Patriotic Citizens Display Hundreds of Flags in Downtown Bend

by Bend Weekly News Sources

One hundred flags will be flown in downtown Bend on Patriot Day, September 11 as part of the Bend Parade of Flags (BPF) program. They will be installed on Wall and Bond Streets between Greenwood and Franklin Avenues by Bendâ€™s First Responders (Police, Fire, and Sheriff Departments) and Troop 25 of the Boy Scouts of America.

BPF displayed 45 flags on July 1 and August 29 to honor PFC Thomas Tucker of Madras and Lance Corporal Randy L. Newman of Bend who were killed in Iraq. These honors coincided with the memorial services for the men that were held at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center.

An additional 70 flags will be displayed on the four avenues between Wall and Bond Streets on Veterans Day, November 11 for a total of 170 flags. Installation on this day will be done by the Central Oregon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America and will compliment the traditional Veterans Day parade and other festivities.

Next year flags will be displayed on four additional days: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Labor Day.

Flag sponsorships for Wall and Bond Streets are â€œsold outâ€•. Beginning Sept. 16, Troop 25 Boy Scouts will again be offering flag sponsorships to merchants on the cross streets and to the public at $50 per flag. The fee includes having a name sewn on the flagâ€™s leading edge. Anyone wishing to sponsor a flag in downtown Bend should call 390-1753.

The Bend BPF group is comprised of the Downtowners Association, Boy Scouts of America Troop 25, City of Bendâ€™s Street, Police and Fire Departments, Bend Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 1371, Central Oregon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Fleet Reserve Association, and Bend Navy JROTC.

Bend Street Department, Brianâ€™s Cabinets, Consolidated Supply, Denfeld Paints, Fastenal Industrial Supply, Parr Lumber/Bend, Rainbow Threads, Searing Electric and Plumbing, Secure Storage, and We Cut Concrete have generously donated materials, facilities, and labor to the program.

The City of Bend unanimously voted approval of the flag program on January 18.

â€œAll participants are energized by the outstanding support given by the City of Bend, local business community, and the public to honor our nation,â€• said Dick Tobiason, leader of the BPF program.

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