



The Bridge

Making community connections



Let's Jam! July 29th - 31st * Music * Food * Fun *

The Bridge

Volume 19, Issue 1

July 2016

The **22nd Annual Blackberry Jam Festival** kicks off on Friday, July 29th, at Rolling Rock Park in downtown Lowell. This all-volunteer community event has something for everyone. New this year is the **Inaugural BBJ Horseshoe Tournament** on Sunday from Noon until 5:00 p.m.

On Friday night come check out the vendors beginning at 5:00 p.m., then grab a plate of delicious food to sit down and enjoy the music of the **Pray Boys** at 6:00 p.m. followed by **Frown Squad** at 8:30 p.m.

We're pleased to continue some special events such as the **Springfield Police K9 Unit Demonstration** at 1:00 p.m. and **Lane Blood Center's** blood drive from 2:00-5:00 p.m., both on Saturday behind the main stage. We also welcome back the **Devils Dam Dash 5K** on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.

On both Saturday and Sunday, the **Fishing Derby** begins at daylight and from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, the Creswell RC Flyers will present their **3rd Annual Float Fly**, a radio controlled aviation event at the Lowell Marina. The **Quilt Show** begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday and runs through Sunday. Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets to win a beautiful quilt made by the local Pine Needlers group. Set your lawn chairs up around town for the ever popular **Parade** that begins at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. **Grand Marshals Suzanne & Mark Kintzley** will be recognized on the Main Stage at 12:45 p.m. The **8th Annual Car Jam** classic car show begins Saturday at noon on the high school football field.

Sunday's events in the Park include the 5K run, **Dr. Delusions Illusions** zany magic show for kids of all ages, followed by the **Pie Eating and Pie Baking** contests and the **Horseshoe Tournament**. In between all these events are many others including the **Kidz Korner**, **Greased Pole Climb**, **Coins in the Hay**, **Crawl Squirt and Drag Contest** and more!

Check out the full schedule at www.blackberryjamfestival.com
or call the Jam hotline at 866-516-5534

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT AWAITS NEWS ON LARGE STATE FACILITIES GRANT BOARD MAY CONSIDER BOND MEASURE

Background: With the School Board's final approval of the Master Plan at the end of April, the District has officially completed its Master Planning. The effort reviewed the current condition of its facilities and projected the needs for the next decade. As part of the work, gLAs Architects interviewed staff, students, community members and other facilities users. Public outreach included a series of Open Houses that took residents through Lundy Elementary and Lowell Middle/High School for a "show and tell" and discussion of the Master Plan findings and recommendations.

With the completion of the planning work, the District is now focused on how to address the long list of important safety, security, efficiency and accessibility improvements and repairs. Addressing the most critical, top priority items will cost \$8 million. By mid-July the Board hopes to learn whether it has received a \$4 million state matching grant for the work.

If we get that \$4 million match — and we think our chances are good — I will ask the School Board to refer a bond measure for \$4 million to take advantage of the grant funds," Superintendent Walt Hanline explains. "Combined with the state funds, plus the \$1.2 million we just received for seismic improvements, we'll be able to leverage our investment and get a tremendous amount of work done."

The Board would consider the request at a special meeting in July.

The grant funds from the state require an equal investment be funded locally. If the Board proceeds, in November residents would be asked to support the schools by agreeing to pay \$1.14 per \$1,000 of the assessed value of their home, each year. That rate translates to \$285 per year for a home assessed at \$250,000. Even with this increase, Lowell's local tax rate would remain among the lowest in the area.

If the \$4 million from the state is not received, the District will likely choose to postpone the request in hopes that the funds may be awarded later in the year. In that case, a bond measure is still likely, but not until 2017.

And if no state money comes through? "A lot of the work still needs to get done," says Hanline. "Many items are critical safety and security needs. We'll have to address what to do as a community if it comes to that."

All of the following are available on the District website at www.lowell.k12.or.us/facilities-planning/

- Fact Sheet with Top Priorities and Timelines
- Master Plan
- Open House Presentation: Spring 2016

Additional questions are welcome at the District Office at 541-937-2124 or whaline@lowell.k12.or.us.



Save the Date — October 22nd!

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Alumni & Friends Banquet Fundraiser and Hall of Fame Celebration

Tickets will be on sale soon.
2016 honorees are Bruce Coldren, Alvin Riggs and the Lowell School District Leadership Team.

Homecoming is Friday the 21st so be sure to come out and root for the home team!

More info: Vallie at 541-953-1577 or Maureen at 541-954-5765



Christopher Chapman Receives Lowell High School's Highest Honor

The Lowell Honor Blanket is an award bestowed at graduation to the senior who has demonstrated consistent excellence in academics, extra-curricular activities, leadership and citizenship during his/her four years at Lowell High School. This year's recipient of the Honor Blanket went to Christopher Chapman. Christopher has maintained a 4.0 GPA, participated in music, athletics and robotics, has served as an ASB leader and has participated in many volunteer activities in the community and out of the country. The Lowell High School staff and community congratulate Christopher on his fine achievements!

Lowell Music Finishes Year on High Note

Concluding its busiest year yet, Lowell Music produced some mighty achievements this spring. On May 13th, the High School Band competed at the OSAA State Championships, where they finished as the highest-rated public 1A band in the state! The high-schoolers followed this up with a sold-out Dinner Concert on May 22nd, raising \$2,500 towards their Spring Tour to Seattle and Victoria, BC. That four-day trip (June 2nd-5th) resulted in further accolades, as both the Band and Choir took home 1st Place in their respective categories for the Music in the Parks festival in Federal Way! All music students grades 6-12 then finished up the year with well-received local concerts on June 8th and 14th, and look forward to more great things in the years to come.



OSAA State Finals at OSU's LaSells Stewart Center



Lowell Music at Parliament in Victoria, BC

Volleyball Kids Camp — Summer 2016

The Lowell High School Volleyball Team will be hosting our annual kids' volleyball camp on the following dates:

- August 12th-14th, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Incoming 6th graders - 8th graders, girls and boys
- August 23rd-25th, 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.
Incoming 2nd graders - 5th graders, girls and boys

Please arrive a few minutes early on the first day to allow time for registration.

The cost is \$25 and includes a camp t-shirt for all kids. A camper of the day prize will be given out to one camper each day of the camp. *Pre-registration is not required, but if you would like to guarantee the availability of your youth's shirt size, you will need to pre-register.*

To pre-register or if you have any questions, email Coach Prenevost at kristen.prenevost@yahoo.com. Follow the Lowell Red Devils volleyball page on Facebook for on-going updates!

Summer Football Schedule 2016

June 20-August 4:
Weight room, Mon/Wed/Thurs, 6:00 p.m.

July 6th:
Passing at Home vs. Monroe, 6:00 p.m.

July 13th:
Passing at Monroe, 6:00 p.m.

July 20th and 27th to be determined

August 8, 9, 10 & 11:
Football camp for 8th grade and younger
5:00-6:30 p.m.
\$10 with t-shirt
High School football camp
6:00-7:30 p.m.
\$10 with shorts

August 15: Daily Doubles

For more information, contact Coach Todd at 541-221-5612.

FROM THE LOWELL FIRE DISTRICT

By Chief Keith Hoehn

Back Yard Burning Season Closed

Just a reminder that the back yard burn season closed June 15th. Outdoor burning of tree trimmings and yard debris is now prohibited. Recreational fires are still permitted as long as the fire is no larger than four square feet, with flames no higher than four feet in height. The fire must be built on bare ground (dirt), and away from combustible surroundings. The material being burned must be clean and dry, producing little to no smoke or embers. There must be a person in attendance at all times while the fire is active. For more information contact the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393 or the Oregon Department of Forestry at 541-726-3588. As the weather gets warmer and drier, all outdoor burning is likely to be prohibited, so stay informed and check the burning regulations often.



Protect Your Home From Wildfire – Use This Prevention Checklist

It looks like summer is here with temperatures rising quickly, so remember to prepare your home and property for the possibility of wildfire. Here is how you can prevent wildfire on or around your property. There are some fairly easy things you can do to help make your home and out-buildings safe from wildfire. Review this checklist to help make your home wildfire safe. For more information on wildfire prevention practices, go to the district website or visit our main station in Lowell.

- Is your address clearly visible from the road? If you need an address marker, the district can provide one. Contact the district office.
- Is your driveway/roadway clear of obstructions, can a fire engine or other emergency vehicles get to your home? Driveways/roadway surfaces need to be at least 12 feet wide and have at least 13 ½ feet height clearance so the emergency vehicles can get to your home. Curves must be of adequate dimension to allow for emergency vehicle clearance, and there must be room for vehicles to turn around.
- Remove limbs and branches that overhang your roof. Prune lower limbs to a height of 15 feet and thin trees or remove them from within 30 feet of your home.
- Keep your roof and gutters free of debris, leaves, needles, small branches and moss.
- Keep woodpiles, firewood and other combustibles at least 30 feet from your home and out buildings.
- Block off openings under your home and decks with solid sheeting or fine-mesh wire, 1/8th inch metal screen works best. Screen attic vents and louvers also.
- Use only fire resistive roofing on all buildings. Class A asphalt shingles, metal to tile.
- Develop an escape plan and an emergency action plan. If a wildfire occurs near your home, you should have a plan for evacuation that includes important personal items and escape routes. Build an emergency evacuation kit that you can easily take with you if you are asked to evacuate your property in an emergency.

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

Think Water Safety This Summer

In recent few weeks the district has participated in a number of water rescue incidents that included overturned rafters in the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, to boating accidents on our local lakes. We would like to remind everyone to be smart in and around water.

Whether at home or enjoying our local waterways, it is always important to keep safety in mind when in or near water. Drowning can happen at any time of year, but be especially cautious during the summer months when drowning incidents can increase by as much as 89% as compared to the rest of the year.

When the weather turns warm, as it is now, everyone naturally wants to be in or around the water to help stay cool. Hanging out at the pool or the lake on a hot day is a great way to beat the heat. For people between the ages of 5 and 24, drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death.

It doesn't have to be that way, though. Most water-related accidents could be avoided by knowing how to stay safe and following a few simple guidelines. Learning how to swim is essential if you plan on being on or near water. Many organizations provide swim instruction to folks of all ages, check to see what classes are available in our area.

Here are some Swim Smart Ideas

Alcohol and Water DO NOT MIX. Anytime you are on or near the water, stay sober. A leading cause of boating accidents is due to alcohol being on board. And I don't mean just on board the boat. Just like driving a car, drinking alcohol and driving a boat can cause disaster as well as land you in jail.

“Buddy up!” Always swim with a partner, every time — whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake. Even experienced swimmers can become tired or get muscle cramps, which might make it difficult to get out of the water. When people swim together, they can help each other or go for help in case of an emergency.

Get skilled and be prepared. Learning some life-saving skills, such as CPR and rescue techniques, can help you save a life. A number of organizations offer free classes for both beginning and experienced swimmers and boaters.

Know your limits. Swimming can be a lot of fun but if you're not a good swimmer or you're just learning to swim, don't go in water that's so deep you can't touch the bottom and don't try to keep up with skilled swimmers. That can be hard, especially when your friends are challenging you — but it's a pretty sure bet they'd rather have you safe and alive.

Swim in safe areas only. It's a good idea to swim only in places that are supervised by a lifeguard. No one can anticipate changing currents, sudden storms, or hidden underwater dangers. In the event that something does go wrong, lifeguards are trained in rescue techniques. Recognize that swimming in an open body of water (like a river, lake, or ocean) is a lot different than swimming in a pool. You need more energy to handle the currents and other changing conditions in the open water.



Some areas with extremely strong currents are off limits when it comes to swimming. Do your research so you know where not to swim, and pay attention to any warning signs posted in the area.

Contact the District office at 541-937-3393 or check our website at www.lowellfiredistrict.org for more information on water safety and boater safety.

Volunteer Firefighters Benefit from 4th of July Fireworks Display!

Please support your local firefighters by celebrating with them on Monday, July 4th. At the Dexter Recreation area there will be live music all day, Fireman's BBQ for \$7 and more! All proceeds from the Dexter side of the lake go to benefit the Dexter Volunteer Firefighters Association. Also at the Lowell Marina, Lowell Volunteer Firefighters will be collecting the \$10 per car entrance fee (\$2 for walk ins) for those wanting a close up view of the fireworks show put on by the Dexter Fire Volunteers. Proceeds for this event provide funds for the many community service projects the Volunteers do for our communities every year. Donations are greatly appreciated to help keep this show happening each year. For more information: please call Mike at 541-521-7282.



City of Lowell Monthly Police Log (May 25 – June 24)

- 5/25 12:04 A.M. | Vehicle Stop at North Cannon Street and East Second Street
- 5/31 04:31 P.M. | Dispute at 100 Block North Cannon Street
- 6/13 05:26 P.M. | Civil Enforcement at 500 Block North Moss Street
- 6/16 05:11 P.M. | Criminal Mischief at 100 Block West Fourth Street
- 6/18 06:24 P.M. | Dog Bite at 200 Block North Damon Street
- 6/18 05:45 P.M. | Vehicle Stop at East Main Street and North Cannon Street
- 6/19 12:11 P.M. | Harassment at 500 Block D Street
- 6/19 12:11 P.M. | Dispute at 500 Block D Street
- 6/20 07:13 P.M. | Dispute at 100 Block South Alder Street
- 6/20 09:24 P.M. | 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.

City Beat

New City Hall and Library Hours

The business hours for City Hall and the Library will change on August 1, 2016. Regular hours will be Monday through Friday from 9:00-1:00 and 2:00-5:30. Offices will be closed for the lunch period from 1:00-2:00.

The new hours are the result of a recently approved plan to reorganize work at City Hall. This plan includes leaving the Accounting Clerk position vacant, re-assigning routine accounting duties to the City Clerk, and contracting out the more complex duties to a Certified Public Accountant. Utility customers will also be able to view and pay their bills online. These changes will result in a higher level of service to the public and save the City of Lowell over \$15,000 per year.

Summer Bike Safety Tips

School is out for the summer, and that means more kids are on the roads with their bikes. We want kids and families to ride their bikes as much as possible. However, there are some safety tips to remember before riding:

- Wear a properly-fitted helmet. It's the law for children under age 16, and it's the best way to prevent head injuries. Properly-fitted helmets can reduce the risk of head injuries by at least 45 percent.
- Ride on the sidewalk or in a bike lane when you can. If not, ride in the same direction as traffic as far on the right-hand side as possible.
- Use hand signals and follow the rules of the road. Be predictable by making sure you ride in a straight line and don't swerve between cars.
- Wear bright colors and use lights, especially when riding at night and in the morning. Reflectors on your clothes and bike will help you be seen.
- Ride with your children. Stick together until you are comfortable that your kids are ready to ride on their own.

Lost and Found

Missing something? City staff routinely receives lost property from the general public and while cleaning facilities. We currently have several cellular phones, children's scooters, bicycles, and other miscellaneous items. If you think you may have left something behind, please visit City Hall to identify and claim your property.

Parks Clean Up

Join your neighbors and friends for our second parks clean up and help beautify Lowell from the ground up. The event will be held on July 16, from 10:00-12:00 at Rolling Rock Park. Volunteers are asked to wear work clothes and gloves to pull weeds, plant flowers, and spread mulch. Juice and snacks will be provided.

For more information, please contact Lowell 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 June 7th regular meeting:

- Approved Resolution 650, A Resolution Certifying Services; Resolution 651, Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for Fiscal Year 2016-17; Resolution 652, Adopting the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget and Imposing and Categorizing Tax; and, Resolution 653, Establishing Water and Sewer Rates.
 - Approved the restructuring of City Hall operations as proposed by CA and to keep Council informed of progress and any changes to the presented plan.
- Each resolution/action passed with Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood and Paulson in support; none opposed.

From the June 21st regular meeting:

- Approved Audit Engagement Letter from Emerald CPA Group; Law Enforcement Contract with City of Oakridge; Resolution 654, Extending Workers' Compensation to Volunteers; Resolution 655, Amending Personnel Policies and Procedures; Resolution 656, Employee Compensation Adjustments; and, Resolution 657, Amending PERS Contribution. Each resolution/action passed with Bennett, Burford, Harris, Osgood and Paulson in support; none opposed.

In and Around Our Community

East Valley Church Supports the Jam!

East Valley Church will be having a Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. at the stage in Rolling Rock Park on Sunday, the 31st.

Throughout the festival you can stop by the Dunk Tank to cool off and to sign up for their annual backpack giveaway. You can also sign up for their vacation bible school called Cave Quest. VBS runs from August 8-12, 8:45 a.m. to Noon at Lundy Elementary, 45 S. Moss Street for children ages 5-12.

For more information please call 541-937-3329.

Grange Events in July

- Breakfast on July 3rd
- Texas Hold 'em Poker on July 1st and 16th
- Bingo! on July 20th

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

Kidz Korner Volunteers Wanted!

The Blackberry Jam is seeking volunteers for the Kidz Korner game booths at the festival. Two-hour shifts are available from Noon-6:00 p.m. on Saturday the 30th and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday the 31st.

If you're ready to see lots of smiles, you will enjoy helping out with this event. To help or for more information, see Joyce at City Hall or call her at 541-937-5544. Thank you for your support!



Summer Reading Program Continues

Lowell Library's Summer Reading Program is held every Wednesday through August 3rd from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Interesting programs are scheduled each week. Come join the fun.

The Lowell Library is located in City Hall at 107 E. 3rd Street. Info: 541-937-2157.

Community Garage Sale to Help PTO Install Playground Equipment at Lundy!

In addition to all the bottle/can collecting on the first Saturday of each month, the Parent, Teacher Organization (PTO) is holding a Community Garage Sale event to raise money for the installation of playground equipment they helped purchase.

The sale will be held on **Saturday, July 9th** from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Vendors can purchase a 25 x 25 space for just \$5.00 at the high school parking lot. To reserve a spot, please call Aaron at 503-798-7519 or Jerry at 541-937-3121.

Clean out your closets and garages and make some money while you support this wonderful cause.



Home of Your Own *Update!*

If you've wanted a **Home of Your Own**, St, Vincent de Paul may be able to help!

We are partnering with Oregon Construction Guys, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) to start construction soon. This unique partnership is formed to create beautiful architecturally designed homes in the City of Lowell that are affordable to build and to own.



Your minimum estimated annual gross income needed is \$28,000, with the following limits:



Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Max. Income	\$31,000	\$35,400	\$39,850	\$44,250	\$47,800	\$51,350	\$54,900	\$58,450

What do you do next? Inquire with **Andy Clay** andy.clay@svdp.us or 541-501-0894.

The Bridge

Lowell School District #71
65 South Pioneer Street
Lowell, OR 97452

Phone 541 937-8405 Fax 541 937-8709
On the web: www.lowell.k12.or.us

Making community connections

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*The Bridge is a cooperative effort of Lowell School District #71,
City of Lowell and Lowell Rural Fire Protection District.*

Upcoming Meetings and Events: July 2016

- 1—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 2—Bottle/Can Drive, High School Parking Lot, 10am-Noon
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 4—4th of July Celebration, Dexter Recreation Area
- 5—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- 6—Summer Reading Program, Lowell Library, 10-11:30 a.m.
- 7—Parks Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., City Hall
- 9—Community Garage Sale, HS Parking Lot, 8am-2pm
- 10—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 12—Blackberry Jam Committee Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Lowell City Hall
Fire District Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lowell Station
- 13—Summer Reading Program, Lowell Library, 10-11:30 a.m.
Liisa's Puppet Show, Lowell Library, 3:30-4:15 p.m.
Economic Development Committee, 7:00 pm, Lowell Fire Hall
- 14—Kids Club, Fall Creek Event Center, 6:00 p.m.
- 16—Parks Cleanup Day, 10am-Noon, Rolling Rock Park
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m.
- 17—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 19—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., City Hall**
- 20—Summer Reading Program, Lowell Library, 10-11:30 a.m.
BINGO! at the Lowell Grange, 7:00 p.m.
- 22-24—Columbia Drag Boat Races, Lowell Marina
- 24—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area
- 26—Lowell Planning Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m. City Hall
- 27—Summer Reading Program, Lowell Library, 10-11:30 a.m.
Ben's Fables, Lowell Library, 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- 29—Senior Potluck Luncheon, Noon, Fall Creek Christian Church
- 31—Dexter Lake Farmers' Market, Noon-3 pm., Dexter Rec. Area

In August:

- 3—Summer Reading Program, Lowell Library, 10-11:30 a.m.



22nd Annual
Blackberry Jam
July 29 - 31

* Music * Food * Fun *

Something for everyone!