Those attending Graham's Let Freedom Ring event had the chance to take a spin on carnival rides positioned right outside of Graham Square. The carnival area also featured carnival games, fried food stalls, music acts and a chance to look at emergency personnel vehicles.

Letting freedom ring

Graham hosts Sept. 11 commemorative fair

Photos and story by Lindsay Fendt
Photo Editor

The Town of Graham held its second annual Let Freedom Ring ceremony in the town square Saturday, Sept. 11. The event was held as a way to commemorate the emergency personnel who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The events in Graham featured a blood drive, Skype video conferencing with military personnel abroad, free hot dogs, carnival rides and the chance to look at a number of emergency vehicles. While rain may have dampened the coordinators' goals for a 10,000-person turn-out, several thousand people did attend.

The names of 12 law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty were read.

"It's a day of thanks," said Mark Mitchell, one of the event's coordinators. "We wanted to give thanks back to all the men and women who serve us on a daily basis and the men and women who serve us in the military at home and abroad."

Event staff work to assemble 7,000 free hot-dogs to give away to those attending the commemorative fair.

A family admires an Alamance County Rescue truck set up for display among other emergency vehicles.

A gospel singer belts out tunes for spectators on a stage decked out with red, white and blue, while a statue commemorating U.S. soldiers stands in the forefront.

Emergency vehicles line up to honor the firefighters and emergency personnel who died in Sept. 11. This is Graham's second Let Freedom Ring ceremony.

Matthew Ward, 7, plays on the back of a Pleasant Grove fire truck set up for event guests to admire.