

## Santa Express to collect food, clothing, toys for needy families

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

Bend Fire Department's Santa Express food and clothing drive is heading into Bend neighborhoods December 3 through December 6, 2007. The Bend Firefighter's Association and Bend Fire and Rescue are working with The Salvation Army to collect non-perishable food items, clothing, and toys for needy families in Bend and Central Oregon.

Santa will be riding with the Bend Fire Department through a selection of neighborhoods in Bend collecting food and clothing for the Salvation Army from 6-8 p.m., December 3, 4, 5 and 6. Neighborhood residents are encouraged to listen for the fire engine and Santa, and bring non-perishable food items to the street for collection. There will be many volunteers walking along with Santa and the fire engines to collect the donated items. Please advise children to use caution around the moving fire engines.

The Santa Express schedule is as follows:

Monday, December 3: Morning Star, Canal View, Wishing well and Phoenix Park

Tuesday, December 4: Larkspur, Foxborough and Elkhorn

Wednesday, December 5: Providence, areas north and south of Neff Road.

Thursday, December 6: Shevlin Meadows, NW Crossing, Skyliner Summit

If Santa Express doesn't visit your neighborhood, you're invited and encouraged to drop off non-perishable foods to any Bend Fire Department fire station or any Bend Memorial Clinic location.

The following locations will be accepting new, unwrapped toys for Santa Express:

Dream Dinners at Cascade Village Shopping Center

Sportsman's Warehouse on N. Highway 97

Starbucks' main locations: Downtown, Fred Meyers Shopping Center, NE Bellevue, SW Century Drive, and Cascade Village Shopping Center

Donations other than food maybe taken directly to The Salvation Army.

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