



A mural created for Gander, Newfoundland, is displayed in the 9/11 Memorial Museum. "Come From Away," a musical based on Gander's connection to September 11, is now open at Theatre Tallahassee, with performances running now through Sept. 27. (For more information, please see page A-14.)

The story of Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador, and September 11

Gander is a small island town in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Located on the island of Newfoundland, Gander is now home to roughly 12,000 people and features a number of streets named after notable aviators, including Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart and Chuck Yeager.

But those streets are not Gander's lone connection to aeronautical history.

September 11, 2001, was a deadly day in world history.

Nearly 3,000 people died on 9/11, when terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes in a coordinated attack on the United States.

At 8:46 a.m., terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into floors 93 through 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Hundreds, including everyone on board the flight, were killed instantly, and 56 minutes later the Federal Aviation Administration ordered all civilian planes in United States airspace to land.

The sudden closure of American airspace forced the diversion of more than 250 flights, and 38 of those planes ultimately made their way to a small airport on the island of Newfoundland.

An additional four military planes also landed at Gander International Airport as a result of the closure of American airspace.

In a televised speech on the evening of September 11, United States President George W. Bush noted the tragic events of the day, but also commended the American people for their brave and heroic responses to the terror that unfolded that day.

President Bush noted the courage of first responders, but also highlighted the efforts of ordinary Americans who immediately set aside their own fears to help strangers and victims of the attacks.

That same decency unfolded in Gander, where a community rose to do all it could to help strangers who found themselves suddenly stranded on a small island in a foreign country.

According to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, the

community of Gander and surrounding areas did not have enough hotel space to accommodate the roughly 7,000 stranded passengers whose planes had been grounded in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

Schools and nonessential businesses were closed, and Newfoundlanders responded with overwhelming kindness and empathy.

Meals, clean bedding and hot showers were offered to the stranded travelers, who were allowed to stay in makeshift dormitories set up in schools, churches and legion halls.

Derm Flynn, then the mayor of Appleton, a small town in the northeastern part of Newfoundland, was one of the Canadian residents who even invited stranded passengers to stay in his own home.

Newfoundland and Labrador Tourism notes that Mayor Flynn and his wife, Dianne, ultimately hosted six passengers in the aftermath of the attacks of 9/11.

The warmth extended by the people of Newfoundland to the stranded passengers of 9/11 also helped to keep them healthy and in contact with loved ones back home.

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum notes that pharmacies filled stranded travelers' prescriptions at no cost, and free public telephones were installed so passengers could call home and speak with their families.

Donated food was stored at the ice rink at the Gander Community Centre.

Newfoundlanders also provided more than the bare necessities.

Stranded passengers were offered tours of the town, which also organized bowling matches and concerts by local musicians.

The story of Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador, and September 11 endures as a testament to President Bush's observation that the events of 9/11, though undeniably evil, also showcased the best of humanity.

At a point in time when thousands of stranded passengers needed a hand, Newfoundlanders rose to the challenge and did everything they could to make thousands of strangers feel welcome and safe.

Her father watched the towers being built and knew they could not fall

MCCULLOUGH
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vividly recalls her father's reaction.

"Dad, usually the polite, Quaker-raised gentleman, shouted at the guy: 'I worked in Building No. 5 there and watched the towers being built. They CANNOT fall down! You are mistaken!'"

McCullough remembers that the kindly woodcarver sighed deeply and repeated, "I am sorry."

Up until that point, the family had made a conscious decision to focus solely on the trip and soak in the history around them — which meant no television, radio or newspapers.

"On Sept. 10, we arrived at one of my dad's favorite Landmark Trust houses, Pond Cottage in Devonshire. He was not one for televisions on these trips. He had a radio, but we were to visit with one another, see all of the historical sites we could and write or read in the evening. The scenes were idyllic, most of the time," McCullough recalls.

"Mother (Jean Loyd) made breakfast, as always, on the morning of Sept. 11. Then we went to Buckland Abbey, Sir Francis Drake's home from 1581 to his death in 1596. We ate lunch in the tea shop and were stepping into a woodcarver's area when the proprietor spoke to us about the Twin Towers.

"Back in the rental car, Dad turned on the radio, and we heard Peter Jennings reporting the morning's events. It took seeing photos in the British papers the next morning for my father to realize he was wrong," she says.

"The rest of the trip was disheartening, to say the least. My parents tried to keep going, even though they were quite concerned about the next 10 days and how I would get back to Wyoming later in the month.

"They worried about my brother and his young family; my children, Erin and James, who were in college; and my husband, Jim, building fire trucks for American LaFrance," she said.

The remainder of the trip was "an adventure, with British law enforcement out and about and other unusual activity and delays all around us," McCullough said.

"When we finally got to Heathrow again on Sept. 20, we had to have only one bag each, including a woman's handbag, which threw my mother for a loop because she liked to carry snacks and her knitting separately. We hurriedly got all of our 'weapons' in stowaway luggage, but I forgot my nail file, which was confiscated. Dad's watercolor brushes were not.

"The huge plane was almost empty. Reaching New York City, the pilot banked by the gaping hole where the World Trade Center had been so we could not see it.

"At Newark Airport, the customs agents and several other officials choked up at the mention of the attack. That airport is known for its breathtaking large-window views of lower Manhattan, so they had seen it all," McCullough remembers.

"The day was wet and dreary; American flags were everywhere," she said.

"I flew home via Denver on Sept. 23, with no problems. When I got back to the newspaper office where I worked at the time on Sept. 24, I learned that none of my stockpiled work I had prepared before the trip had been used because of the coverage of the attack and its aftermath.

"Twenty-five years have come and gone, and life has changed in so many ways. There still is heartache and sorrow for the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and what could have been for all of those innocent people who died. But the memories are becoming muted," McCullough says.

"I am grateful that Dad was a writer and made sure I was, too. I am not a journalist-keeper, however. But I am glad he was, because I was able to review his diary of this trip.

"His account was matter-of-fact and he didn't really show the emotion we all felt that day," McCullough said.

LED Robot Show Saturday at Rosehead Park

A LED Robot Show has been added to the lineup of activities for the 2026 Hispanic Festival, which will be held this Saturday, Sept. 12, and Sunday, Sept. 13, at Rosehead Park.

The 7-foot tall robots will light up the night with a massive laser light display, as well as CO2 blasts and confetti cannons. The robots will be available for photos and visits Saturday from 6-7:30 p.m., with the show beginning at 8 p.m.

Admission is free, and festival hours are noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

"Join us for food, music and family fun," organizers said.

The festival is being coordinated by the local Hispanic Church currently meeting at Northside Church of God. For more information, please call 850-943-0309.



LEGALS

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the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be heard.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 1062
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF PERRY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 50, UTILITIES, ARTICLE II, WATER, DIVISION 2, RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 50-624, WATER RATES AND OTHER CHARGES, BY ADDING SUBSECTION (J), PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTION, FLUSHING, AND TESTING FEES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
John Hart II, City Manager
Ward Ketring, Mayor

NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 2.13(B) of the City Charter of the City of Perry, Florida, notice is hereby given that the City Council had Introduction and First Reading on Ordinance No. 1063

on September 10, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida. A Public Hearing and Final Reading on Ordinance No. 1063 is scheduled for September 22, 2026, in the City Council Meeting Room, located at 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearing may be continued to a future date at the meeting, without further legal notice in the local newspaper.

Any interested persons may appear and be heard on the aforementioned public hearing date. Notice is also given, pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105 that any person deciding to appeal any decision of the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the meeting will need a record of that meeting and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be heard.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 1063
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY CODE TO CREATE A CITYWIDE PERMIT PROCESS FOR THE SERVICE, SALE, AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC

BEVERAGES WITHIN DESIGNATED, ENCLOSED AREAS OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO QUALIFYING BUSINESSES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING APPLICATION, REVIEW, AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS; REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE LICENSED PREMISES BY THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO; REQUIRING INSURANCE, INDEMNIFICATION, AND A REVOCABLE RIGHT-OF-WAY USE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SUSPENSION, REVOCATION, ENFORCEMENT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
John Hart II, City Manager
Ward Ketring, Mayor

NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 2.13(B) of the City Charter of the City of Perry, Florida, notice is hereby given that the City Council had Introduction and First Reading on Ordinance No. 1064 on September 10, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida. A Public Hearing and Final Reading on Ordinance No. 1064 is scheduled for September 22,

2026, in the City Council Meeting Room, located at 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearing may be continued to a future date at the meeting, without further legal notice in the local newspaper.

Any interested persons may appear and be heard on the aforementioned public hearing date. Notice is also given, pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105 that any person deciding to appeal any decision of the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the meeting will need a record of that meeting and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be heard.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 1064
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 40, ARTICLE III, "PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS," OF THE CITY OF PERRY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 40-53, "HOURS OF OPERATION"; AMENDING SECTION 40-54, "PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES," TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING, UNSANITARY

USE OF SPLASH PADS AND WATER FACILITIES, OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE WITH THE LAWFUL USE OF PARK FACILITIES, AND UNATTENDED OR HAZARDOUS PERSONAL PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR LAWFUL DIRECTIONS TO CEASE PROHIBITED CONDUCT OR LEAVE A PARK FACILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
John Hart II, City Manager
Ward Ketring, Mayor

NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 2.13(B) of the City Charter of the City of Perry, Florida, notice is hereby given that the City Council had Introduction and First Reading on Ordinance No. 1065 on September 10, 2026, in the City Council Chambers, 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida. A Public Hearing and Final Reading on Ordinance No. 1065 is scheduled for September 22, 2026, in the City Council Meeting Room, located at 224 S. Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible. The public hearing may be continued to a future date at the meeting, without

further legal notice in the local newspaper.

Any interested persons may appear and be heard on the aforementioned public hearing date. Notice is also given, pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105 that any person deciding to appeal any decision of the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the meeting will need a record of that meeting and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be heard.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING ORDINANCE NO. 1065
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PERRY, FLORIDA PERTAINING TO THE AMENDMENT OF UTILITY RATES, APPENDIX A, SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES; GARBAGE AND TRASH MONTHLY CHARGES; SEWER RATES AND CHARGES; WATER RATES AND OTHER CHARGES; GAS SUPPLIED BY CITY; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE PARTS HEREOF IF DECLARED INVALID; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
John Hart II, City Manager
Ward Ketring, Mayor