

Looking for a flag? You'll have to wait

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Local stores have sold out of U.S. flags, following the tragedy Sept. 11.

"If you didn't already have one or didn't get one in the first couple of days after the attack, you're out of luck for a while," said Jonathan Weid, assistant manager of ACO Hardware on Grand River in Farmington Hills.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the ACO chain in metro Detroit, including the three greater Farmington stores, had sold out of flags.

Since last week, "We've sold hundreds," said Josh Pawlovich, manager of Contemporary Awards on Grand River. Pawlovich said they've sold 3-by-5-foot flags, 4-by-6-foot flags, and flags 5-by-6-foot and 6-by-10 feet.

A silver cup with 4-by-6-inch flags is displayed on a table near the business counter. "That's all we have," he said. "We just found them."

At Damman's Hardware on Farmington Road, "We just got a small order in today (Tuesday)," reported Rod Vought, store manager.

After the order arrived at 11 a.m., all three dozen 3-by-5-foot flags sold in 20 minutes.

"After Wednesday last week we had sold everything we had on hand; every flag, bracket,

anything. What we've been selling this week is dowel rods, copper pipes — anything to hang a flag on," Vought said.

While Damman's has placed another order, it's not clear how soon it might arrive, as demand is up everywhere.

"Everybody wants to fly a flag. People have been very patient, they've been nice about it," he said.

■ 'Everybody wants to fly a flag. People have been very patient, they've been nice about it.'

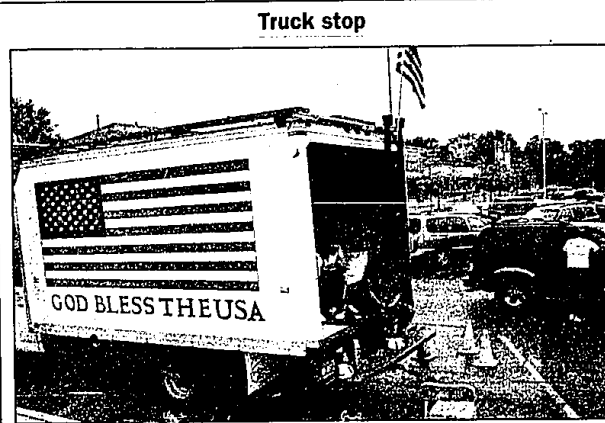
*Rod Vought
—Damman's Hardware*

After the tragedy, Weid said "probably around 4 or 5 o'clock people started coming in. We may have sold a dozen that evening."

"By Thursday at noon we were completely out," he said, as 75 flags, most of them the 3-by-5-foot kind, had been sold.

"I did order them. They told me possibly this week, but that's kind of up in the air, the demand is so high," he said.

Pawlovich said flag makers are for a time cutting back on production of largest size flags, to concentrate on the popular 3-by-5 foot and 4-by-6 foot sizes.



Disaster relief: Beverly Frederick, Beverly Slay and George Frederick waited in the parking lot at the Downtown Farmington Business Center on Grand River for donations of various items that included flashlights, dog food, goggles, hardhats and respirators. The donations were bound for New York when the truck was filled.

Interested in theater?

On Saturday, Oct. 6, students age 7-18 will be able to learn more about the theater through a variety of sessions including make-up, costumes, directing, improvisation and more.

The workshops will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. The cost is \$30 for the day. For registration information call Farmington Hills Special Services, 473-1800.

A special feature of the workshop will be stage-fighting, conducted by the nationally recognized Ring of Steel. Students will not only see realistic fighting techniques, but also a variety of prop weapons, and will learn the actual techniques of fighting choreography.

The Michigan Youth Theater is a touring company of young actors ages 7-17 that are known throughout Michigan. Originally formed to present exclusively the works of Shakespeare, the group has recently branched out to present other plays.

They can be seen yearly at the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

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