls Basketball

Team members include Elizabeth Able, Gracie Aldinger, Mila Bardwell, Emma Barnes, Amerika Baszler, Kameron Baszler, Jada Cantrell, Hannah Carlisle, Taleia Clark, Alexis Curry, Dani Evans, Addi Farrier, McKenna Fassbender, Piper Fisher, Destiny Foster, Hazel Garner, Lizzy Green-Jolly, Kenadee Hermenson, Jaelin Hinton, Natalie Markhan, Lillianah Neet and Nevaeh Neet. Head coach Chelsea Chittim is assisted by Rob Neet.

Junior High Boys Basketball

Team members include Camden Alexander, Nick Bauerlen, Gabe Dorelien, Jacob Eves, Rowan Files, Justin Hern, Kaden Fisher, Jaden Jalof, Preston Neet, Alex Palencia, Callum Plahn, Kevin Silver, Wyatt Smith, Alex Sotomayor, Alex Stratis, Brody Thurman, Justus Thurman, Colton Wendt and Tyler Yearous. Head coach Greg Erickson is assisted by Tim Stratis and Dan Smith.



Varsity Wrestling

The members of the team are: seniors Andy Kintzley and Desmond Able; juniors Shane Reid, Tristan Garcin and Bernard Anderson; sophomores Deacon Savio, Odin Sinnett, Matthew Carlisle and Ashlee Brooks; and, freshmen Sienna Hymer, Trapper Roat, Lily Haynes, Trenton Edwards and Beauden Asher. Head coach Lincoln Casarez is assisted by brothers Boone and Noah.

Junior High Wrestling

Team members include: Paul Clark, Saul Clark, Alex Cloyd, Henry Coiner, Cayden Erlei, Rowan Files, David Finch, Kaden Fisher, Natasha Fuller, Harley Hardison, Taylor Horton, Lukas Ivey-Ferry, Ashton Moncrief, Caleb Montieth, Ryan Pelroy, Wyatt Pelroy, Shelby Plagmann, Elijah Scharff, Levi Stuart, Jamar Thurman, Justus Thurman and Joshua Walker. Head coach Alvin Riggs is assisted by Jason Prenevost.



Come on out and root these teams on to finish their seasons strong!!

Mountain View Academy Open Enrollment February 1-15

Mountain View Academy is a Preschool through 8th grade public charter school within the Lowell School District. In our structured program, we consider character education to be foundational for a quality education. We offer a four-day school week with educational and activity field trips one Friday a month. We are an accelerated program that strives to build relationships with students and families, provides a well-rounded education, and challenges students through ability grouping. We believe that parents play an important role in their child's education. MVA families are incorporated into our education model through monthly volunteering.



CONTACT US if you are interested in learning more about Mountain View Academy. Tours are offered on Wednesdays. To schedule a tour, please call 541-735-1709 or email Kelly@mtviewacademy.org.

Sponsored by the Lowell School District, believing in options for parents.

City Beat by City Administrator Jared Cobb

**You're
Invited!**

Cannon Street Design Open House

On Wednesday, February 5 an open house will be held at the Maggie Osgood Library for the design of the Cannon Street Festival Area. The Downtown Master Plan recommended extending Cannon Street from Main Street to North Shore Drive. This project will transform Rolling Rock Park into a “central” park and create a festival area for special events. Drop by any time from 6:00-8:00 for a slice of pizza and provide feedback on the plans!

Community Facilities Plan Approved

In 2018 the City received an estimate of \$538,755 to repair City Hall and the Library. Considering the age of the facility, other needed renovations, and location, the City Council hired an architect to develop a Community Facilities Study and take a more comprehensive approach to future facilities. The study was drafted with input from the Downtown Master Plan, stakeholder interviews, a public workshop, and Downtown Master Plan Steering Committee. The approved plan will be used to guide development of the Library and City Hall. A copy of the plan is available on the homepage of the City website at www.ci.lowell.or.us or at City Hall.



Board and Committee Vacancies

The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Planning Commission, Library Committee, Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, and the 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 by the City Council is provided to inform citizens of recent decisions made by the council.

At the January 7th work session, the following topics were discussed:

- Property surveys for Rolling Rock Park, Cannon Street and Paul Fisher Park
- Main Street Rehabilitation Project and Lakeview Avenue Rehabilitation Project
- Water and Sewer Project Grant and Loan Application
- Committee Appointments
- Budget Transfers and Appropriation Changes
- City Council Meeting Schedule for 2020
- ODOT Small Cities Allotment Grant Agreement
- Surplus of 2001 Ford F-150 Truck
- Community Facilities Study

At the January 7th special meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved a Project Fee Proposal for Property Surveys in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
- Approved Resolution 730—Budget Transfers and Appropriation Changes— transferring \$30,000 from the General Fund to the Community Development Program.
- Approved the ODOT Small Cities Allotment Grant Agreement of \$100,000 to resurface Lakeview Avenue from Pioneer Street to Moss Street.
- Approved the following committee appointments: Budget Committee, Maureen Weathers to Position 9; Planning Committee, Lon Dragt to Position 1 and John Myers to Position 2; Parks and Recreation Committee, Hall O'Regan to Position 1 and Joe Brazill to Position 4; Economic Development Committee, Michael Galvin to Position 1 and Lisa Bee-Wilson to Position 2; Library Committee, Heather Woodhurst to Position 1; and Blackberry Jam Festival Committee, John Myers to Position 1 and Monica Thompson to Position 2.

All actions were approved 5-0.

At the January 14th work session, the following topic was discussed:

- Conducted a walking tour of Lakeview Avenue from Pioneer Street to Moss Street to review potential street improvements.

At the January 21st executive session, the following topic was discussed:

- Review and evaluation of the employment related performance of the chief executive officer.

At the January 21st regular session, the following actions were taken:

- A public hearing was held regarding Ordinance 300—Adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan Amendments; the ordinance was approved.
- Approved the Engineering Scope of Services from Civil West Engineering for Main Street and Lakeview Avenue Paving Projects in an amount not to exceed \$34,200.
- City Council Meeting calendar for 2020 was approved.
- Approved Resolution 731 — Community Facilities Study.
- Approved Resolution 732 — City Council Guiding Principles.
- Approved Small Cities Allotment Grant Agreement

All actions were approved 5-0.

Monthly Police Log (December 23 – January 27)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
12/24/19	5:50 PM	Illegal Fireworks	100 Block East Main Street
12/25/19	8:12 PM	Traffic Hazard	S. Pioneer/E. Lakeview Avenue
12/27/19	12:38 AM	Prowler	300 Block East First Street
12/31/19	3:08 PM	Assault	600 Block North Moss Street
1/1/20	2:23 AM	Follow-Up	600 Block North Moss Street
1/16/20	10:58 PM	Dispute	500 Block East First Street
1/18/20	11:20 AM	Welfare Check	100 Block West Second Street
1/18/20	12:00 PM	Civil Service	100 Block North Pioneer Street
1/18/20	9:11 AM	Citizen Contact	100 Block Wetleau Drive
1/23/20	10:55 AM	Follow-Up	500 Block East First Street
1/23/20	6:53 PM	Location of Stolen Vehicle	100 Block South Pioneer Street
1/24/20	11:08 AM	Fraud	500 Block East First Street
1/26/20	9:38 AM	Abandoned Vehicle	Wetleau Drive and Sunridge Lane
1/26/20	3:06 PM	Suspicious Conditions	100 Block West Seventh 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

Parents Beware!

Parents, beware that there is a new craze out. Tik-Tok has videos of the new “Outlet Challenge”. This is where you partly plug in a cord to an outlet and try to slip a penny in to connect the two prongs to create a spark. This has already sent a few people to the hospital as well as started structure fires. While this seems like it should not happen, it is. If someone in your household has tried this or does try this, please call us at the main station so we can assist.

Volunteer & See What You Can Achieve

Fire Suppression Program – Structural – Wildland - Interface Protection

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District provides Fire Protection to a district of 23 square miles around Lowell, Unity and Fall Creek. The District includes rural, residential, business and forest lands as well as recreational areas. The wide variety of protected lands and structures within the district requires our volunteers be trained in many different suppression techniques under a number of different conditions. This variety of experiences and training can prepare our volunteers for varied specialties within the fire service or give them a well-rounded base of knowledge for other types of employment, if they so desire.

The surrounding area is home to many outdoor recreation areas that all come with natural features that require unique skills and knowledge to perform rescues. Our Volunteers receive training in rope rescue, water rescue and vehicle extrication. Learning new and valuable rescue techniques is an important part of every Volunteer’s experience with the district.

Providing Emergency Medical Services to our district patrons is one of the primary services offered by the District. Volunteers are encouraged and financially supported in gaining medical certifications and licensing including Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT and Paramedic levels. A variety of backgrounds and levels of training enable District personnel to provide caring, quality patient care to those needing help.

What do you have to do to get involved?

Contact District members by either dropping by the main station in Lowell or calling us at 541-937-3393.

Do you need previous experience?

No. All levels of experience are welcome. As long as you have a good attitude and are willing to learn, we will teach you what you need to know to be successful in our organization. We also have an Intern Program for folks that do not live in the district but want to volunteer.

How does scheduling work?

You pick your hours for the most part. Start when you can and the district will try to accommodate any schedule that helps support responses and training.

For more information contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or go to www.lowellfiredistrict.org.

Hall of Fame Celebration April 18th

The Hall of Fame Celebration is primarily a chance to recognize alumni, staff, teams and individuals that have contributed to the success of the Lowell School District. It’s also a chance to raise money to fund special initiatives to help students and our community through the silent auction and raffle. If you have items or cash you would like to donate to the cause, please contact Shannon at 541-515-5675 or email her at sfassbender@lowell.k12.or.us.



**Lowell,
Fall Creek
Education
Foundation**

Invitations for ticket purchases will be coming soon. Please mark your calendars for this fun and important event! Email aaf@lowell.k12.or.us or call 541-954-5765 to be added to the mailing list.

In and Around Our Community

RAIN Workshops for Home-based Food Sales

The Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) is offering a series of workshops on regulations of home-based food sales, culminating in a March 11 workshop on Temporary Restaurant Licenses in Lowell. Locations to be announced after signup.

February 4—Jams, Sauces and Pickles (Farmer Direct Producer Exemption)—Veneta

February 19—Redefining Homemade (Domestic Kitchen)—Florence

March 4—More than a Bake Sale: The Oregon Home Bakery Bill — Creswell

March 11 — Food with a View: Temporary Restaurant License — Lowell

Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser—February 12th

Flyers are available at school offices for a Papa's Pizza fundraiser for "Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis—Team Kody and Tim". Please come on out and support this important cause!

LOWELL GRANGE CHILI COOKOFF

March 21st

Let's celebrate with a chili and cornbread cook off — favorite recipe wins a prize!

There is no entry fee, but \$5 will let you try all the great entries and vote for the winner!

Entry deadline is March 15th.

For more information, contact Ruth George at 541-937-2078.

Thank you and we hope to see you there!



Line Dancing at the Grange!

Line Dance lessons will continue in February each Wednesday from February 4th through the 26th at the Grange from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person (ages 16 and up) to cover the rental fee. Info: Gary at 541-650-2917.



More Plays Coming to the Lowell Grange!
Want to help?

What: Informational Meeting for the Lowell Grange's Growing Theater Program

Where: Lowell Grange, 51 E. 2nd Street

When: Thursday, February 20th, 6:00 pm

Opportunities are available to help with future plays at the Grange. We are looking to expand our number and quality of productions...so we need your help!

We need actors, costumers, builders, musician, cooks, servers, publicists, and those who just want to help bring more arts to our Lowell community.



If you are interested in hearing more and possibly signing up, please attend our first meeting! You can also contact Lonna Bennett at 541-937-2312 to express your interest.

Texas Hold 'em Poker Tourneys

If you're looking for a fun time, come on down to the Lowell Grange and join your friends and neighbors every first Friday and third Saturday for Texas Hold 'em poker tourneys. This month the dates are February 7th and 15th. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. to buy your chips and the game begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. The Lowell Grange is located at 51 East Second Street in Lowell.



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

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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: February 2020

- 1—Cans/Bottle Drive, 10am until noon, HS parking lot
JH Wrestling Regionals at Pleasant Hill, 10:00 a.m.
Varsity Wrestling @ Cottage Grove, TBD
- 2—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 3—JH Boys Basketball @ Pleasant Hill, 4:30 p.m.
Library Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Osgood Library
- 4—Varsity Wrestling @ Glide, 6:00 p.m.
JVBoys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ East Linn, 4:30/6/7:30
**City Council Work Session/Special Mtg, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street**
- 5—JH Boys Basketball v. O'Hara, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity Wrestling @ Oakridge (w/Reedsport), 6:00 p.m.
Cannon Street Design Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Library
- 6—JV Boys/Varsity Girls Basketball @ Oakridge, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
- 7—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 8—JH Wrestling Districts at Creswell, 10:00 a.m.
JVBoys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Monroe, 4:30/6/7:30
Planning Commission Mtg; 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
- 10—JH Boys Basketball @ Pleasant Hill, 4:30 p.m.
- 12—JH Boys Basketball v. Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.
- 11—JVBoys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball @ Regis, 4:30/6/7:30
Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Osgood Library
- 14—JVBoys/Varsity Girls/Boys Basketball v. Oakland, 4:30/6/7:30
Varsity Wrestling Districts @ Glide, TBD
- 15—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 17—**President's Day; No School, City Hall closed**
- 18—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library**
- 20—Theater Program Meeting, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 19—JH Boys Basketball @ Fern Ridge (Elmira), 4:30 p.m.
- 24—JH Boys Basketball @ Lincoln MS, 4:30 p.m.
School Board Meeting, Lundy PDC, 7:00 p.m.
- 27/28/29—Drama Presentation, 7:00 p.m., LHS Gym
- 28—Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
- 28/29—State Varsity Wrestling in Portland, TBD
- 29—Green Waste Facility Open 10 am—Noon, 240 S. Moss Street

Lowell High School Drama Presents...

**Event: "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"
a two-act Comedy by Don Zolidis**

Date: Thurs., Fri. and Sat., Feb. 27, 28 & 29th

Where: LHS Gymnasium

**Donations will be accepted to support the
development of the LHS Drama Program.**