

Vancouver firefighters lauded by peers

Vancouver firefighters selected **Ralph Massa** as their 2005 Firefighter of the Year, and **Capt. Duane Royer** as Company Officer of the Year. Both men were honored at the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 452's annual banquet conducted Saturday, April 16 at Club Green Meadows. The union represents about 170 firefighters, captains and Fire Marshals Office employees at the City of Vancouver Fire Department.

Winners are selected by their peers.

Also at the union banquet, firefighters honored Engine 81, B shift, as Company of the Year. Members of that work team include **Capt. Rick Steele**, firefighter/paramedic **Mark Bennett**, and **Capt. Scott Willis**.

David Smith was selected as Deputy Fire Marshal of the Year from the VFD Fire Marshal's Office. Union Member of the Year award went to Firefighter **Dave Sturbelle**. This is the second year in a row that Sturbelle has won this award.



From top left, Vancouver firefighters honored Saturday are: **Ralph Massa, Capt. Duane Royer, Capt. Rick Steele, Mark Bennett, Capt. Scott Willis, David Smith, and Dave Sturbelle.**

Evergreen narrows superintendent search to three

The Evergreen Public Schools Board of Directors announced Friday that it has narrowed the search for a new superintendent to three finalists. Board members will travel to the candidates' current school districts this week.

Finalists are as follows: **Dr. Robert L. Corley**, superintendent of Flagler County Public Schools in Bunnell, Florida and former superintendent of Fife Public Schools in Tacoma; **John Deeder**, Evergreen Public Schools assistant superintendent for secondary education and chief academic officer; and **Dr. Christine M. Johns**, deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Baltimore County Public Schools in Townsen, Maryland.

Joan Skelton, president of Evergreen's Board of Directors, says the board hopes to name its choice by the first week of May.

14th year in bloom: Clark PUD annual home & garden fair set for April 22

Clark Public Utilities' 14th annual Home & Garden Idea Fair will be held Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24, at the Clark County Fairgrounds. The three-day event regularly attracts about 35,000 people interested in gathering home and yard improvement ideas, as well as a new collection of plants, shrubs and trees that will make spring a bit more colorful. A major portion of this year's show will be held in the fairground's new exhibition hall. The Home & Garden Fair offers an abundance of commercial exhibits and activities for the whole family, with a continued focus on energy and environmental awareness. The show also features the largest plant sale in the region, with more than 80 participating nurseries, as well as beautiful landscape displays created by local landscape professionals.

"The Home & Garden Idea Fair has grown into a major community event," said **Heather Allmain**, a utility employee who coordinates the show. "We enjoy the opportunity to provide important energy and environmental information to thousands of our customer-owners in a family-friendly atmosphere."

The Clark Public Utilities' Home & Garden Idea Fair will be held at the Clark County Fairgrounds on Friday,

April 22, from 9 am to 8 pm; Saturday, April 23, from 9 am to 8 pm; and Sunday, April 24, from 10 am to 5 pm

“Admission is free, although we suggest canned food donations for area food banks or cash contributions to Operation Warm Heart, a fund to help low-income customers pay their electric bills,” Allmain said. Parking is \$3.

The utility will provide free shuttle service between the show and the Vancouver Mall Transit Center and the Salmon Creek Park and Ride lot. A complete schedule will be published in *The Columbian* on Thursday, April 21.

The show is produced by Clark Public Utilities with support from the Specialty Nursery Association of Clark County, KISN-FM, The Columbian and the Washington Association of Landscape Professionals.

News briefs

Clark Public Utilities Board of Commissioners meets tomorrow at 9 a.m. 🏠 🏠 🏠

🏠 .The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce will hold its Spring Bling! Fashion Show & Luncheon Wed., April 27, 2005 in honor of National Administrative Professionals Day. The luncheon is sponsored by Willows Apparel & Gifts, Contessa Shoes & Accessories & Beigeblond. Cost is \$30 per person; \$35 non-members. Call **360-694-2588** to register... 🏠 🏠 🏠 **Columbia River**

Mental Health Services’ annual “Talk of the Town” will focus on “real recovery.” The event will feature a dramatic presentation by **Victoria Maxwell**, internationally known teacher and entertainer with personal recovery experience. 5-7 p.m., Club Green Meadows, 7703 NE 72nd Ave., Vancouver... 🏠 🏠 🏠

The Free Clinic of SW Washington will roll out the red carpet April 19 to honor volunteers during National Volunteer Week. More than 700 volunteers provide free urgent medical care to the uninsured who utilize the Free Clinic, the largest in the state. The volunteer recognition gets underway at 6:30 p.m. at the clinic, 4100 Plomondon St., Vancouver. Call **360-313-1390** for more information.

People

Rep. **Jim Dunn** (R-Vancouver) received the “job maker” designation by a coalition of Washington business groups, www.jobmakers.com, which tracks job-related legislation and tracks the voting records of lawmakers.. 🏠 🏠 🏠

The Vancouver Police Activities League (PAL) hired **Lee Jenkins** as it’s first executive director. Jenkins recently retired after 31 years with Portland Parks and Recreation and has volunteered for the past year with PAL. The position was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Nautilus Corporation. 🏠 🏠 🏠

Keith Morehouse is new crisis services manager of Columbia River Mental Health Services. Keith comes from The Christie School in Portland where he was a program manager for the past two years.

Friday headlines at home and from around the world

Monday on the air

Spring Festival of Dance: Coppelia—5 p.m. CVTV

2005 Clark County Hall of Fame—7 p.m. CVTV

Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim—7:05 p.m., FSN, Cable Ch. 34, KFFX 1080 AM Radio

Vancouver Police Department Recognition Ceremony—9:00 p.m. CVTV

Pathways to Your Future—11:00 p.m. CVTV

Town Tabloids and the weather

Colin Kuhta achieving lifelong mission with courage and valor (and a little help from Pooh-Bear)

🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠 **Maraya Tooker** on her way to becoming the next Chihuly. 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠 **Scott**

Maxwell seriously contemplating the wonderful world of spandex. 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠 **Pam Brown** creating a stir in the cappuccino & panini world. 🏠 🏠 🏠 🏠

Monday, rainshowers but mostly sun breaks, 64. **Tuesday**, partly cloudy and getting warmer, 66. **Wednesday**, break out the sunscreen

and those summer clothes you had on in February, sunny & 68.