



The Bridge

Making community connections

Welcome Interim City Administrator Marsha Miller

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 2

August 2020

Marsha Miller has agreed to perform the duties of Interim City Administrator effective August 3, 2020 and for the next six months. In addition, Marsha will be conducting the recruitment process for the search of a permanent City Administrator. Marsha performed the same duties in 2019 for Oakridge. Oakridge was incredibly pleased with her performance and their selection of a permanent City Administrator.

Marsha lives in Eugene and worked as the Director of Lane County Public Works. She supervised 300-500 employees and is familiar with the services we provide like water, wastewater, and parks. She has been responsible for road maintenance, engineering, building, and permit services. She is a great match for the needs of Lowell. She has a quiet, professional manner and our staff is looking forward to working with her.

Our engineer with Civil West will continue to oversee the road work on Main and Lakeview, and LCOG Planning will take the lead in dealing with the new residential developments.



We expect operations to run smoothly until the next City Administrator is in place. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at 541-937-2157 or visit our website at ci.lowell.or.us.

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What's this?? Our new gym looking good and almost ready for Lowell students!

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

Dear Lowell/Fall Creek Community,

We are going through unprecedented times. I think we all just want to get back to normal, but what is the new normal? We don't have the answer to that question yet, but the staff at Lowell are working hard to create the best new normal possible. On July 22, the Oregon Department of Education released their Healthy and Safe Schools Reopening Plan and the steps that we will need to follow to ensure the reopening of our district. Since then, Superintendents around the state have met to discuss what this reopening looks like for each of their districts as well as the hurdles that we all face. We were able to work together to gather ideas to take back to our own districts in order to create our plan. With this information, I will work with our principals and directors to ensure we have enough space, resources and staff to create our own re-opening plan. We are aiming for normal while also considering the safety of our staff and families. Our main goal has never wavered: to give our students the best education possible.

So what is the next step for Lowell? We need your input. Please be on the lookout for a survey asking what you would like to see in the upcoming school year. We need to know what our families need and what they envision as the new normal. We will take this input, the ever changing guidelines from the CDC, the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan for reopening from ODE, our staff input, and work to create a plan that meets the needs of our students and staff in the best way possible.

At this time, our goal is to start the school year, however that looks, on September 9. If we need to change this start date to accommodate our plans, we will let you know as soon as possible. We have to have our plan in place no later than August 15, but our goal is to make this happen before that date to give you and our staff as much time to prepare as we can.

We want to thank you, our community, for all of your patience and understanding up to this point. Creating this model of operation is on-going, ever changing and frustrating. We want to make a plan that fits each and every one of our students' and their family's needs. Our dedication to educational achievement and the success of every student remains steadfast.

Sincerely, Johnie Matthews, Superintendent

Lowell School District Registration Information

We would like to remind parents to call the elementary or high school office if you have not registered your child (or children) for school. We will be back to work in August and will call those that have not come in during our June registration events and work with them to have them come pick up/return their student packet or fill out a new one if you have recently moved into the district. Please phone Colette at Lundy Elementary 541-937-2105, or Cindy at the Jr/Sr High School 541-937-2124.

OSAA Meeting to Discuss Sports for 2020-21

The OSAA Executive Board met in a closed work session July 20-22 to discuss the latest updates on the Coronavirus pandemic as it relates to OSAA member schools and the upcoming school year. The Board had lengthy discussions about several topics related to school reopening and school sports and activities. The OSAA Executive Board and staff share the passion and desire expressed by this communication and have been advocating with the Governor's Office accordingly. Just as schools will not look the same in the Fall of 2020, it's clear that school sports and activities will not either. It's important to remember that any participation that can be done safely is a positive step forward for the physical health and mental well-being of students and their communities.

For the latest OSAA information regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, please visit: <http://www.osaa.org/coronavirus>.

Continued on page 3...

GEAR UP Works with USDOE to Provide \$50,000 Funding to Lowell Jr./Sr. High

by Jeanie May, GEAR UP coordinator



In a recent surprise announcement, Oregon GEAR UP Director Stephanie Carnahan shared that the US Dept. of Education has authorized an additional \$50,000 to Lowell Jr/Sr High School. According to USDOE these additional funds can be spent on materials and services that have arisen as a result of COVID-19.

Lowell will be able to use the funds on materials, supplies, and labor within the following categories:

- Devices to promote remote learning including mobile hotspots, data plans and devices for students
- Items necessary for participation including cleaning supplies, face coverings, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Technology carts or other items to enable teachers to move from classroom to classroom
- Technology to allow teachers to provide remote instruction where necessary
- School supplies for students
- Relevant professional development

"We are very grateful to receive the additional \$50,000 from GEAR UP. The money will be used to ensure that we are providing the students at Lowell Jr/Sr High School the best education possible," said Principal Scott Yakovich. Yakovich has had past experience with GEAR UP at his former school, North Douglas.

Seven years ago, the Lowell School District applied for the GEAR UP Grant. Former Principal Kay Graham wrote the grant and since that time, Lowell Jr/Sr High has received \$280,000 with the district matching those funds each year to promote careers and college choices. The 2020-2021 school year is the last year for the GEAR UP grant. The school will receive \$90,000 in the coming school year to prepare and help our students find educational success in this difficult time working through COVID-19.

This grant has provided students with the opportunity to explore career and college choices and assist those students and parents to find ways to finance their post-high school choices. One amazing thing about the additional \$50,000 is the district will not need to match funds.

"Working with Aspire Coordinator Karen Cardwell and her team, GEAR UP has made a positive difference in the lives of our students, so thank you to the GEAR UP team which includes all teachers and staff, Debi McNamara in the business office, and Ms. Graham," said Jeanie May, GU coordinator.

OSAA — continued from page 2

Fall Sports First Contest Date

With the uncertainty of school reopening plans in many parts of the state and the timeframe related to those decisions, the OSAA Executive Board has decided to delay the first contest date for Cross Country, Volleyball and Soccer until Wednesday, September 23 (previously August 27). The original first Fall practice date of August 17 remains in place at this time. New guidance from the state requiring face coverings even when exercising indoors will require further consideration regarding guidance for indoor activities.

Additional guidance for Fall contest protocols, including multi-team events, spectator policies, and regional scheduling considerations, will be forthcoming. The OSAA Executive Board understands that if Fall end dates are not extended then contest limitations, playoff structures, and championship events will need to be altered.

Football is considered a full contact activity per the Governor's and OHA guidelines and is currently prohibited. No definitive date has been established by the state for a review of this prohibition. Based on strategies provided by the OSAA Football Contingency Group it is necessary that any Football restrictions be lifted by September 28 in order to have a modified regular season this Fall that would include some type of restructured postseason.

If Fall activities aren't able to be held in the Fall, the OSAA Executive Board is committed to working with its contingency groups to exhaust all options for these activities including shifting, condensing, or stacking seasons, like our neighbors in Washington and California, with the fundamental objective of providing participation opportunities for students. These changes may ultimately force schools into choosing which programs they will offer and students into choosing between activities, but the Board believes that a potentially difficult choice is better than no choice.

City Beat

Thank You Jared Cobb by Mayor Don Bennett

Lowell City Administrator Jared Cobb will be leaving the end of July. Jared's proactive leadership style developed a roadmap for Lowell's future. Before Jared, Lowell had no plans. Jared arrived and began working with City Departments, Committees, and the community at large. Jared brought people together, listened to differing viewpoints, and began formulating plans. He always emphasized these were not his plans, but the community's plans. Now, Lowell has a Downtown Master Plan, a Parks/Recreation Master Plan, library building and land for a future City Hall, expanded park acreage, and a new accounting system. His list of achievements includes much, much more. Initially, Lowell had two immediate concerns. Financial reports lacked accuracy. Monies were deposited into and drawn out of wrong accounts. Payments were missed or wrong amounts paid. Money was held off book. A forensic audit was done to confirm all monies were accounted for, but that did not solve the improper accounting practices. Jared spent his first two years creating a new bookkeeping and accounting process.

Secondly, the City Hall building had structural issues. The roof leaked and there was a fear of it collapsing after the snow disaster. Repair costs exceeded the value of the building. Jared sought arbitration and money was awarded to help purchase a new library building and land for a future City Hall.

Jared Cobb was the right person at the right time for Lowell. He kept his plate full and it was a delight to watch him take on the many challenges. He is going to Mary Esther, Florida to do for them what he did for Lowell. I wish him the greatest of successes and have immensely enjoyed working with and knowing him.

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 July 7 work session, the following topics were discussed:

- Recruitment of Interim City Administrator
- Downtown Paving and Utility Improvements Loan
- ODOT Code Assistance Agreement
- Surplus Property at 8 North Hyland Lane
- Financing for Acquisition of 205 and 298 East Main Street properties

At the July 7 special meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation
- 8 North Hyland Lane surplus property—approved tabling the item until the next council meeting
- 205 and 298 East Main Street property financing—agreed to solicit additional quotes and pursue a 24-month interest only loan
- Appointed the Mayor and Council President to negotiate a contract with Marsha Miller to be Interim City Administrator
- Approved selecting Shawn Watson to negotiate and facilitate the real estate transaction in coordination with the City Administrator for the 205 and 298 East Main Street and 8 North Hyland Lane properties

Motions were approved 5:0.

At the July 21 regular meeting, the following actions were taken:

- Approved a Temporary Employment Agreement with Marsha Miller
- Approved the 2020-21 Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with the City of Oakridge (passed 4:1, Councilor Stratis opposed)
- Approved Resolution 748—A Resolution to Authorize a Change of Signatories for the City of Lowell General Account with Banner Bank
- Approved Resolution 749—A Resolution Transferring Funds
- Approved Resolution 750—A Resolution Declaring a Local State of Emergency, also amended to remove the words "Through August 18, 2020"

Except as noted above, motions were passed 5:0.

16th Annual Quilt Show

Although the Blackberry Jam Festival was cancelled for this year, the Pine Needler Quilters implemented a creative way to allow the show to go on — the world’s first drive-through quilt show!



The route was set up in the parking lot of the Maggie Osgood Library. Drivers were greeted by the very friendly Teri Harter who made sure everyone was welcome. It was a beautiful, although windy, day bringing over 75 cars to the show.

Drivers then stopped at the raffle table to purchase tickets for four different fun-filled gift baskets. Handmade face coverings were also available.



Bridge Town Market and Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop donated products to the Italian and Coffee Baskets. The basket winners were as follows:

- Coffee Basket: Donna McCallum (pictured at left)
- Italian Basket: Gail Tatum
- Bicycle Basket: Nate Anderson
- Gardening Basket: Ann Conklin

Raffle tickets are still available for the 2020/2021 quilt made by the Pine Needlers, pictured at right. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the show!





St. Vincent de Paul
Society of Lane County, Inc.

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$39,200
2	\$44,800
3	\$50,400
4	\$56,000
5	\$60,500
6	\$65,000
7	\$69,450
8	\$73,950

Call Christina 541-743-7165
Or, complete the RHRP Needs
Assessment form on the
RHRP page at

<http://www.svdp.us/>



Equal Housing Lender

2890 Chad Drive
PO Box 24608
Eugene, OR 97402
Phone: 541-687-5820
Fax: 541-683-9423
E-mail

andy.clay@svdp.us
christina.spencer@svdp.us

RHRP – Rural Housing Rehabilitation Program

Assisting Homeowners with Health and Safety Repairs



The Goals are:

- To alleviate health and safety problems and correct structural deficiencies in homes.
- To conserve and improve existing low income housing stock.
- To increase housing opportunities for low and moderate income households.
- To enable lower income residents to remain in their homes.

In and Around Our Community

Free Storytime at Stomping Grounds Coffee

Kids of all ages are welcome for free storytime at Stomping Grounds Coffee Shop every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. We are taking social distancing measures so that our young friends can come read with us.



Summer Hours for Clothing Bank

Summer hours are Noon until 3:00 p.m., first and third Tuesdays. One bag of clothing per person please.



Farmers Market Report

So far this season we have completed eleven Sunday Markets. As the manager of the consignment booth, I would like to say that my favorite thing so far this year has been seeing so many of you come to do your shopping. Thanks for supporting the market! Please bring your friends and family, and for those with extra garden products, consider selling in consignment.

We have been proud of our produce this year. The strawberries and blueberries are delicious and colorful. Our two local farms, Circle H and Edens Garden, offer a variety of local products in season.

The hot dog stand these past few weeks has been great. We all love the varied offerings of The Slingshot Weiner, who came all the way from Blue River to cook for us. Unfortunately, the receipts from their sales were borderline for covering expenses, then last Sunday's sales were way down. I am sorry to announce that they have taken an offer from a previous venue which has opened back up for them so we will no longer have The Slingshot Weiner at the market. We are hoping there will soon be another source for Sunday lunch at the park in Lowell!



Late breaking news regarding reopening schools in Oregon:

Moving forward given that the current rate of new cases across Oregon is much higher than countries that have successfully reopened schools to in-person instruction, case rates will need to be lower to reduce the potential for spread of COVID-19 into school communities. To successfully reopen schools in Oregon, there are three levels of metrics:

1. The first set of metrics represents the level of disease circulation that would be required for return to in-person instruction, with limited exceptions. Schools would need to begin transition planning as case rates and test positivity declines in counties in order to prepare the school community for the potential upcoming change.
2. The second set of metrics refers to indicators of increased COVID-19 spread in the community that would indicate the need to plan for transition back to comprehensive distance learning.
3. The third set of metrics indicate disease spread in the community that would prompt initiation of Comprehensive Distance Learning with limited exceptions.

At this point in time, if a school district has enough room to safely distance students in the classroom, all students 10 years old and under will be allowed to participate in onsite, in person instruction. Lowell School District does have enough room to accommodate these students, so students through 3rd grade are cleared for in-person instruction in the Lowell School District.

As additional information about transmission and effective treatments of COVID-19 becomes available, these metrics may be altered. These metrics will be reexamined, and reaffirmed or updated on the same schedule as the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance. Stay tuned...

The Bridge

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Lowell, OR 97452

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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: August 2020

- 2—Breakfast at the Lowell Grange — cancelled
Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 4—Clothing Bank, Noon-3:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
**City Council Work Session/Special Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
Maggie Osgood Library and online**
- 5—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 7—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 9—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 12—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
Fire District Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Lowell Station
- 15—Texas Hold ‘em Poker, 6:00 p.m., Lowell Grange
- 16—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 18—Clothing Bank, Noon-3:00 p.m., Hake Center on Lakeview St.
City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Maggie Osgood Library
- 19—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 23—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park
- 26—Free Storytime, 1:00 p.m., Stomping Grounds Coffee
- 29—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon
- 30—Farmers Market, Noon-4:00 p.m., Rolling Rock Park

National Relaxation Day Saturday, August 15th



National Relaxation Day encourages everyone to slow down and unwind. It's a day to focus on taking care of yourselves and take a moment to relax.