



# The Bridge

Making community connections

## Lowell School Board Election Tuesday, May 18, 2021

The Bridge

Volume 23, Issue 11

May 2021

One of the greatest assets a district possesses is its School Board. Lowell School District Board Members are dedicated individuals who selflessly and tirelessly serve this District. They are exceptional people. On May 18, voters will be asked to choose who will continue this legacy for the District.

This year, the Lowell School Board has three open positions up for election. The three board members currently holding those positions are Joyce Donnell, Michael J. Galvin and Jim Chapman. After very esteemed service to the Lowell School District, Ms. Donnell has decided not to pursue re-election. Seeking election to her previously held Director Position #2, and running unopposed, is Jason Prenevost. In Director Position #3 is incumbent Michael J. Galvin, who is also running unopposed. Jim Chapman, incumbent, is vying for Director Position #4 versus Jerry Valencia.

Ballots will be mailed out starting on April 28. To help constituents to better know our candidates, we have asked them to tell us a little about why they want to be on the Lowell School Board, their involvement in the District, and what makes them different than other candidates.

Each candidate responded to three questions:

1. What is your main purpose for running for the Lowell School Board?
2. In what school district activities/organizations have you been involved?
3. What differentiates you from the other candidates?

Their answers are included on pages 2 and 7.

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

## School Board Candidate Responses

### Position 4: Incumbent Jim Chapman and challenger Jerry Valencia

#### Jim Chapman's responses:

1. I am running for the Lowell School Board because I am a supporter of the Lowell School District. My purpose is to do whatever I can to make sure Lowell Schools are excellent in: maintaining and improving facilities including safety, in hiring and keeping the very best staff; teaching traditional curriculum; maintaining fiscal responsibility; continuing the amazing extracurricular programs (especially music and athletics); and, promoting positive, open communications among all involved. I will listen with an open mind to your concerns and questions.
2. I began teaching music at Lowell in 1976 and moved here in 1978. In addition to teaching music, I trained the bus drivers, drove bus as a sub, served on negotiation teams, and was even a brief cheerleader advisor. After retirement I have served on the Lowell School Board for eight years to add my support for the schools. I also spent several years recycling newspapers and giving the proceeds to the current excellent music department. I have been involved for 43 years as a parent and grandparent of our family attending Lowell.
3. One question I have been asked: do I support school choice? Yes. Carol and I were on a committee in 1974 that planned and implemented the first charter school in Eugene. When MVA asked to become affiliated with the District, I was the only board member to oppose. I was concerned that the competition would damage the Lowell schools. Since then it has not proven to be true. I am pleased that we offer three choices for parents and it has benefitted the District financially and in parent choice. I am a long time proven supporter of Lowell Schools and would be proud to represent you.

#### Jerry Valencia's responses:

1. Our district is extraordinary in that we have a public school, a charter school and a home school academy. These options keep Lowell competitive, brought new families to our community, and created opportunities for students to be successful in the Lowell School District. The Lowell School District has done a great job creating educational options for families. I am running for the Lowell School Board because I want to continue our collaborative relationship for the betterment of all Lowell students and to make sure we are preparing students for the next phase of their life.
2. I have been involved in the Lowell School District for 20+ years; three of my children were part of the District. Athletics changed the direction of my life and I was able to earn a wrestling scholarship to the University of Oregon. I have volunteered with the wrestling team and announced at football games. I also served on Lowell's Capital Improvement Plan committee, was a business mentor with RAIN, helped implement Lowell's Cool Schools grant, and have worked with Senators and Representatives on behalf of small schools. My company, Bridgeway Contracting, was involved in the remodel of Lundy Elementary.
3. I believe in hard work, being proactive, and I know that it's never too late to make a difference. I want each Lowell graduate to know there are multiple paths to success and whether they choose a trade, college, or military, the foundation they are building in our school district will set them up for success. I currently serve on the Order of the O Board for the University of Oregon, where I increased revenue and shined a spotlight on women's athletics. Finally, as a business owner, I strive to be proactive and develop solutions before problems occur.

### Position 2: Jason Prenevost (unopposed)

1. My main purpose is to facilitate the District's efforts and to continue moving in a positive direction. More specifically, I aim to provide resources to make Lowell stand out among other local school districts with our exceptional and diverse facilities and programs.
2. I am a member of the Budget Committee and Bond Improvement Planning Committee. I have also volunteered as a coach in wrestling, football, and track. I have been through the District as a student and parent, and I will continue to support the District as my first grandchild joins Mountain View Academy this Fall.
3. Along with incumbent candidate Mr. Jim Chapman and current board member Mrs. Dionne Plahn, I have a multigenerational investment in the community that I hope to extend to the future, keeping Lowell families in Lowell Schools. I am committed to a continual investment in our community and a maximization of our local resources.

## Lowell Volleyball All-League Awards

The Lowell Volleyball Team had a very successful season and finished in first place in the Central Valley League. They came in second in the all-league tournament after a hard fought battle. All-league awards went to:

Lucy Plahn—1st team and Central Valley League Player of the Year; Lydia Plahn—1st team; Annabelle Pickett—2nd team Libero; Alexis Curry and Esperanza Guzman-Fields—honorable mention; and, Kristen Prenevost—Central Valley League Coach of the Year!

Coach Kristen wrapped it up this way, “The team is one of the youngest, if not the youngest, in the league. They played with amazing grit during a very unusual season. We are looking forward to a bright future for this group!”



## Football All-League Awards

All-league awards for 2A Special District 3 are as follows: 1st team honors went to Nicky Sotomayor for O-line and Linebacker, Deacon Savio for Wide Receiver; 2nd team honors went to Jesse Neet for Halfback and Kicker, Austin Smith for Running Back, Trenton Estes for D-line, and Jaden Jalof for Defensive Back; and, honorable mention went to Andrew Bardis for Center.

## Lowell Cross Country Season Wrap-up

What a perfect way to end the 2021 cross country season! Katie and Preston competed at the State Championship Meet held in Lebanon. Preston had an incredible run in the boys' 2A/1A race to finish his freshman season and Katie finished 8th overall in the girls' 3A/2A/1A race. We are so proud of these two and their teammates. They made the best of this short season and all finished strong!



## Alumni Update: Anna Cardwell Earns Academic Honors

The Cascade Collegiate Conference announced the student-athletes who earned U.S. Bank Academic All-Conference honors, which included Lowell graduate Anna Cardwell, a senior majoring in Teacher Education and competing in Softball at Bushnell University. Congratulations Anna!

If you have an update on a Lowell graduate, please email the information to [bridge@lowell.k12.or.us](mailto:bridge@lowell.k12.or.us).

## Students of the Month



**Nicholas Sotomayor** is a senior at Lowell and the son of Steve and Julie Sotomayor. Nicky enjoys sports, music and being outdoors. He's a three-sport athlete, playing basketball, football and baseball. He enjoys playing trombone in the band and also sings in the choir, yet he really enjoys the quiet of the outdoors. Nicky's favorite subject is music but enjoys a lot of the classes and has a new appreciation for them after being in online school.

**Emma Cobiskey** is an 8th grader and the daughter of Alanna Wolf and KC Cobiskey. Emma's hobbies are drawing, painting, swimming and hanging out with friends. Her favorite food is Yumm Bowls because there's avocado in it. She enjoys science class the most because everything is so interesting. She also plays alto sax in band.



**Congratulations Nicky and Emma on being selected as Students of the Month!**

## City Beat by City Administrator Jeremy Caudle

### New Internet Provider Coming to Town—Ordinance Notification

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Lowell may consider a First Reading of Ordinance 303 at its meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 pm.

Ordinance 303 is “An Ordinance Granting Douglas Services, Inc., Locally Known As Douglas Fast Net (Dfn), A Non-Exclusive Franchise For The Construction, Operation, And Maintenance Of A Fiber Optics Telecommunications System.”

A copy of the ordinance may be obtained at City Hall, 107 East Third Street, Lowell, OR 97452 or online at [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us).

In response to the current health emergency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are being held electronically. The May 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting will be available for viewing and public participation via video conference through the City’s scheduled Zoom meeting. Instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting are located at: [www.ci.lowell.or.us](http://www.ci.lowell.or.us) or via phone message to (541) 937-2157.

### Lowell Community Spring Share

A community spring share will take place at Rolling Rock Park on Saturday, May 1 from 11 am to 4 pm. Free potting soil will be available.

Community members are encouraged to share flowers, plants, seeds, and other gardening materials at the event.

### From the Mayor’s Desk by Mayor Don Bennett

The City Administrator has started to work on the upcoming 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. The process involves estimating incoming revenues and then allocating money to cover normal day-to-day operations, plus any new projects. Every dollar received is designated for a specific use and held until needed. In a household budget, continuous decisions are made on where and how money is spent. Governmental budgets are much more restrictive.

Our budget has three major funds: General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund, with several smaller funds. Each fund has a breakdown for: Revenue Income, Personnel Expenses (payroll, insurances, taxes, retirement) and Material and Service Expenses (repairs, engineering, chemicals, lab tests, electric).

The General Fund receives most of its revenue from taxes and fees collected by agencies outside of Lowell. Property taxes and Oregon liquor taxes are two examples of these external sources. This money is used to support all the daily activities for parks, public safety, community development, library, code enforcement, municipal court, and streets functions.

Lastly, Lowell operates two business-like activities that generate revenues by selling water and sewer services. Money collected from monthly utility bills are separated and applied for use by either the Water Fund or Sewer Fund. These two funds have their own itemized Personnel Expenses and Material and Service Expenses. For example, in March the Council approved \$26,923 for the purchase of 100 new water meters. These meters will be used for new construction and to replace aging meters. The invoiced cost of the meters will be deducted from the Water Fund’s Material and Service Expenses, and the man-hours needed to install the meters will be deducted from Personnel Expenses.

Detailing how money is received and spent is a challenging but necessary process for City Hall to ensure transparency in the handling of your money. Hopefully, this explanation offers some understanding into the City’s financial activities.

## Lowell Community Spring Share

May 1, 2021 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m. | Rolling Rock Park



Come join your friends and neighbors!

Bring any flowers, plants or seeds you would like to share and take home what others have to share.

Potting soil will be available so bring your pots and get your hands dirty.

Social Distancing and Mask are required.

Make a May Day basket with Salina from Floral Living!

Sponsored by Pleasant Hill Banner Bank  
Let's create tomorrow, together.

Pleasant Hill  
35867 Hwy 58  
541-726-7211



### City Council, Planning Commission, and Committee Actions:

At its April 6<sup>th</sup> work session, City Council worked on the following items:

Received a presentation from Andy Vobora, VP of Stakeholder Relations with Travel Lane County; received a presentation from Becky Taylor, Senior Transportation with Lane County Public Works, regarding the Safe Routes to School project; reviewed proposed Ordinance #303, “An ordinance granting Douglas Services, Inc., locally known as Douglas Fast Net (DFET), a non-exclusive franchise for the construction, operations, and maintenance of a fiber optics telecommunications system”, reviewed scope of services from City Engineer on water treatment plant tracer study, and, received department updates from the Public Works Director on various public works projects.

At its April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- Approved a variance request to the front yard setback for Lots 45, 47, 49 and 51 of the Sunridge Second Addition Subdivision.
- Issued a recommendation to City Council to approve a slope easement vacation on the plat of the Second Addition Sunridge subdivision.

The April 13<sup>th</sup> Blackberry Jam Festival Committee meeting was cancelled.

At its April 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, City Council took the following actions:

- Approved two community grant applications totaling \$3,500.
- Reviewed a liquor license renewal.
- Tabled action on the proposed Ordinance #303 granting Douglas Services, Inc. a non-exclusive franchise until the May 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.
- Approved resolution #760, “A resolution adopting a ‘cross-connection and backflow opt-in/opt-out program.’”
- Approved a “Water Treatment Plant Tracer Study” with Civil West Engineering in the amount of \$9,003 and to authorize the City Administrator to sign and accept the scope of services
- Authorized the City Administrator to purchase a digester blower for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

### Monthly Police Log (March 24 to April 26)

Date	Call Type	Address	Time
4/9/2021	THEFT FROM VEHICLE	W 4TH ST	11:37 AM
4/10/2021	UNLAWFUL ENTRY	E 1ST ST	12:28 PM
4/11/2021	EMERGENCY ASSIST	N PIONEER ST	11:55 AM
4/12/2021	DISTURBANCE	D ST	11:54 AM
4/15/2021	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	N MOSS ST	2:15 AM
4/16/2021	ALARM	N MOSS ST	4:08 AM
4/16/2021	TRAFFIC	N MOSS ST	8:13 AM
4/16/2021	BURGLARY	N MOSS ST	11:18 AM
4/17/2021	VEHICLE STOP	E NORTH SHORE	12:48 AM
4/17/2021	MENTAL SUBJECT	N MOSS ST	2:04 AM
4/17/2021	DISORDERLY SUBJECT	E NORTH SHORE	6:19 PM
4/18/2021	THEFT	W 4TH ST	11:10 AM
4/18/2021	WELFARE CHECK	N PIONEER ST	4:54 PM
4/22/2021	UNLAWFUL USE OF VEHICLE	SUNRIDGE LN	2:06 PM
4/24/2021	SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS	E 1ST ST	12:36 AM
4/24/2021	SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS	E 1ST ST	11:02 AM
4/24/2021	ALARM	S PIONEER ST	6:09 PM
4/24/2021	ALARM	S PIONEER ST	7:19 PM
4/24/2021	ALARM	S PIONEER ST	7:22 PM
4/25/2021	SUSPICIOUS CONDITIONS	E 1ST ST	3:22 PM

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

### New Public Education Division

The Lowell Rural Fire Protection District truly appreciates the support that we receive from our community. We have added a Public Education Division to our department. They will focus on managing educational materials out to our community members. Like wildland protection literature, home safety, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide brochures as a few. We are excited about the direction that this will provide towards safety within our community. This division is new and just getting started, but we hope to be able to get up to speed quickly. As the program grows, we will continue to add items that we are able to provide. If you have questions please feel free to contact us. [Publiceducation23@gmail.com](mailto:Publiceducation23@gmail.com), we thank you again for your support.



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

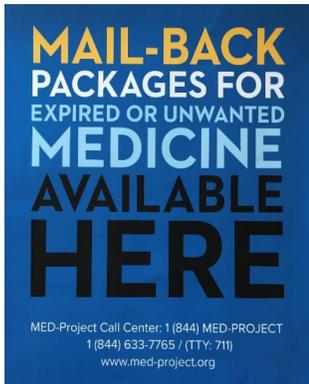
Residents play a major role in protecting their lives and property. Your home ignition zone extends up to 100 feet – and it's quite common to have neighbors whose home ignition zone overlaps yours. Once a structure is engulfed in flames, it could ignite other structures located less than 100 feet away. 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. Free printed and audiovisual materials can be found on the Firewise website and ordered online through the Firewise catalog. Go to Firewise.org for more information, or contact the Fire District Office at 541-937-3393.



**FIREWISE USA®**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



### **MED-Project has issued Lowell City Hall as a site for unwanted medicine mail-back envelopes.**

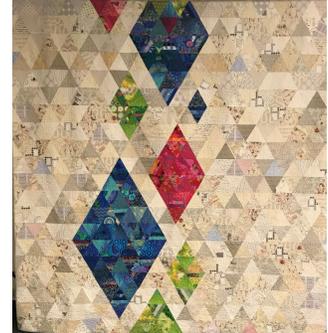
We are distributing these envelopes to residents upon request. These “Unwanted Medicine Mail-Back Envelopes” are to be used for unwanted and/or expired medicine from residents and contain instructions on a paper insert within each envelope.

Contact Lowell City Hall at 541-937-2157 to request a FREE envelope.

Unwanted Medicine Mail-Back Envelopes cannot be used for pre-filled injector products or inhalers.

### **A Quilt Show is Happening!**

The Pine Needlers are happy to announce there will be a Quilt Show on July 24 and 25 in the Lundy Elementary Gym, located at 45 S. Moss Street. This year’s raffle quilt is titled “Diamonds in the Rough.” The Pine Needlers look forward to seeing you there!



### **Parent Teacher Organization Needs You!**

PTO is ready to get back into the swing of things! We would love some assistance from the community as things are opening up. Please reach out to Miranda Plagmann via phone at 541-288-3079 or by email her at [rogue9653@hotmail.com](mailto:rogue9653@hotmail.com) to see how you can help. We try to be as flexible as possible and appreciate any time or effort you can give.

Remember, you don’t have to be a parent to help out — thanks!

## **School Board Candidate Responses, continued from page 2**

### **Position 3: Mike Galvin (unopposed)**

1. I have served on the Board for 14 years. During my tenure on the Board, I have seen the District at some of its lowest times, where the survival of the District was in question. I have also seen and been part of the District’s turnaround and emergence of one of Oregon’s best. I want to continue to participate in the continuing success of the District.
2. As a Board member, I have not been directly involved in many of the day-to-day activities of the District. I have been directly involved in many policy/managerial activities which have brought the District and its many programs to a high level of quality. I have been directly involved in the selection of four superintendents and the negotiation of numerous union contracts and agreements. I have also financially supported many of the District’s activities.
3. My employment career was as a senior level executive in a large municipal information management organization. I was directly involved in all aspects of the organization, including administration, procurement, 24/7 operational support, labor relations, and interface with the political leadership. I have had direct, high level experience in those areas which currently challenge the District.

Thanks to all the candidates for submitting responses to the candidate questionnaire.

Ballots will be in the mail soon and are due by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18th.

# 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

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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 2021

- 1—Community Spring Share, 11 am—4 pm, Rolling Rock Park
- 3—Varsity Baseball v. Oakridge, 4:30 p.m.
- 4—Varsity Softball @ North Douglas, 4:30 p.m.  
**City Council Special Mtg/Work Session, 7:00 pm, via Zoom**
- 7—Varsity Softball doubleheader @ Yoncalla, 2:00/4:00 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball @ Central Linn, 4:30 p.m.  
Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. (tentative)
- 8—Spring Plant Sale, 9:30 am—2:00 pm, Greenhouses on Lakeview
- 9—Spring Plant Sale, 9:30 am—2:00 pm, Greenhouses on Lakeview
- 10—Varsity Baseball v. East Linn, 4:30 p.m.
- 12—Varsity Softball doubleheader v. Days Creek, 2:00/4:00 p.m.  
Varsity Baseball v. Jefferson, 4:30 p.m.  
**Lowell Fire District Board meeting; 7:00 p.m., Main Station**
- 13—Virtual STEM Night! K-1 5:00-5:30, 2nd-3rd 5:30-6:00, 4th-5th 6:30-7:00. Login information are in your kits.
- 14—Baseball League Playoffs, TBD
- 15—Texas Hold 'em Poker, Lowell Grange, 6:00 p.m. (tentative)
- 18—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- 24—School Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., PDC at Lundy Elem.
- 27—Memorial Day — No School, City Hall Closed
- 29—Green Waste Facility — 10:00 a.m. until noon

### Spring Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 8th**

**Sunday, May 9th**

**9:30 am— 2:00 pm**

**The Nexus Program's greenhouse is located on the high school campus behind the woodshop on Lakeview Street, just off South Pioneer Street.**

**Lots of vegetable starts, blueberry plants, flower baskets and more!**

**Come early for the best selection!**