



The Bridge

Making community connections

FALL CREEK RESERVOIR TO REMAIN LOW THROUGH MOST OF WINTER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that Fall Creek Reservoir will remain at lower-than-normal winter pool levels as late as January 31, 2021, in order for contractors to complete the Fish Horn Lining Project carried over from last year.

The water will be maintained around 710 feet above sea level to avoid water leaking into the pipes while they are working. Normal minimum pool is 728 feet.

During the drawdown, the Corps warns reservoir visitors to avoid walking in the lower exposed areas of the lake-bed to keep from getting stuck in the soft mud. In order to keep the public safe and to prevent potential damage to the Fall Creek Dam facility, the reservoir is closed to all watercraft during the drawdown.

The Corps also reminds visitors that collecting resources of any kind (including rocks) is prohibited in and around the reservoir (Title 36, CFR 327.14). In order to protect cultural and historical resources, visitors may not excavate, remove, damage, disturb or collect any archaeological artifacts on federal lands (16 USC 470aa-mm.) These activities may result in serious penalties including property forfeiture, fines up to \$100,000, and five-year imprisonment. If you observe or suspect unlawful activities, report this information to the Corps at 541-349-3013. For other questions related to Corps operations or facilities, call the Portland District Public Affairs Office at 503-808-4510.

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 6

December 2020

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US Army Corps of Engineers



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

Lowell-Fall Creek Friends, Family and Community,

Generally this time of year brings us together to share all of the things that we are thankful for. While we have never before seen the magnitude of challenges, hardships and trials we have faced in 2020, we still have so much to be appreciative of.

I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to help enrich and educate children. I work with talented teachers and dedicated staff who amaze me and humble me in their devotion to our students. Each day, I watch our children grow and learn because of our ability to serve our students.

I am thankful for the students who light up our halls, grace us with their grins and enchant us with their laughter. When their faces light up upon learning a new fact or discovering the correct answer, the challenges of teaching all fade away. While some students may be sharing their achievements via screens, we continue to appreciate their amazing resiliency during this difficult time.

I am overflowing with gratitude for a community that comes together to support this small school district. Each and every day, you show up. From board members to volunteer coaches, you are here to help our students and staff succeed. The heart and resilience of this community is second to none. There is nowhere I would rather be than Lowell-Fall Creek.

I never thought that I would be thankful for sanitizer, masks, and social distancing, but here I am. While they may not be comfortable or convenient, these three things have allowed us to keep our school community healthy and participating in in-person learning while others have not. I would do just about anything to be able to do what we feel is best for our students. If that means wearing a mask and socially distancing, among other precautions, I will gladly do it!

I am thankful for an amazing food service program that manages to get food into the mouths of our smallest citizens. With no barriers because of enrollment, address or need, each and every child has food in their bellies. They will even have turkeys on the table.

Even the hardships can allow us to be thankful for our health, our homes and our loved ones. I encourage each of you to find something to be grateful for this season, because I am thankful for each and every one of you.

Please be kind, be safe and be healthy.

Johnie Matthews
Lowell School District Superintendent



Congratulations Seniors!

During College Application Week (CAW), 19 seniors applied to one or more colleges. College is loosely defined as two or four-year colleges, trade schools, the military, and apprenticeships.

The process still continues thanks to Karen Cardwell, Brian Beard, Cassie Day, Heather Woodhurst, Jill Chapman, and Kerry Anderson. This activity is sponsored by GEAR UP and Aspire to raise college and career readiness.



Congratulations Students of the Month!

This month's junior high student of the month is 8th grader **Kiahna Baszler** (pictured at left below). She lives in Fall Creek with her parents Stephanie and Brandon Baszler. Her hobbies are riding horses and quads, playing in the mud, and playing fetch with her dog. Kiahna's favorite subject is English, her favorite food is Little Caesar's pizza and her favorite sport is volleyball. Our high school student of the month is 11th grader **Faith Cabrera** of Dexter. She plays volleyball, basketball, and softball. At home Faith likes hanging out with her family, enjoying the outdoors, and keeping in touch with friends on social media. Her favorite subject in school is history.



Students of the month are nominated by school staff, then staff vote to determine who will be recognized. Criteria for nominations include: 1) Academic—is the student prepared, trying hard, making significant progress, working up to his/her potential, and have all work turned in? 2) Citizenship—is the student a positive role model, exhibiting good character, following school rules, respectful to peers and staff, arriving on time for classes, and putting forth positive effort? 3) Personal development—does the student engage in extra curricular activities, volunteer, making noted improvement in criteria areas 1 and 2 if they were previously lacking in those areas? 4) Grit—does the student keep trying and work hard even when the odds are not in his/her favor? Lowell School District is proud to recognize our wonderful students!



Elementary Students Brighten Veterans' Thanksgiving

Students from Mountain View Academy and Lundy Elementary decorated boxes, which will be filled with Thanksgiving meal essentials!

The Veteran Thanksgiving event, put on by Elk Horn Brewery and the Eugene Police Department, provide Thanksgiving meals to veterans in the Eugene/Springfield area. Students from both schools decorated boxes, which are delivered to veteran families the week of Thanksgiving.



Take Your Picture with Santa!

Santa's workshop will be transported to Stomping Grounds Coffee at 113 E. Main Street in downtown Lowell.

December 12th after the parade until 4:00 pm, and December 13th Noon to 4:00 pm

Bring your own camera and take as many photos as you want with Santa. Pets are welcome too!

Cost: \$10 for individual; \$15 for two; \$20 for three or more.

All proceeds benefit Lowell Football.



City Beat by Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

City Administrator Recruitment

The City Council held interviews for the City Administrator Position on November 17th. They interviewed three qualified candidates. Johnie Matthews, Lowell School Superintendent, Lon Dragt, Fire Chief, and Bill George, previous Mayor participated in the interview process. The Mayor and Council are in the process of reviewing all the information from the interviews and will be making a decision soon.

Coronavirus Update

As of November 23, there have been a total of 3,913 cases reported in Lane County. There are currently eight hospitalizations, five in ICU and 37 deaths. One of the recent deaths was a 30-year-old Eugene-Springfield man. The number of cases is up from 1,959 on October 15, 2020. The number of cases in Lane County is 102.5 per 10,000 (up from 51.7 a month ago). Cases in our zip code, 97452, had been listed in the 1-9 category, however there are 10 confirmed cases currently.

Governor Brown announced a statewide two-week freeze from November 18 to December 2. Oregon will be in a statewide two-week freeze to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19 across Oregon. It is possible the two weeks may be extended depending on the number of cases.

The new measures include:

- Limiting social get-togethers (indoors and outdoors) to no more than six people, total, from no more than two households.
- Limiting faith-based organizations to a maximum of 25 people indoors or 50 people outdoors.
- Limiting eating and drinking establishments to take-out and delivery only.
- Closing gyms and fitness organizations.
- Closing indoor recreational facilities, museums, indoor entertainment activities, and indoor pools and sports courts.
- Closing zoos, gardens, aquariums, outdoor entertainment activities, and outdoor pools.
- Limiting grocery stores and pharmacies to a maximum of 75% capacity and encouraging curbside pickup.
- Limiting retail stores and retail malls (indoor and outdoor) to a maximum of 75% capacity and encouraging curbside pickup.
- Closing venues (that host or facilitate indoor or outdoor events).
- Requiring all businesses to mandate work-from-home to the greatest extent possible and closing offices to the public.
- Prohibiting indoor visiting in long-term care facilities (outdoor visitation permitted for supporting quality of life).

In order to comply with the Governor's two-week freeze, City Hall will be closed to the public until the freeze is lifted. Staff are available by phone. Payments can be paid through xpress Bill Pay 24/7 at 866-785-8380 or they can be dropped off in the box at City Hall.

Lane Electric Board of Directors Vacancy

Lane Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is currently seeking applications for a vacant position on the Board of Directors, due to a current resignation. The Board will appoint a member to serve the remainder of the term of office, which expires after Lane Electric's 2021 Annual Meeting. Applications are currently being accepted from members interested in serving the remainder of the term. The member appointed will be eligible to seek election to a full three-year term when the current term expires. Members interested in being appointed should have a passion to serve their community and feel a civic responsibility to their neighbors. Primary duties include: set policy, budget approvals, review and consider contracts, and monitor the operations of the Cooperative. Applicants must reside in the Oakridge District, which includes Lowell and Fall Creek. Members interested in being considered should contact Lane Electric at 541-484-1151 for an application packet. Applications must be received at Lane Electric's office no later than December 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Holiday Covered Bridge Lighting

Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to have a Holiday Covered Bridge and Tree Lighting Event this year. 2020 has been a year of “not being able to have.....”. We will however have a covered bridge and tree that are decorated with lights for the holidays.

City Door Hangers

The City has received some calls and concerns about where staff are placing door hangers. City staff can only place the door hangers at entrances that they can access without going through closed gates. According to the City Code, the City shall provide Water Service Termination Notice to the customer by affixing such notice to the entrance with the closest proximity to the street of the dwelling or place of business receiving service.

Utility Assistance Program is Extended

In June the City Council adopted a rate relief program for water and sewer fees. The program was scheduled to end on December 30, 2020. On November 17th, the City Council approved an extension of the program to June 30, 2021. The program provides a 25% reduction in base water and sewer fees for customers having a household income less than 60% of the statewide median income.

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 November 17th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the use of the Non-Exclusive Towing Agreement as written.
- Approved a first reading of Ordinance 302 by Title Only—Planning Commission Membership and approved proceeding with the second reading at the next council meeting.
- Approved Resolution 755—Authorizing a Loan from the Special Public Works Fund to support the Main Street and Lakeview Avenue reconstruction project.
- Approved Change Order #5 for Main Street Construction in the amount of \$6,995.65.
- Approved Resolution 756—Utility Assistance Pilot Program.

Monthly Police Log (October 16 – November 15)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location	Date	Time	Call Type	Location
10/17	12:34 pm	Vehicle stop	E Main and Pioneer	11/03	10:41 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/19	5:27 pm	Fraud	500 Block N Hyland	11/03	11:11 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/20	1:35 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer	11/05	4:55 pm	Incomplete 911	30 Block N Pioneer
10/20	10:39 am	Theft	100 Block N Cannon	11/07	5:55 am	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/20	8:39 pm	Patrol	100 Block E 3 rd	11/08	5:14 am	Alarm	80 Block N Moss
10/24	5:08pm	Dispute	40 Block E Lakeview	11/08	6:49 am	Patrol required	80 Block N Moss
10/27	6:32 pm	Incomplete 911	3 Block N Alder	11/08	7:36 am	Hit and run	W Boundary and S Parker
10/28	12:12 am	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer	11/09	10:30 am	Patrol	300 Block N Moss
10/28	1:13 am	Welfare Check	100 Block N Pioneer	11/09	10:40 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/29	12:41 am	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer	11/09	11:00 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/29	12:42 pm	Info	400 Block E 1 st	11/10	12:04 am	Dispute	100 Block N Cannon
10/29	3:05 pm	Rec. Vehicle	300 Block E 1 st	11/10	1:34 am	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/29	4:25 pm	Dispute	100 Block N Pioneer	11/10	1:43 am	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/29	10:29 pm	Patrol	100 Block E 3 rd	11/10	4:28 pm	Info	100 Block S Pioneer
10/29	11:29 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer	11/12	1:33 am	Vehicle Stop	Orchard Park
10/30	4:24 pm	Repo	200 Block E Main	11/12	8:36 am	Burglary	N Moss
10/30	11:47 pm	Alarm	60 S Pioneer	11/13	4:12 pm	Dispute	80 Block Wetleau
10/31	12:42 am	Dispute	100 Block E 2 nd	11/15	10:57 pm	Dispute	50 Block S Pioneer
10/31	6:20 pm	Vehicle stop	W Main and S Moss	11/15	11:52 pm	Alarm	60 Block S Pioneer
10/31	9:21 pm	Dispute	100 Block E NorthShore				

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 emergency always dial 9-1-1.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Lon Dragt

Now Is the Time to Prepare For An Emergency

With winter on its way, now is the time to be thinking of preparing for winter emergencies. It's easy to forget about our winter storms, freezing, flooding, snow and wind that can make the winter months fairly uncomfortable. Are you ready?

Prepare an emergency kit for yourself and your family. Due to overwhelming need elsewhere or lack of access to your neighborhood, you may be on your own for several days after a major disaster. A well-stocked kit can help you survive and be more comfortable during a major event such as earthquake, flooding, power outages, etc. What will you need to survive for a week? Two weeks?

Emergency Supplies should be kept together in a container such as a sturdy plastic bin or plastic garbage can with wheels. For larger kits, you can stack bins or use two garbage cans. Rotate food, bottled water, and medications every year. Children's clothing may need to be replaced more frequently. Keep the items you might need immediately, like a flashlight or first aid kit, on top. Start with what you already have. If you're a camper or backpacker, you've got a head start. Your cook stove, tent, and other gear can double as emergency supplies. Think about what you literally can't survive without. Medications? Home oxygen? Powered medical equipment? Mobility aids?

Stock essential supplies for the long haul. Even if you can obtain food and water within 3-4 days, medications or medical supplies may be unavailable for a week or more. Consider one week's worth of essential medications and oxygen bottles as a minimum; two weeks worth is even better. Choose a cool, dark location for storage, such as a closet or "safety corner" in the garage.

If you live in an apartment or have limited space, be innovative. Other possible storage locations include under the bed, under stairways, or even in a large box or plastic tub that can be covered with a tablecloth and used as an end table. Being prepared is one more form of insurance.

For more information on disaster preparedness go to www.fema.gov or www.preporegon.org or contact the district office at 541-937-3393. Don't get caught unprepared.

Thank You Pine-Needlers

The District would like to thank the Pine Needlers group for their very generous donation of \$800. The donation will be used to purchase additional training and firefighting equipment for the district. It is amazing what they can do with needle and thread. The Board of Directors, Fire Chief and Volunteers would like to thank them for all their hard work and what they do for our community. We appreciate it very much.

Is Your Chimney Clean and Ready for Winter?

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Nationally, heating fires account for 36% of all residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District encourages everyone to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning.

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

Continued on page 7

In and Around Our Community

Lowell Food Pantry is Open to Serve!

The Pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, the Pantry is open for Bread Day from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The Pantry is located in the George Hake Center on Lakeview Street (behind the football field). Questions? Please call Shawn Brady at 541-912-1538.

Clothing Bank Open to Serve this Winter

The Clothing Bank will be open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays with hours from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Clothing donations are welcome on days that the clothing bank is open, or contact Brandy Stewart at 541-530-0123 or Stewartx6@fastmail.fm to make other arrangements. Access the Clothing Bank from South Moss then left on Lakeview Street, behind the football field.

Continued from page 6:

- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home when cleaning the fire-box.

Each year fire claims the lives of 3,500 Americans, injures 18,300, and causes billions of dollars worth of damage. People living in rural areas are more than twice as likely to die in a fire than those living in mid-sized cities or suburban areas. The neglect and misuse of wood stoves, portable space heaters and kerosene heaters are especially common risks in rural areas. Play it fire safe, and have your heating appliances regularly maintained and serviced. For more information contact the district office.

Storytime on Pause at Stomping Grounds

First I want to thank this community for supporting our business through Covid, wildfires, and months of road construction. We, like everyone, are anxious to be on the other side of this crazy year. That being said, Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop will be shifting to comply with the newest Covid mandates. [From November 18th through December 2nd](#) we will be take out only. In person storytime will be paused until we have the green light to continue. Students may still use our outside seating or sit in a vehicle to utilize the WiFi. We look forward to opening fully and welcoming our friends and neighbors back inside!

LOWELL COMMUNITY PRESENTS
THE 1st ANNUAL
Christmas
PARADE

COME CURBSIDE AND ENJOY THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

12 DEC
Starts at 1 PM

Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus with their Elves!
The parade will start at Lowell Industrial Park, located at Moss Street and Industrial Way, and end at Lowell High School North Parking Lot.

Masks and social distancing protocols will be in place.
If you would like to join the parade crew contact Shannon for registration information at 541-515-5675 or sfass321@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Come curbside and enjoy Lowell's 1st Annual Christmas Parade! You are sure to have a jolly time! The parade will be held on December 12th, at 1:00 p.m., rain or shine. The parade route will follow the same route as the Blackberry Jam Parade.

If you would like to have a float or entry into the parade, please contact Shannon at 541-515-5676 or sfass321@gmail.com or go to Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop for your float registration paperwork. Float registration paperwork must be completed and turned in by December 7th.

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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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: December 2020

- 1—Clothing Bank, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
Food Pantry, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview Street
Lowell City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m., 70 N. Pioneer
- 4—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 8—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Center, Lakeview St
- 9—**Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station**
- 14—**School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, PDC at Lundy Elem.**
- 15—Clothing Bank, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
Food Pantry, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview Street
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 16—Virtual Title Night, 6:00 p.m., Lundy Elementary
- 19—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 22—Food Pantry Bread Day, 10:00-noon, Hake Ctr, Lakeview St
- 24-25—**City Hall closed**
- 26—Green Waste Facility — closed
- December 18 through January 1—No School, Winter Break

Has Your Home Seen Better Days??



Call
Andy
Clay
today:
541-
743-
7128

*If you own or are buying your home & land, you
may qualify for a 3% interest (APR 1.149%),
no-monthly-payment loan with the help of
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.*

Income limits range from \$39,200 for a single person
household up to \$73,950 for a household of eight.