



Interim City  
Manager Report

Update on the current  
State of the City



Roadmap

An outline of the City  
Council's 2020 goals



Streets & Storm  
Water Management

Sidewalks & Streets  
Preventative Maintenance



Survey Results

An overview of citizen responses  
to June 2020 Community Survey

INSERTS INCLUDED : EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## LIVEABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Carnation is a special community with its “country living lifestyle”, yet we are only 30 minutes from one of the hottest job markets around the nation and all the Seattle/Bellevue area’s urban amenities. Our “sleepy little town” has been rediscovered!

Managing Carnation’s growth is both a challenge and an opportunity. If managed properly, the City will grow from our current 2,230 to about 2,500 population over the next 5 years. Because growth pays its share in Impact Fees, new residents will help control the costs of water and sewer for all of us. New residents also mean new customers for our growing local business community, and increased sales tax revenues to the City for Police, Parks and Streets. Managed growth can preserve our community quality of life, keep the total costs of City services reasonable, and sustain this over time, continuing to provide our community with LIVEABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

Kim Lisk, Mayor



City Council Members and  
County Council Member Lamb

### MEMORIAL PARK REBUILD:

- Tennis/Pickle Ball Courts Redone
- Skate Park Resurfaced
- New Dog Park Opens Winter 2020
- Parking Improvements in 2021



### Carnation has a Council-Manager form of government.

The 5-member City Council is elected by Position, and the Council then elects a Mayor to serve as its Chair. The Council hires a professional City Manager to implement the Council’s policies and run the City’s day-to-day operations.

This Special Report outlines the City Council’s 2021 Goals, has an update on our Tolt Avenue Downtown Redevelopment Project, reports on the Memorial Park project, provides Emergency Preparedness information and previews the 2021 Budget to be formally presented to the Council and community in October.

City of Carnation is  
**HERE FOR YOU!**  
“During COVID Closure”

City Hall 425-333-4192

9:00am-4:30pm Mon-Thurs  
9:00am-3:00pm Friday

Public Works 425-333-4192  
**After Hours** 425-765-0508

Police/Fire Emergency  
911

City Email  
[billing@carnationwa.gov](mailto:billing@carnationwa.gov)  
[cityhall@carnationwa.gov](mailto:cityhall@carnationwa.gov)

City Council  
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City Manager  
Bob Jean 425-549-0405

City Clerk  
Mary Madole 425-549-0403

City Planner 425-549-0400

City Treasurer  
Kelly Russell 425-549-0406

Utilities & Permits  
Becky Buelna 425-549-0407

[www.carnationwa.gov](http://www.carnationwa.gov)

# INTERIM CITY MANAGER REPORT

When Amy Arrington resigned as City Manager this Spring, the City Council asked me to fill in as the Interim City Manager. Council wanted me to help keep things moving forward, to build the Tolt Avenue CBD Improvements Project, prepare the 2021 Proposed Budget, and to make recommendations on any other matters I felt needed to be addressed. All in all, I found the City to be in good shape and with a small, capable City staff. The one area I had the most concern about however was the lack of adequate funding for **STREET MAINTENANCE AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**.

The “COVID Pandemic” hit the entire Carnation community hard and the City of Carnation along with it. While holding the line on City services and budgets, the City still was able to move forward in the key areas of **POLICE, SEWER, AND WATER**.

Our Police Contract with the King County Sheriff’s Office has proven very cost effective and crime rates are at all-time lows. And, they really get “**COMMUNITY POLICING**”.

**SEWER INSTALLATION AND WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES** were the right investments at the right time. It’s time now for **STREETS**, the new streets need to be properly maintained and the streets in the older parts of town essentially need to be rebuilt.

As the Council has said, managing the City’s growth needs to be done in a manner to keep the community’s **LIVEABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**. Carnation is a special kind of community, and with everyone’s help and support, we can keep it special.

*Bob Jean, Interim City Manager*



## Interim City Manager, Bob Jean

Bob Jean is a semi-retired professional City Manager with over 40 years of local government management experience. He retired in 2010 after 15 years as the first City Manager for the new City of University Place. Prior to that he was the City Manager in Puyallup, and for other cities in Oregon, Kansas, and California. He is a Past President of the Washington City Management Association and holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Puget Sound.



# ROAD MAP

## VISION

The City of Carnation is a friendly and safe, family-oriented community, where a vibrant small-town benefits from the natural beauty, heritage and recreational opportunities of the Snoqualmie Valley.

## VALUES

- Welcoming, Open & Transparent
- Safe, Inviting & Inclusive
- Caring, Respect For All Cultures
- Trust, Integrity & Honesty
- Small Town Feel & Involved Community
- Public Service & Professional Pride

## STRATEGIES

- Rich Heritage & Cultural Opportunities
- Community Livability & Environmental Quality
- Thriving Downtown & Tolt Commons
- Public Places, Outdoor & Recreational Activities
- Controlled Growth & Neighborhood Character
- Diverse Tax Base & Affordable City Services
- Intergovernmental Relations & Public- Private Partnerships
- Involved & Engaged City Employees
- Sustainability - Fiscal, Environmental & Quality of Life

## CITY COUNCIL 2020-2021 GOALS

### TOLT AVENUE CONSTRUCTION IN 2021:

- ◆ Project Management Team 09/2020
- ◆ Bid Award 2020
- ◆ Construction Starts 01/2021
- ◆ Finance 11/2020

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- ◆ Sawmill Industrial Park Development
- ◆ Interim Parking Off Tolt During Construction

### STREETS & SIDEWALKS:

- ◆ Funding Options
- ◆ Slurry Sealing in 2021

### COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- ◆ Christmas in Carnation 12/2021

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & CODES UPDATE:

- ◆ 4 Year Work Plan
- ◆ Parks Plan 2020

### NEW CITY HALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ◆ Community Hall/Design 2020
- ◆ Construction 2021

### FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & BUDGET:

- ◆ Comparative Costs Per Household

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- ◆ Community Information & Outreach

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENT/CURRENT PLANNING

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



## City of Carnation

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Carnation, WA 98014

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# COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



Out of 800 surveys mailed, over 315 responded or 40%! You told us that “protecting the character of existing neighborhoods” (60%) and “create a vibrant, walkable City Center” (61%), were most important. You want “more restaurants and gathering places” (43%) and “more parks and connecting trails” (24%). You choose to live in Carnation because of because of the “sense of community” (54%) and the “choices/costs of housing” (64%).

Police ranked #1 in all responses as “doing a good job and I feel reasonably safe.” (76%). The cost of City services is “about right or could increase a little if for Police, Parks and Streets/Sidewalks” (67%). You want us to continue making “sidewalk and storm drainage improvements.” (72%) Overall, “the City is on the right track” (44%) vs. “wrong track” (10%).

Your priorities will be used in building the 2021 City Budget. Thank you for taking the time to respond.! To view full results and other news items: <https://www.carnationwa.gov/news>

## STREETS, SIDEWALKS & STORM WATER MAINTENANCE

Streets in Carnation are either very old or very new. The newer streets are built upon several inches of crushed rock subgrade and then 2-3 inches of asphalt. The streets in the older parts of town have little to no subgrade and are often just built up tar mat and rock less than an inch thick! Potholes R Us!

As the streets crack or develop potholes, the rainwater seeps into the subgrade and turns it to a spongy mush. When that happens, it's time to rebuild the street at much greater cost than maintaining it in the first place. That's why crack sealing and pothole patching, like our crews have been doing this last month is so important. The next level of major maintenance is chip sealing and overlays, but only if the base is ok. If not, we then need to grind down the street, mix it with new asphalt and pave it. And, as funds allow, we need to rebuild the streets with walkways and bio drainage swales like we did on Spilman.

THE JULY 28 TOLT DAM FALSE ALARM was a wakeup call to all of us. While the chances of a Tolt Dam failure are very low, the potential consequences of a major earthquake or dam failure are significant. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is responsible for the dam and alerting Carnation and the surrounding community of any danger, and also of any false alarms.



The City of Carnation and the King County Office of Emergency Management are partners with SPU in Emergency Planning and Preparedness. While we are updating our plans since the false alarm, **YOU NEED TO DO YOUR PART TO BE PREPARED.** This report is intended to help you and your family be ready.





## JULY 28, 2020 TOLT DAM WARNING SYSTEM FAILURE AFTER ACTION

**SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES DRAFT AFTER ACTION REPORT SYNOPSIS:** During the late morning (11:15 am) of Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup>, the Tolt Dam Warning System sounded a false alarm that for 38 minutes erroneously messaged the community of Carnation to evacuate... An investigation into the causes of the false alarm was started immediately after the incident and is ongoing... On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, representatives of SPU/SCL and some partner agencies participated in a Community Meeting hosted by the Carnation City Council to discuss the ongoing investigation of the incident, listen to the community impacts due to the false alarm. Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>, a subsequent test of the Tolt Dam Failure Warning System informed SPU that repairs were needed for several sirens.

Post-Incident Actions (already underway) and Areas For Improvement:

- Modifications to SPU alarm control systems (Whelen panel)
- Repairs to sirens amplifier/functioning
- Spare parts and warning system repairs
- Multiple agencies responding to community information requests
- Accelerated timeline for system replacement Capital Project
- King County OEM and Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 notification and Operating Procedures updated
- Needed public notification regarding false alarm or not, and systems redundancy at all levels
- Support and strengthen Carnation Citizen Corps and Riverview School District involvement
- Faster community notifications (with redundancy) from public safety/emergency management
- Improve community evacuation plans with public safety, City and County OEM
- Expand the annual Riverview School District evacuation drill with City and County OEM

**CITY OF CARNATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** While participating with the Seattle Public Utilities After Action Review, it has become apparent to the City of Carnation that SPU's response is more limited in scope than the City of Carnation feels is needed to better prepare for both a real emergency evacuation or false alarm. The City's report is not intended to find fault or attach blame, but to better address the wider community needs beyond just notifications.

Communications from warning systems to SPU failed, and SPU notifications to the City and surrounding community to verify whether or not if it was a Test or if it was a False Alarm failed. While the community generally responded in a calm and orderly manner, there was much confusion and trauma involved. The City of Carnation was incorporated in 1912. The Tolt Dam and water reservoir was built in 1962. While the City of Carnation is responsible for emergency management within the City of Carnation and King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for surrounding community areas. Carnation believes Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) bears the bulk of the responsibility both for alerting AND in supporting community readiness

Due to COVID-19, schools were not in session, though it was the school's personnel who were among the first to get through to County 9-1-1 and initiate verification of a FALSE alarm. The Senior Center was also not operating so emergency evacuation of Seniors was not needed. Because of years of schools drills it was many of the area children that knew to WALK up Evacuation Hill, when many of their parents weren't sure what to do, whether by walking or by vehicle.

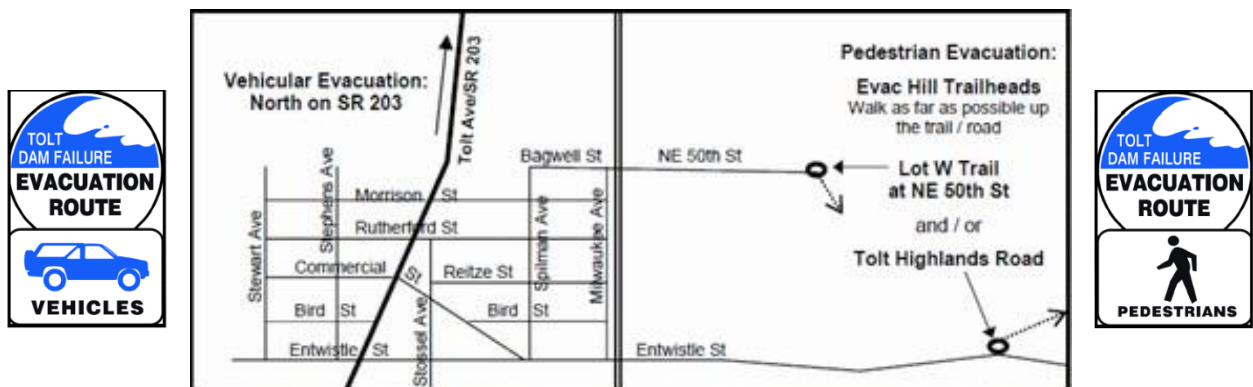
While redundant notification systems from the dam itself to SPU failed, and are being reviewed, redundant notification systems from SPU to the community also proved inadequate. Current computer and cell phone notification systems from SPU to the community need to be upgraded and redundant: Code Red, Reverse 9-1-1, Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA), Alert King County, HAM radio, TV and radio stations; the Notification Flow Chart 1 of a false alarm needs to be UPDATED, TESTED AND MAINTAINED BY SPU. A pager type system that can vibrate is also needed to alert deaf or hard of hearing residents. Also, Carnation and King County OEM need to have priority access to dispatch and SPU Control .

**EVACUATION HILL:** Evacuation Hill is intended as a short-term assembly area, not a long-term shelter. Once any flooding has subsided, if long-term shelter is needed, persons needing shelter would be moved to outside the area shelters coordinated through the Red Cross. That said, in the event of a real event, Evacuation Hill may still need to be able to support several hundreds of individuals during day, night, winter or summer conditions. The site itself is likely to be isolated for many hours.

The pedestrian trail access to Evacuation Hill on the north side needs major improvements and lighting in the near term and maintenance in the long-term. The south side access needs to be for emergency vehicles and pedestrians; Public Works or Fire should block all unauthorized vehicles.

**COMMUNITY ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS:** King County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has two active means of alerting citizens through their cell phones or land lines. First is the Code Red/Alert King County system but that requires citizens to OPT IN by registering or signing in to receive emergency notifications (go to [www.kingcounty.gov/alert](http://www.kingcounty.gov/alert)). The second is the Wireless Emergency Alert system that goes to all cell phones in the designated area, BUT you need to be sure you have not turned off this feature of your cell phone. The City officials also need to have priority access to the SPU Control Center and to the King County OEM Duty Officer through non-public numbers that will not get overloaded with incoming calls.

**CONCLUSION:** SPU bears a larger ethical and moral responsibility beyond the legal minimums for community notification. Working with the City of Carnation and King County OEM, these three agencies are responsible for coordinating with ALL other related governmental and non-governmental partners: NORCOM, KC9-1-1, Eastside Fire and Rescue, Sheriff, Riverview School District, CERT, Senior Center etc.



Communities throughout the Pacific Northwest are subjected to many types of disasters. While we hope that such occurrences never happen it has been shown time and time again that being prepared for disasters is prudent.

- **Make a Plan**
- **Build Kits**
- **Get Connected**
- **Become Involved**

Washington State Emergency Management Division  
20 Aviation Dr. Bldg 20,  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

[www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division](http://www.mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division)

253-512-7000; 1-800-562-6108  
TTY/TTD: 253-512-7298

Experts tell us to plan to be on our own for a minimum of three days, but take the time to evaluate your location, the needs of your family, and gather supplies that are necessary to survive for a longer period of time. Please make the time to create an emergency plan for you and your family. Try the following resources below:

## Emergency Planning Information

American Red Cross  
[www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org)

City of Carnation  
[www.carnationwa.gov/emergencyinfo](http://www.carnationwa.gov/emergencyinfo)

Department of Homeland Security  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/WashEMD](http://www.facebook.com/WashEMD)

FEMA  
[www.community.fema.gov](http://www.community.fema.gov)