



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## Lowell Jr./Sr. High School Welcomes New Principal

The Bridge

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At their meeting on Monday, April 27th, the Lowell School District Board of Directors voted unanimously to hire Scott Yakovich as the new high school principal beginning July 1st.

Born and raised in Lacey, Washington, Scott received his teaching certification in Social Studies from Eastern Washington University in 1999. He earned his Masters degree in Education Administration from Concordia University in 2011. After teaching in a variety of assignments in Washington, Scott has lived in Eugene for the past 16 years and has been the high school principal at North Douglas School District for the last 13 years.

Over the years Scott has taught social studies, English, special education, math and physical education. He has also coached a lot of middle school and high school sports teams, which he enjoyed very much.

When asked what attracted him to this position, Scott explained that he had been hearing lots of good things about Lowell and the direction the District is heading. He's looking forward to being a productive member of the Lowell team to help continue that positive trend. Collaboration is an important strategy for educators, particularly in small districts, so



Scott will be encouraging staff members to continue to build connections with each other and outside the organization.

Scott and his wife, Renee McCullough (KEZI news anchor) have two high school age sons so they are very active in school activities and enjoy camping in their spare time.

Welcome to Lowell, Scott!

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

Dear Lowell / Fall Creek Families,

As we cross over to a new frontier, delivering distance learning to students until the end of the school year, I want to pause and recognize what happened this last couple of weeks. The Governor's physical closure of schools for the rest of the school year, which we fully support, was significant. Although we expected it at one level or another, I want to recognize that we are all feeling a combination of loss, fear and for some, relief.

The desire to educate our children, and to center our civic lives around them, is something deeply instinctive. Even those of us who are not teachers draw joy from passing on what we know to our children.

Early on, one-room schoolhouses formed the hub of emerging settlements, and we have long placed value on an education system that welcomes any child. In Oregon, our first public school opened in 1843. So even though we saw it coming, the physical closure of schools is uncommon and still a shock to all of us.

But now it is time for us to re-frame the rest of the year, which presents an opportunity for a broader sort of learning than what might have happened in a traditional classroom. Yes, it is digital and remote. But technology skills are vital for our children, and this next stage offers us all a chance to learn together. Already, I am hearing stories about parents learning from students, teachers learning from each other, and all sorts of combinations. All of it is learning. All of it is together – and that is valuable.

We are also discovering a resiliency we may not have known we had. Together, we have demonstrated flexibility and patience. When obstacles appeared, we worked together to remove – or at least move – them. In just four weeks, our community accomplished tasks we weren't certain could be completed. Specifically, we have provided meals, distributed technology, and shifted to distance learning for all. This is the intent of public service, and we are succeeding despite difficult circumstances.

We all know that resiliency is going to be necessary. Distance learning is challenging: the teaching part, the learning parts, and what my daughter calls the "pinwheel of doom" that signals a computer freeze. But together, with grace and patience, we can do it.

Our Lowell School District team is working tirelessly and remains here, ready to serve. We entered this field of public education to help, and in some ways, this is another opportunity. Our focus is on our community's children, and that includes helping our families navigate new paths that may be bumpy. Whether we can help with a technological tool, an alternative to that, a meal, or simply a kind word for your child, we are ready.

Our goal is shared: our students' success. Please join us as we find our way together.

Be well. Johnie Matthews, Lowell School District Superintendent



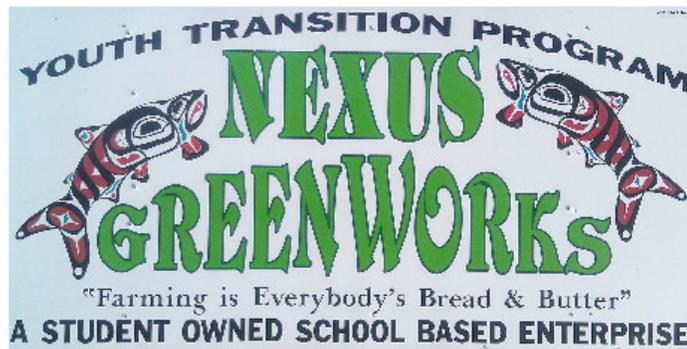
### Food Service Kicks in to High Gear

Beginning Friday, May 1st, Lowell Food Services will be adding weekend service of meals to families. Each Friday, families will receive a breakfast and lunch for Friday, Saturday and Sunday for each student.

Also, Supper service will be coming as soon as the paperwork is processed by the State.



Because the District's regular food service program has been idled due to the school closure, the only revenue Food Services currently receives is reimbursement for the meals that are being handed out. So, please families, help Billy keep his program strong by participating. Thank you!



**SPRING PLANT SALE  
OPEN HOUSE  
Friday & Saturday  
May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The Greenhouse is located  
behind the woodshop on Lakeview Avenue

**We have your garden starts!**

- tomatoes • peppers • broccoli • cauliflower • zucchini
- squash • lettuce • kale • onions • cucumbers
- blueberry plants, and so much more!

**We have flower baskets and succulents too!**

**Come early for the best selection.**

We are environmentally sensitive to our bee populations and use only organic soil and fertilizers.

*The Nexus Program is student owned and all proceeds from the sale are returned to school programs that continue to enhance lifelong learning to better understand the world around us.*

Nexus wishes to thank **Aurora Innovations** and **Roots Organics of Eugene** for their continued support of quality soil amendments and the dirt that makes things grow!! **Fall Creek Farm and Nursery** for their donation of the [world's best blueberries](#) and their support of the Lowell School District and it's Students!

## City Beat by City Administrator Jared Cobb

### **Applications Accepted for City Council Vacancy**

The Lowell City Council is now accepting applications for appointment to City Council Position 2. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us) or at Lowell City Hall, 107 East Third Street, Lowell, OR 97452 (due to COVID-19, please call ahead 541-937-2157).

Applicants must be a qualified elector within the meaning of the State Constitution and have resided in the City during the twelve months immediately preceding the selection. The person selected by the Council shall begin service immediately.

Citizens who serve their community as City Councilors receive no compensation and must be available for monthly meetings, typically in the evening, but occasionally during the day. The City Council currently meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Position 2 will be up for election on November 3, 2020. The current term expires December 31, 2020.

The position will remain open until filled. Applicant interviews will be held at the City Council meeting on June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Local State of Emergency Extended through May 19**

The Lowell City Council formally declared a local state of emergency for the City of Lowell on March 17 as a precautionary measure to provide the City with increased flexibility in terms of resources, purchasing, and emergency response options for the coronavirus (COVID-19). The original declaration was in effect through April 22. On Tuesday, April 21 the City Council extended the local state of emergency through May 19.

As a reminder, this is not a declaration of a public health emergency as that is not our role. The declaration enables the City and staff to be in the best position to serve the community where needed most. Specific actions taken include closing park restrooms; not issuing late penalties and shut-offs for non-payment of utility bills; canceling city sponsored events; and utilizing conference calls for public meetings.

For local updates and cancellations please visit the City website at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us) or follow us on Facebook [@CityofLowellOregon](https://www.facebook.com/CityofLowellOregon) or Instagram [@cityoflowelloregon](https://www.instagram.com/cityoflowelloregon).

For COVID-19 resources please see the following:

[Lane County Health Department](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus) – [www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus)

[Oregon Health Authority for statewide updates](http://www.oregon.gov/oha) – [www.oregon.gov/oha](http://www.oregon.gov/oha)

[Center for Disease Control for U.S. updates](http://www.cdc.gov) – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Lane County non-emergency call center 541-682-1380

### **Board and Committee Vacancies**

The City is accepting applications for the Budget Committee, Planning Commission, 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](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us). *Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.*

## Green Waste Site Open

As a reminder, the City maintains a green waste site at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (240 S. Moss St.) for the disposal of residential yard debris. The site is open the last Sat. of every month from 10:00–noon and by appointment Monday through Friday. However, due to the pandemic, City staff will be unable to help unload.

## 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 April 7th work session, the following topics were discussed:

- 2020 Strategic Plan
- FY 2019/20 Supplemental Budget
- FY 2020-21 Pay Scale
- Vacant City Council Position
- Update on COVID-19 State of Local Emergency

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

- Approved Resolution 734—Local Government Grant Application
- Approved Resolution 735—Land and Water Conservation Grant Application

Both actions were approved 4-0.

### At the April 7th regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the application for Crestview Subdivision based on recommendation of the Planning Commission on the standards, findings, conclusions and recommendation stated in the staff report
- Approved Resolution 736—Emergency Declaration
- Approved Resolution 737—2020 Strategic Plan
- Approved Resolution 738—FY 2019/20 Supplemental Budget
- Approved Resolution 739—FY 2020/21 Employee Pay Scale
- Approved moving forward with advertising the vacancy for City Council Position 2 and have first candidate review on Tuesday, June 2
- Approved Resolution 740—Budget Transfers

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## Monthly Police Log (March 28—April 27)

Date	Time	Call Type	Location
03/28/20	5:32 PM	Criminal Trespass	100 Block North Cannon Street
04/02/20	6:48 PM	Dispute	100 Block North Cannon Street
04/06/20	8:14 AM	Suspicious Conditions	300 Block East First Street
04/06/20	11:58 AM	Suspicious Conditions	100 Block East Third Street
04/09/20	4:21 AM	Mental Subject	400 Block East First Street
04/13/20	4:10 PM	Dispute	100 Block West Fourth Street
04/17/20	8:57 PM	Suspicious Conditions	North Moss Street and Seneca Street
04/18/20	10:59 AM	Dog at Large	East Second Street and North Moss Street
04/22/20	4:45 PM	Dog at Large	300 Block Marina Vista Drive
04/23/20	8:26 PM	Illegal Burn	100 Block East North Shore Drive
04/23/20	9:08 PM	Follow-Up	100 Block East North Shore Drive
04/24/20	10:09 PM	Illegal Fireworks	200 Block East Main Street
04/25/20	3:37 AM	Alarm	100 Block North Pioneer Street
04/25/20	7:23 PM	Harassment	300 Block East Main Street
04/26/20	1:20 PM	Theft	300 Block Marina Vista Drive

**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

### May Is Best Month to Help Prevent Summer Wildfires

Residents play a major role in protecting their lives and property. Your home ignition zone extends up to 100 feet – and it's quite common to have neighbors whose home ignition zone overlaps yours. Once a structure is engulfed in flames, it could ignite other structures located less than 100 feet away. In addition, many communities have commonly owned property, including natural or wooded areas that can pose fire risks to all. This means that to be most effective, neighbors need to work together and with their fire service partners to achieve greater wildfire safety. Together, community residents can work with fire agencies and elected officials to accomplish the following:

- » Ensure that homes and neighborhoods have legible/clearly marked street names and numbers
- » Know “two ways out” of the neighborhood for safe evacuation during a wildfire
- » Create phone and text trees to alert residents about local fires
- » Sign up for emergency notifications through Lane County “Alert Me” program
- » Talk to your Homeowner Association (HOA) to make sure you are in compliance with existing community rules or regulations on vegetation management and construction materials and if they are “Firewise-friendly”
- » Engage with the fire district officials on how they can work with you and your neighbors, and participate in the “Ready, Set, Go!” program
- » Participation in the Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program they can provide the community with a risk assessment and action plan that will help residents work together annually to make where they live a safer place.

Learn more about how to keep families safe and reduce homeowners' risk for wildfire damage at [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org). Free printed and audiovisual materials can be found on the Firewise website and ordered online through the Firewise catalog. Go to [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org) for more information, or contact the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393.



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

### Volunteer & See What You Can Achieve

Ever thought of becoming a Volunteer for the Fire District? Ever wanted to learn something new and a bit more exciting almost every day? Ever get bored with the same ol - same ol stuff every day? Have a little of extra time that you might want to contribute to an organization that can provide you with a number of different opportunities to give back to your community? Then maybe becoming a volunteer with the Lowell Rural Fire District might be just your ticket to personal fulfillment and growth.

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District provides emergency medical and fire response to 23 square miles of mostly rural land with homes, businesses and outdoor recreation areas.

The wide variety of protected lands within the district, require our Firefighters to be well trained in wildland fire fighting as well as structural firefighting and a number of different specialized rescue techniques. The variety of experiences made possible through our organization can provide a number of different opportunities for just about anyone who has some time, to contribute to the district.



For more information about programs offered by the Fire District, contact the district office at 541-937-3393 or visit our web page at [www.lowellfiredistrict.org](http://www.lowellfiredistrict.org), or stop by the station for a visit.

## In and Around Our Community

### **Enter to Win at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop!**

J&K Electric and Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop are giving away five free supply baskets a week through May 10th. The recipients of the baskets are chosen via a free weekly raffle at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop at 113 East Main Street. If you make any purchase at Stomping Grounds (there is no minimum purchase) you will receive either one raffle ticket to enter your own name, or two raffle tickets if you would like to enter another person's name.



If you are not interested in entering the raffle, you can still contact the coffee shop via Facebook and give us the name of someone you think could benefit from the basket. We have a list of names that we choose from when someone wants to pay it forward with their raffle tickets but does not have someone specifically in mind.

The baskets are loaded with cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, food, treats, and more!

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### **Corps Closes All Recreation Sites to Prevent Spread of COVID-19**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District has closed all recreation sites to prevent the spread of COVID-19, effective March 30. [This closure includes the Signal Point and Meridian boat ramps at Lookout Point Reservoir.](#)

The Corps will continually monitor guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic and update recreation conditions as they change. Stay up-to-date with Portland District by visiting [www.nwp.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil).

### **The Farmers Market and the Pandemic**

Lowell/Dexter Lake Farmers Market is planning for our fourth summer season in Lowell. However, the Covid-19 pandemic is affecting our plans.

On the 16th of March the governor of Oregon issued Executive Order 20-07: Food Service and Gathering, circulated by the Department of Agriculture, prohibiting on-site consumption of food and drink but allowing for take out food and other items. Farmers markets are exempt from closure with the condition that no food or drink is consumed on-site, physical distancing and hygienic measures are practiced, and no handling of products before buying them. Executive order 20-14 extends 20-07 indefinitely.

The City of Lowell declared a state of emergency on March 17 to give the city more flexibility in operations. Restrooms at City Parks have been closed and the City isn't issuing any special events permits.

As this issue of The Bridge goes to press, the Lowell City Council will be meeting to determine when and whether to allow the Farmers Market to operate under the required conditions this summer.

The Farmers Market can be an element of local food security. We want to offer our consignment booth and other appropriate vendors starting on Sunday, May 17. We will have a selection of vegetable and flower starts for your garden, as well as the early spring vegetables. We are hoping for some bakery goods and preserves.

The coronavirus is very contagious and although commonly mild, can be serious and even fatal. We are taking this situation seriously and are happy to work with guidance from the State of Oregon and the City of Lowell.

To find out ongoing plans for opening and operation, e-mail [toepkemclean@gmail.com](mailto:toepkemclean@gmail.com), or call 541-937-3034. If you have called us and not received a message back, please call again. We have received a couple of messages in which the phone numbers did not come through clearly.

Hope to be seeing you soon for SAFE SHOPPING at the Lowell/Dexter Lake Farmers Market this summer.

# 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

NON-PROFIT

ECRWSS

U.S. Postage Paid

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: May 2020

- 1—Texas Hold ‘em Poker — cancelled  
Spring Plant Sale, Greenhouse on Lakeview, 9:30am-2:00 pm
- 2—Cans/Bottle Drive — cancelled  
Spring Plant Sale, Greenhouse on Lakeview, 9:30am-2:00 pm
- 3—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
- 4—Lowell School District Budget Committee Mtg, 6:00 p.m.
- 5—**City Council Work Session, 7:00 p.m.,  
Maggie Osgood Library, 70 N. Pioneer Street**
- 8—**Fire District Budget/Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station**
- 11—**School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- 14—Planning Commission Meeting (State required public hearing);  
7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library; 70 N. Pioneer Street
- 19—**City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library**
- 25—**Memorial Day—City Hall closed**
- 29—Senior Potluck Luncheon — cancelled
- 30—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon

Coming in June:  
Still anyone’s guess...



**Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th**