



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John “J.D.” White named as Clark County’s 2007 First Citizen

Vancouver, WA – April 20, 2007. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington announced today that John “J.D.” White has been selected as Clark County’s First Citizen for 2007. Noted for his leadership of many community institutions, such as the SW Washington Medical Center Board, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia River Economic Development Council, and for shaping Clark County’s land use efforts, John’s nomination was an easy choice for the selection committee.

“John exemplifies the citizen who has contributed countless hours, across a variety of disciplines, all for the benefit of our community,” says Bruce Hagensen, Chairman of the First Citizen Selection Committee. “By honoring people like John, we build on this important tradition of community citizenship,” added Hagensen.

“John is the most deserving of this honor,” said Val Ogden, First Citizen for 2006. “He gave the last 30 years of his life to making a positive difference.”

Joe Kortum, President and CEO of the Southwest Washington Medical Center nominated John for this year’s award. Wrote Kortum in the application, “John is a premier citizen in every sense of the word. His leadership was instrumental in helping SWMC define our strategic direction expand services, and enlarge our facilities to improve our services to the community.”

Annually, a citizen (or couple) is selected by a panel of previous First Citizens to receive the award. Selection is based on effectiveness in leadership roles, raising community standards and expectations, and exemplary giving of time, self, and resources.

John's community leadership is extensive:

- WSU Advisory Board – helped steer campus selection process
- Chair of SW WA Medical Center Board – helped reshape strategic direction
- Served on the YMCA Board – helped launch major successful capital campaign
- Steered Clark County's response to Growth Management Act
- JD White Company selected as second fastest growing company, by Vancouver Business Journal
- Clark College Foundation Board member
- Bank of Clark County Board of Directors
- National Neon Sign Museum Board of Directors

Below is a sampling of supporters' comments in letters of endorsement.

Addison Jacobs, Public Relations at the Port of Vancouver: "In my book, John is overdue for this recognition. He is passionate about our community, is principled and ethical in his actions, and has contributed his vision to make Clark County a better place."

Hal Dengerink, Chancellor WSU Vancouver: "John does not shrink from the difficult circumstances. His integrity has had a considerable impact on the community and I can think of no one more deserving than John White."

George Killian, business owner: "John sets the right example in taking a leadership role. His service on multiple Boards and non-profit organizations raises the bar for those around him and for the community."

An honorary reception for John, as Clark County's 2007 Citizen of the Year is Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the Hilton in Vancouver. All are invited to attend. Tickets are \$35.00,

and may be purchased on-line by emailing the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, at vancouverusa.com, or call at 694-2588.

The following individuals may be contacted for quotes/interviews:

Bruce Hagensen	772-6300	Committee Chair, and past First Citizen
Val Ogden	254-8886	2006 First Citizen
Joe Kortum	256-2000	Nominator, SWMC President
Addison Jacobs	693-3611	Port of Vancouver Public Affairs
Hal Dengerink	546-9581	WSU-Vancouver Chancellor

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington:

The Community Foundation helps a broad cross section of citizens build stronger communities through effective philanthropy. One of the nation's 700 community foundations, it is a tax-exempt, public charity that primarily serves southwest Washington. The Foundation holds distinct Funds, ranging in size from \$10,000 to over \$3 million, that are pooled, managed, and invested to generate growth and income for granting and inflation purposes. Governed by a volunteer Board of local leaders, the Foundation offers services to donors and nonprofit organizations and a wide range of benefits to the community. In total, the Community Foundation has infused more than \$80 million into the community since it was established in 1984.

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