

Brenham Banner-Press

NEWS

Company isn't 'flagging' in helping county show patriotism

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The symbol of American patriotism - this nation's red, white and blue colors introduced by creator Betsy Ross on June 14, 1775 - will be waving 'round these parts in greater numbers than ever this Fourth of July.

In 1996, Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited owner Lindi Surovik and her associates responded to a "Celebrate America with Coldwell Banker" call by ordering and distributing 1,500 small American flags in the community and area.

Surovik's most recent "flag order" in this 10th year of a now Brenham area tradition was for 9,000 flags and brings the total for a full decade to 49,500 of these patriotic symbols that have waved, or soon will wave, in the summer breezes of Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill, Washington, etc.

This year's six-fold order compared to 1996 includes an inventory of 1,000 flags apiece for Coldwell Banker Marek Real Estate offices in Belville and Sealy, purchased by Surovik effective March 1.

While residents and organizations in those communities may drop by and pick up U.S. flags in those locations, Brenham's Coldwell Banker office will enlist many of its 28 sales associates/administrators, their families and friends and volunteers from area Boy Scout/Girl Scout troops to put out an American flag in every well-populated Brenham area neighborhood.

"This even includes heavily-populated subdivisions outside the city, such as Oak Hill Acres and Bluebonnet Hills," said Doris Kuecker, the lead administrator and a sales associate in the Brenham office.

From an initial 1,500 U.S. flag order, Kuecker traces the project's rise to the now hefty 9,000 flags on hand, thusly: 1997-2,000; 1998- 4,000; for four years, 1999 to 2002-5,000; 2003-6,000; and 2004-7,000.

In addition to plaques recognizing the real estate firm's patriotism from the city of Brenham and the American Legion, Kuecker reports a number of "nice thank you notes" have been received over the years, most especially with the increased wave of patriotism that followed Sept. 11, 2001.

Individuals from rural or sparsely-populated areas - and not likely to have a flag put in place by the volunteers (expected to be out mostly June 29-30 for this year's distribution) - are welcome to drop by the Coldwell Banker office, 2402 South Day, for a flag, Kuecker noted.

The Belville office address is 1304 Front Street and 313 Main Street is "where to go" in Sealy, with Kuecker pointing out that each of these offices will have 1,000 flags available for pick up by residents in those areas.

In the Brenham office, she suggests it isn't practical to have everyone wanting to display a flag for the 4th of July "♦ coming to our office, because our parking is so limited."

As things stand, with no shortage of volunteers to put out the flags, the current plan - one which includes a swimming party at Surovik's home for all volunteers at project's end - is most likely to continue "for some years to come," said Kuecker.

In summarizing her feelings concerning what has rapidly become a 4th of July tradition locally, Surovik suggests, "I can't think of a better way to share our national pride and patriotism than to band together as a community to wave the red, white and blue."

And most surprising of all, with foreign labels popping up on so many products sold in this country today, the 9,000 U.S. flags here and area front yards this July will prominently display a welcomed emblem: "Made in America."

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