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[Flags to wave this weekend at Field of Honor](#)

By Katie Farrell Lovett [Staff writer](#)

NEWBURYPORT — The Bartlet Mall will be a sea of red, white and blue this weekend as the Exchange Club hosts a Field of Honor in tribute to all those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and the sacrifices of the military.

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport will place rows of flags across the Mall this weekend, the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The program began through the Colonial Flag Company, which organizes "healing fields" throughout the country. The 3-by-5-foot flags will be put on 8-foot poles and lined up in rows. The name of the person who is honored by the flag will be attached.

Exchange Club member Kathleen Bailey said the group is still selling flags this week for \$40 each. They are hoping to sell between 300 and 400, she said.

In addition to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, the display is meant to honor all those fallen servicemen and women, those currently serving in the military, as well as veterans and first responders.

The tribute will remain up through Monday and is open to the public and free of charge. The flags' owners can pick them up on Tuesday.

On Saturday, a dedication program will be held at 10 a.m. at the field, Bailey said. Among those attending and speaking will be Mayor Donna Holaday, Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins and Veterans Services agent Kevin Hunt.

Bailey said residents are pleased the Field of Honor is occurring during the 9/11 anniversary.

"There's been a good reaction from people," she said. Bailey said the group is also thankful to their sponsors and affiliate sponsors.

"We couldn't do this without everybody," she added.

The national program was created in 2002 as a way to commemorate the lives that were lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Since that first year, hundreds of communities have hosted a Healing Field of Honor to raise money and awareness for an array of causes.

The proceeds from the Newburyport Field of Honor will be distributed to the Michael B. Christensen Family Resource Center, Kids As Peacemakers and the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport Scholarship Fund.

For more information, visit <http://healingfield.org/newburyport/>