By Connie Morrison

Schools across the Eastern Shore let out a couple of weeks ago, but let’s be honest — summer doesn’t really get underway until the lights go on at the fairgrounds and area midways come alive with rides, games and gastronomical delights during the Eastern Shore carnivals sponsored by local fire companies in Wachapreague and Chincoteague.

The opening ceremony for the 92nd annual Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman’s Carnival, slated for June 23 at 6:30 p.m., will kick off five weekends — plus a full week during Pony Penning — of fun and games, rides, live music, clam and oyster fritters, Pony Fries (hand-cut french fries), and raffles for guns, boats and quilts.

“It started in conjunction with Pony Penning,” said Denise Bowden, public information officer for the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. “We are self-sustaining, and this is how we make money to pay for half-million-dollar fire trucks and $200,000 ambulances,” along with equipment and scholarships funded by the company.

Volunteers step up to run the carnival. Members of the fire company, the fire company auxiliary, the Salt Water Pony Club, and other community members join to make it a success. “We’ve got a good group of people who come together to help us out for the 16 nights of the carnival,” Bowden said.

Everyone has a different carnival favorite, it seems, but Bowden said there is one thing that stands above the rest: “The best thing you can expect to see at the carnival is your old friends gathering and having a nice time of fellowship.”

If you go...

- Opening ceremony is 6:30 p.m., June 23, at the front gate by the flag pole.
- There is no cost to enter to carnival. it will run from 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday nights through July 22, and daily July 24-29.
- Fireworks are scheduled for July 1, at 10 p.m., with a rain date of July 8, at 10 p.m.
- Tickets or wristbands can be purchased for rides; cash only is accepted for food stands and games.
- An ATM and cashier are both available on-site.

Check the CHINCOTEAGUE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. Facebook page for weather updates.
**Photo Courtesy of the Museum of Chincoteague Island**


**Photo Courtesy of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce**

Fireman’s Carnival.

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**Sundial Books**
Sundial Books Presents:
Clamming in Chincoteague
by: Albert Casciero & Bobby Umphlett
Meet the Authors & Book Signing
Saturday, June 24
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Ribbon Cutting at the Chincoteague Family YMCA

Submitted Article

The mood was festive as Missy Denault, executive director of the Chincoteague YMCA, welcomed more than 75 people to the ribbon cutting ceremony that ushered in the first phase of alterations to the facility. The renovations expanded the workout area into what was the drive-through of the former bank building, creating more square footage. Volunteers, staff, board members and the YMCA Kurious Kids Preschool were present to celebrate all the changes.

The opening performance of the Kurious Kids stole the show, and a few hearts, as they sang songs learned at the Y. They also joined in cutting the ribbon.

To round out the group, David Lansberger, YMCA corporate board liaison, Jenny Hanyo, Chincoteague YMCA board chairwoman, staff and volunteers also took part. Robbie Gill, CEO of the YMCA of the Chesapeake, Lansberger and Hanyo all spoke about what the changes mean for the Chincoteague YMCA and the community. YMCA of the Chesapeake corporate board members Jacque Smith, Beverly Tilghman and Hilary Spence were there to witness the transformation of a building that went from a bank to a YMCA.

With all the changes, the Chincoteague Family Y is better equipped to continue its mission to strengthen the foundations of the community. Through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y helps to take care of the community on the island. They can do more now and will continue the renovation to have an even bigger impact.

Although there is still phase two to be completed, the phase one renovation, with its new equipment, layout, paint and carpet, made the building shine. But even more impressive, are the staff and volunteers of the Y in Chincoteague that are there to help. These folks are dedicated to do community work and help every member lead a healthy life. While the building is stunning, it doesn’t compare to the people inside. Please feel free to come and take a look. See what the Y has to offer.
### 2017 Trolley Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Evening Hours Only</th>
<th>Red Route</th>
<th>Evening Hours Only</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Grove</td>
<td>5:02 - 9:02</td>
<td>Pine Grove</td>
<td>5:15 - 9:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maddox Blvd. &amp; Deep Hole Rd.</td>
<td>5:05 - 9:05</td>
<td>5:20 - 9:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main St. &amp; Church St.</td>
<td>5:08 - 9:08</td>
<td>5:22 - 9:22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>5:17 - 9:17</td>
<td>7:59 - 8:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pony Centre</td>
<td>5:21 - 9:21</td>
<td>8:30 - 9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museum of Chincoteague Is.</td>
<td>5:25 - 9:25</td>
<td>8:34 - 9:34</td>
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**ROUTE DAYS OF OPERATION**

- **The Green Route** will run the 3rd of June, and will run continuously June 6th through September 9th. The Green Route route will be run Friday and Saturday, starting September 15th through October 14th.

- **The Red Route** will begin on June 5th and will run every day through August 31st.

Trolley fare is 25 cents per person per ride. Exact change is appreciated. Free ride tokens are available at local businesses. Drivers do not carry cash. As a courtesy, please: no alcohol, no tobacco, and no pets. The Pony Express is seasonal transportation service provided by the Town of Chincoteague. This service is open to the public. Many of the motels, restaurants, shops, parks, recreational areas, ice cream parlours, and campgrounds are along our routes. Trolleys are equipped with wheelchair lifts. To inquire about Americans with Disabilities Act public transportation option, please contact the Town of Chincoteague during business hours at 757-336-6519, or The Pony Express at 757-854-8572, after 5 p.m.
**What to do this week in and around Chincoteague**

**Friday, June 23**  
Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman’s Carnival – Opening Weekend, 7 - 11 p.m., Chincoteague Island Carnival Grounds, www.cvfc3.com

**Saturday, June 24**  
Rocket Launch: Terrier-Improved Malemute Amoule Test Launch, launch window 9:07 p.m. – 9:22 p.m., countdown at www.ustream.tv.channel.nasa-tv-wallops

Farmers and Artisan Market, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance, 6309 Church St., www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org

*Space Story Time and Craft*, 11 a.m., NASA Wallops Visitor Center, www.nasa.gov/content/wallops-visitor-center/public-programs

**Sunday, June 25**  
CCA Kitchen Gallery, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., 6309 Church St., Chincoteague, ChincoteagueCulturalAlliance.org

**Monday, June 26**  
CCA Community Bingo, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Games are 25 cents each, 6309 Church Street, Chincoteague, ChincoteagueCulturalAlliance.org

**Thursday, June 29**  

Summer Cinema Series, 8:30 p.m., Free admission, Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park, in case of rain film is shown at CCA headquarters (6309 Church Street), www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/summer-cinema-series.html

**Friday, June 30**  
Chincoteague Story Telling Guild, 7 p.m., Chincoteague Island Library (4077 Main Street), www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/chincoteague-storytelling-guild.html

**Friday, June 30 - Saturday, July 1**  
Chincoteague Volunteer Fireman’s Carnival, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., Chincoteague Island Carnival Grounds, www.cvfc3.com

**Saturday, July 1**  
Chincoteague Island Farmer & Artisan Market, 9 am - 1 pm, Chincoteague Cultural Alliance 6309 Church Street, www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/chincoteague-island-farmers-market.html

*Free Kids Art Class*, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., Chincoteague Cultural Alliance 6309 Church Street, Chincoteague, www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/free-kids-art-class.html

*Music at the Dock*, 7 p.m., Robert Reed Park in Chincoteague’s historic downtown, www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/music-at-the-dock.html

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**Day Trips and Side Trips Around the Eastern Shore**

**Friday, June 23**  
*The Lego Batman Movie*, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., $5, The Palace Theatre (306 Mason Ave), 757-331-2787, http://artsentercapecharles.org/calendar/

**Friday June 23 – Saturday, June 24**  

**Friday, June 23 – Wednesday, June 28**  
Wonder Woman, 7 p.m., Adults $9, Seniors $8, Children (12 and under with a parent) $7.50, Roseland Theatre (48 Market Street), http://www.roselandonancock.com/

**Wednesday, June 28**  
Teen Beach Movie, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., $5, The Palace Theatre (305 Mason Ave), 757-331-2787, http://artsentercapecharles.org/calendar/

**Thursday, June 29**  

**Friday, June 30 - Saturday, July 1**  
Beauty and the Beast Jr., 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings, 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, $15 reserved, $10 general admission, Onancock (34 Market Street), 757-787-2050, www.northstreetplayhouse.org

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All listings are provided for information only; call or check websites for updates and confirmation.

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The Hitching Post is a publication of the The Eastern Shore Post, Onley, Virginia. Contact us at 757-789-7678. Editor, Connie Morrison; Ad Manager, Troy Justis; Advertising Associate, Sam Sellard; Ad Designer, Kimberly Perry and Intern Jasmine Foeman. Nameplate photograph by Solid Rock Photography, Chincoteague.
The offshore fishing season began in earnest this week with the arrival of yellowfin tuna within reach of Eastern Shore ports, as well as the first reported white marlin release of the year. Shark numbers are increasing from the surf line to the canyons.

Inshore, bait fishing while chumming has out-produced sightcasting for cobia in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Flounder fishing has been up and down, depending on the water clarity, and the first big influx of croaker has been reported on the lower seaside off Oyster.

**Chincoteague** – Jimmy, at Captain Steve’s Bait & Tackle reported that some of the best trophy flounder fishing of the season occurred last weekend as the shop weighed in four fish exceeding six pounds, the largest doormat tipping the scales at an impressive 7-2! Surf fishing has produced catches of sea mullet (whiting) and sharks, measuring up to 76 inches. Blacktips, spinners and dusky sharks are prowling the warm inshore waters. Triggerfish have taken up their summer residence over the offshore wrecks. Donna Rae, of Captain Bob’s Offshore Tackle, reported that the shop weighed in a 124-0 mako shark for Pennsylvania anglers Brad Shaffer and Jason Ganese. The pair were fishing along the 30-fathom line, some 45 miles east of the inlet. Donna said that large sharks are patrolling the waters around the inlet. The best reported flounder action came from the two deep holes in front of Tom’s Cove, in Assateague Channel. Queen Sound produced some undersized trout as well as some juvenile cobia. Pink Berkley Gulp Swimming Mullets and pink Mylar rigs have been the hot color and combinations.

**Wachapreague** – Captain Lindsay Paul, of Trident Tackle, reported that flounder fishing has not been very consistent, with lots of undersized fish. He estimated that some days there are 10-12 throwbacks for every keeper fish. The big news is that there was a brief push of warm water into the Washington and Norfolk canyons producing a limited run of yellowfin tuna. The Fin Seeker, Bite Me, and the Heat Wave were among the vessels that were able to capitalize on the bite. A recent inshore trip with Matt Abell produced five keeper flounder out of a catch of 25-30 fish out of Folly Creek. Don’s Tackle Shop reported that flounder fishing was “pretty decent” out of Wachapreague last weekend. A charter fishing trip last weekend with Captain Bobby Turner aboard the Bobby Sue produced 20 flounder, 10 of which were keepers measuring over 17 inches.

**Lower Shore** – Chris, from Chris’ Bait & Tackle, reported that flounder fishing has been hit and miss, depending on the water conditions. She recommended the waters inside of Oyster Inlet as well as the ditch off Kiptopeke for your best shot at a keeper flounder. Anglers targeting flounder inside Oyster experienced the first good croaker numbers of the season as a bycatch. The cobia bite continues to be good in the lower Chesapeake Bay. Sightcasters have been hindered by the bright sunny days, but anglers chumming and fishing with chunks of menhaden continue to have the best success, though sharks and rays have become unwelcome bycatches. Sea mullet fishing has been good in front of Sunset Beach and the fourth island of the bridge-tunnel has been the most consistent spot for spadefish.

**Upper Bay** – Speckled trout continue to be caught in the shallows of Pocomoke Sound, but undersized rockfish continue to dominate the shallow water action. Larger speckles have been reported in Tangier Sound. Sea Hawk Sports Center reported that one party recently land five fish more than 20 inches in length in a single trip. MirrOlure MirrOdine suspending jerk baits have been the hot lure during the first of the flood tide. Popping corks have also enjoyed success. The deep water rocks continue to produce a variety of bottom fish, including sea mullet, croaker, spot, bluefish and flounder.

**Offshore** – Boats willing to make the long run offshore north to the Poor Man’s Canyon, the Hot Dog, or the Washington Canyon, as well as south to the Norfolk Canyon have been rewarded with catches of nice-sized yellowfin tuna. Chincoteague’s Josh Harrison registered the first locally reported white marlin release of the year on a recent trip. Makos, hammerheads, and large dusky sharks are being caught from the 30- to the 50-fathom line, especially in the vicinity of offshore wrecks.

Bill Hall was the first Eastern Shore resident to achieve Virginia Salt Water Master Angler Status. He has been named Virginia Saltwater Angler of the Year and Virginia Saltwater Release Angler of the Year. Bill is an I.G.F.A. International Committee Representative and a longtime member of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament Committee. He is the Virginia Recreation Fishing representative on the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Panel and is a past recipient of the CCA-VA Virginia Outdoor Writer Conservation Leadership Award.
**Tide Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Friday June 23</th>
<th>Saturday June 24</th>
<th>Sunday June 25</th>
<th>Monday June 26</th>
<th>Tuesday June 27</th>
<th>Wednesday June 28</th>
<th>Thursday June 29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assateague Beach</td>
<td>H 7:51 a.m. L 2:12 p.m.</td>
<td>H 8:45 a.m. L 3:05 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:40 a.m. L 3:58 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:34 a.m. L 4:52 p.m.</td>
<td>H 11:28 a.m. L 5:47 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:22 p.m. L 6:37 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:17 p.m. L 7:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinco Channel</td>
<td>H 7:55 a.m. L 2:11 p.m.</td>
<td>H 8:49 a.m. L 3:04 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:44 a.m. L 3:57 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:38 a.m. L 4:51 p.m.</td>
<td>H 11:32 a.m. L 5:46 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:26 p.m. L 6:36 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:21 p.m. L 7:29 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gargatha Neck</td>
<td>H 8:47 a.m. L 2:51 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:41 a.m. L 3:44 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:36 a.m. L 4:37 p.m.</td>
<td>H 11:30 a.m. L 5:31 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:24 a.m. L 6:23 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:18 p.m. L 7:16 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:13 p.m. L 8:09 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folly Creek</td>
<td>H 8:40 a.m. L 2:36 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:34 a.m. L 3:29 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:29 a.m. L 4:22 p.m.</td>
<td>H 11:23 a.m. L 5:16 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:17 a.m. L 6:11 p.m.</td>
<td>H 1:11 p.m. L 7:01 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:06 p.m. L 7:54 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wachapreague</td>
<td>H 8:26 a.m. L 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:20 a.m. L 3:13 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:15 a.m. L 4:06 p.m.</td>
<td>H 11:09 a.m. L 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:03 a.m. L 5:55 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:57 p.m. L 6:45 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:52 p.m. L 7:38 a.m.</td>
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<td>Quinby Inlet</td>
<td>H 7:51 a.m. L 1:51 p.m.</td>
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<td>Machipongo</td>
<td>H 8:21 a.m. L 2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>H 9:15 a.m. L 3:13 p.m.</td>
<td>H 10:10 a.m. L 4:06 p.m.</td>
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<td>H 11:58 a.m. L 5:55 p.m.</td>
<td>H 12:52 a.m. L 6:45 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:47 p.m. L 7:38 a.m.</td>
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<td>Tangier Sound Light</td>
<td>H 12:06 p.m. L 6:19 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:02 p.m. L 7:13 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:57 p.m. L 8:07 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:51 p.m. L 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>H 3:45 p.m. L 9:53 a.m.</td>
<td>H 4:40 p.m. L 10:46 a.m.</td>
<td>H 5:37 p.m. L 11:39 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muddy Creek</td>
<td>H 12:22 p.m. L 6:54 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:18 p.m. L 7:48 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:13 p.m. L 8:42 a.m.</td>
<td>H 3:07 p.m. L 9:35 a.m.</td>
<td>H 4:01 p.m. L 10:28 a.m.</td>
<td>H 4:56 p.m. L 11:21 a.m.</td>
<td>H 5:53 p.m. L 12:14 p.m.</td>
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<td>Guard Shore</td>
<td>H 12:14 p.m. L 6:50 a.m.</td>
<td>H 1:10 p.m. L 7:44 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:05 p.m. L 8:38 a.m.</td>
<td>H 2:59 p.m. L 9:31 a.m.</td>
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