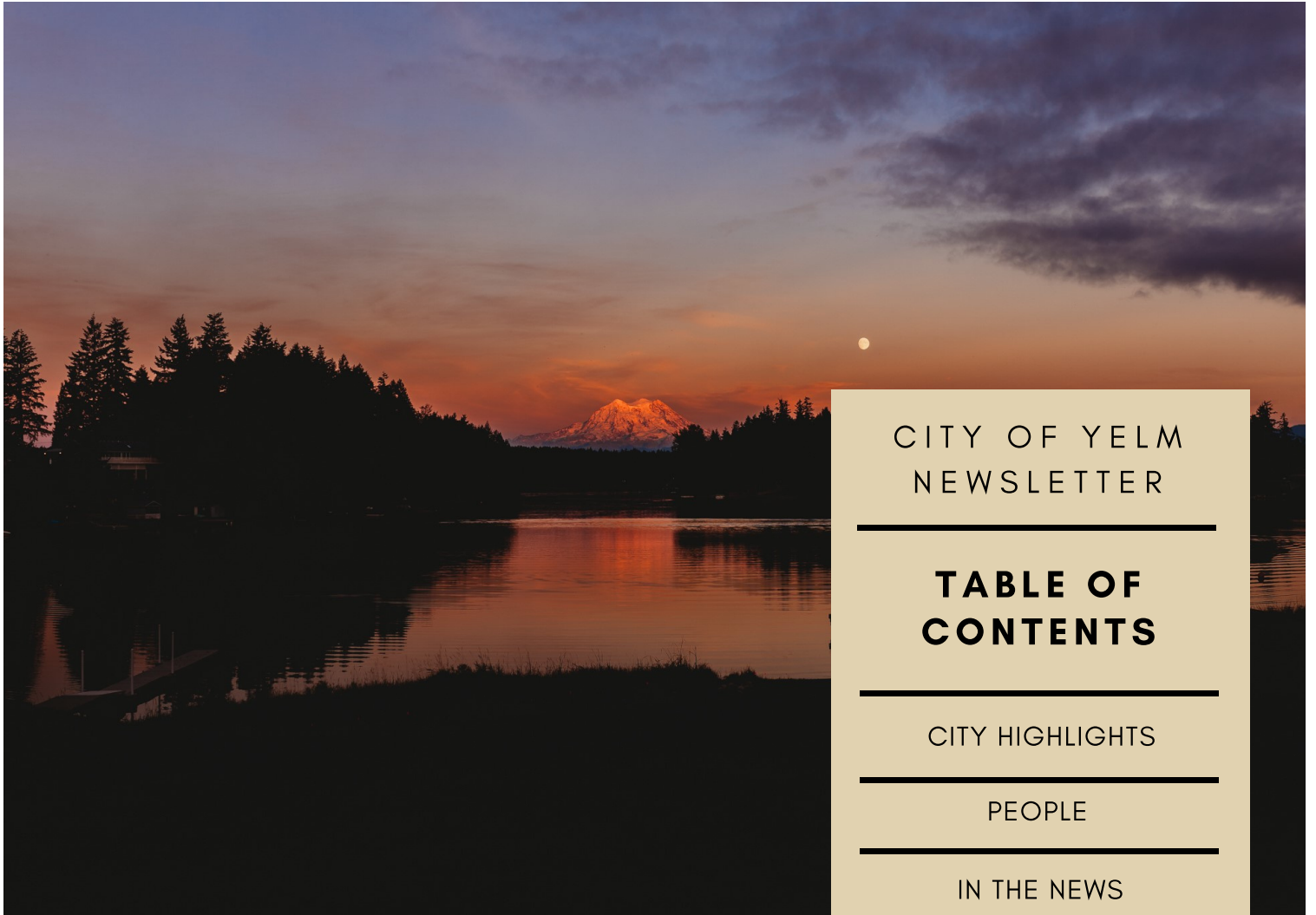




**City of Yelm**  
EST. 1924  
**WASHINGTON**

# **INSIDE THE CITY**

## **JUNE 2021**



CITY OF YELM  
NEWSLETTER

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# CITY HIGHLIGHTS

## City Reorganizes Operations in Preparation for Community Development Director's Retirement

In anticipation of the August 2021 retirement of Grant Beck, an invaluable long-standing employee who serves as both the our Community Development Director and IT Director, the City of Yelm evaluated and implemented organizational changes.



As a result of the ongoing analysis

of Department Directors and the conversations they have been having with employees, several departments will be better integrated and aligned to help fill the big gap Grant will leave behind, while also building on the city's ongoing efforts to improve customer service and operational efficiency.

To better integrate our confidential systems and access requirements of information technology, the IT Department has been combined with Human Resources to form a new Administrative Services Department, which will be led by Lori Lucas. To better serve businesses applying for permits and integrate the planning and construction of essential infrastructure, the Community Development Department has been combined with the Public Works Department to form a new Public Services Department, which will be led by Cody Colt. To continue collectively providing support to all departments and exceptional customer service to residents and businesses as our most forward facing team, the Communications Specialist has been added to the Customer Service Team to form a new Community Services Department led by Kathy Linnemeyer.

The new organizational chart and previous updates emailed to all employees can be found on the City Administrator's page on our website: [www.yelmwa.gov/connect/city\\_administrator.php](http://www.yelmwa.gov/connect/city_administrator.php)

# PEOPLE



## Farewell and Thank You Tami

Tami Merriman served the Community Development Department for over 20 years and has been instrumental in the growth of the City of Yelm during those years. We wish Tami all the best in her future endeavors! The staff and citizens will miss you.

## Welcome Holly Smith, Our Newest City Councilmember



Holly Smith has been appointed by City Council to serve the remainder of former Councilmember Tad Stillwell's term. She was sworn in on May 25th and will serve until the November

2021 election. Join us in welcoming Holly to the City of Yelm team and thanking the other qualified applicants who applied for this vacant position.

## BIRTHDAYS JUNE

Karen Bennett  
John Ivey  
Officer Turner  
Tami Merriman  
Pat Hughes  
Jonathon Richards  
Officer Sparkul



# IN THE NEWS

## Yelm's Popular Summer Events are (Mostly) Back in 2021

As pandemic-related restrictions continue to ease, more of Yelm's popular local festivals are coming back. Including: Yelm Farmers Market, Mermaid Festival, Nisqually Valley BBQ Rally and Jazz Fest. To read the full article by Heidi Smith, please visit [www.thurstontalk.com](http://www.thurstontalk.com).



## 2021 Lodging Tax Funding Applications are Now Open

Yelm's Lodging Tax Fund is the primary source of City funding for events, activities, operations, and expenditures that are designed to increase tourism. For 2021, up to \$25,600 will be made available in grants. For more information please visit our website, [www.yelmwa.gov](http://www.yelmwa.gov). Visit: [lf.yelmwa.gov/Forms/LTAC](http://lf.yelmwa.gov/Forms/LTAC) to be taken directly to the application.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

- City Council Study Session - June 1 at 6:00
- COVID-19 Testing - June 7 & 21 from 10:00 - 1:00
- City Council Meeting - June 8 & 22 at 6:00
- Community Resource Fair - June 24 from 2:30 - 8:30
- Yelm Farmers Market - June 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 10:00 - 3:00
- LTAC Application Closes - June 30 at 5:00