

Rain alters Healing Field event schedule at Spring Hill Cemetery

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HUNTINGTON — Inclement weather and the forecast for continued rain as a result of the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee has forced the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation District to scale back events at Spring Hill Cemetery's Healing Field.

The six-acre field of between 2,000 and 3,000 large American flags is a tribute to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Although there have been more than 100 cities across the country to sponsor Healing Fields, the one at Spring Hill Cemetery is the first of its kind in West Virginia.

The Park District had scheduled a week's worth of events at the memorial. The revised schedule is as follows.

6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9: Marshall University March of Remembrance followed immediately by a candlelight memorial service. Students will lead the community from the Marshall Recreation Center on 5th Avenue and march to the Healing Field carrying 75 American flags in memory of those who lost their lives in the 1970 Marshall plane crash.

10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10: Memorial service to honor 9/11 victims, veterans and first responders. The ceremony also will include dedication of the section of the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health that runs through the cemetery.

Sunday, Sept. 11: Patriot Day of Reflection and Remembrance. Those who have purchased flags can retrieve them between 4 and 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 12: Those who have purchased flags can retrieve them between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Flags are still on sale and can be purchased by calling the Park District at 304-696-5954. Its goal is to sell 3,000 flags. Proceeds from the sale of flags will help build a memorial bell tower at Spring Hill Cemetery. Individual flags can be purchased for \$35 each and sponsorship levels graduate to \$30,000.