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**Agency expands flag giveaway**

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Every year real estate agency Coldwell Banker Bob Yost Inc. celebrates the Fourth of July by putting small flags in front yards across the county.

The real estate agents make it a family affair, going out on July 3 to plant the flags in thousands of front yards and gathering for a pizza party at the end of the evening.

This year, Peggy Coale, director of advertising, has ordered 11,000 of the flags.

But Deb Lowry and Elyssa Baxter, sales agents in the agency's Shrewsbury office, wanted to expand on the patriotism.

"We're going to carry that 'America' theme through the summer holidays, starting with Memorial Day," Coale said.

Here's what they have planned:

For Memorial Day, the agency will sponsor an essay contest for children. Elementary, middle and high school students may enter an essay of up to 1,000 words on the topic "What the flag means to me." Deadline is May 31.

For Flag Day, free flags will be available at open houses held by the agency on June 11 and 12 and the following weekend, June 18 and 19. The flags are plastic, about 12 inches and 18 inches and are made in North Hollywood, Calif.

The usual July 4 flags, which are put up without the company's name.

And for Labor Day, a coloring contest for children. The drawings will be run in the newspaper and will be available at Coldwell Banker Bob Yost's four offices.

"We've had such a positive response to the flags," said Nancy Fox, assistant general manager. "People appreciate the general theme, and this is a chance to get children involved."

U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded as prizes for the essay and coloring contest. For more information, call Fox or her assistant, Brenda Drawbaugh, at 757-7812, Ext. 601.

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