

Tampa's Sept. 11 Tribute Evolving

MONEY NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR SHOW OF PATRIOTISM

By B.C. MANION
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TAMPA — Organizers of Flags Along the Bayshore: Tampa Remembers 9-11 want everyone who is waving flags along the boulevard to hear the program.

But they might ask people to bring radios if they can't raise \$30,000 to wire a 4.5-mile stretch, said Darrell Stefany, known for planning Gasparilla.

Stefany is among volunteers organizing the tribute the morning of Sept. 11.

Organizers envision Bayshore, from Gandy Boulevard to Platt Street, awash with red, white and blue as men, women and children wave American flags.

The program is evolving.

Top-name military or government officials might take part.

Details won't be released until mid-August or later, Stefany said.

The tribute will include a procession, singing, speakers, and moments of silence and flyovers at 8:45 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:43 a.m. and 10:10 a.m., to mark the times when airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

Volunteers are working to raise support, Stefany said.

Among the most devoted: Linda Alfonso, Julie Sargent and Julie Whitney, who began waving flags on Bayshore on Fridays to honor victims of Sept. 11 and to support the military, Stefany

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Small donations can make big difference.

They need volunteer block captains to make sure people get to their places Sept. 11.

They need helpers to contact people who have registered and to assign them a spot on the boulevard. They also need people to answer questions about the tribute, West-Fehring said.

The pace is picking up. "Things are really cranking along — so fast that things are changing hour to hour," Alfonso said.

To make a donation, volunteer, register or for information, call (813) 228-6678 or go to www.bayshorepatriots.com

Reporter B.C. Manion can be reached at (813) 259-7150.

within a few thousand dollars of its goal.

But that figure includes wiring for only a 1.5-mile stretch of Bayshore, from Euclid to Howard avenues, Stefany said.

He's not sure whether the rest of the boulevard will be wired for sound.

"We can't spend money we don't have," Stefany said.

Volunteer Bianca West-Fehring says people will help if they know there's a need.

"This is a grass-roots effort," West-Fehring said. "All those little \$5 and \$10 donations will help get the job done."

Besides financial support, the group needs help to ensure the event goes smoothly.

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER

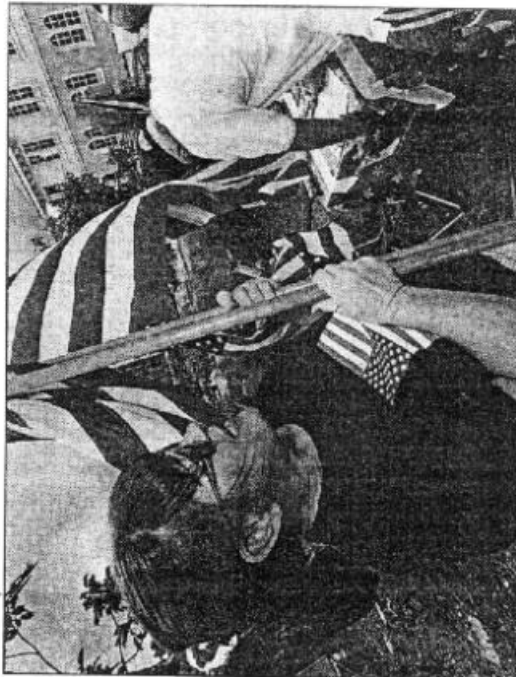
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said.

The women, joined by Bill Hamblin, formed the Bayshore Patriots. They developed the idea for the tribute. Tampa Mayor Dick Greco supports it.

Stefany estimates the budget at \$456,000 — the bulk from in-kind services from the media and the city. The Tampa Tribune, TBO.com and WFLA News Channel 8, are among contributors.

By last week, the group was



Tribune photo by BRUCE HOSKING

Marilee Winkler waits for her family to sign up to participate in Flags Along the Bayshore: Tampa Remembers 9-11.