

News Release**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date: March 26, 2026****Contact:** Taylor Henderson, 757/728-5316taylor.henderson@hampton.gov

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“Carousel Carnival” on Saturday, April 4, 2026***Take a spin back in time!*

Hampton, VA – At 106 years old, the historic Hampton Carousel is prepping to welcome a new generation of riders when it opens for the 2026 season on Wednesday, April 1st, and to celebrate this beloved landmark of Hampton’s past, Hampton Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services is hosting a Carousel Carnival, Saturday, April 4th, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with free rides and fun for the entire family.

“Bring the family to Carousel Park and join the Special Events team in celebrating the opening of the Hampton Carousel as only they know how on Saturday, April 5th. The Carousel Carnival, happening from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will feature carnival-style games, strolling musicians, prizes, tasty treats, FREE carousel rides and other surprises. “Come join in the fun as we kick off another exciting season with the Historic Hampton Carousel,” says Ryan Gregory, Special Events Supervisor, City of Hampton Parks, Recreation, & Leisure Services. While the Carousel Carnival ends at 2:00 p.m., free rides continue until closing at 8:00 p.m. on this special day.

Located in Carousel Park and operated by the Hampton History Museum, the former Buckroe Beach Carousel is one of the City of Hampton’s most treasured historic assets. Built in 1920, the carousel is completely restored to its original beauty and housed in its own weather-protected pavilion at Carousel Park on the city’s downtown waterfront. It is one of the only 70 antique wooden merry-go-rounds still existing in the United States. Hand crafted by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company for the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park, Hampton’s Carousel is a whirling tribute to the skill of its creators.

After untold numbers of young and old enjoyed the carousel over its 65-year tenure, it was put in storage with the closure of Buckroe Beach Amusement Park in the mid-1980s. It was moved and restored at its current location in Carousel Park on Settlers Landing Road in Downtown Hampton in 1991. It still boasts its original mirrors and oil paintings, as well as 48 intricately decorated horses. Rising and falling to the strains of the original band organ, many of these carousel horses are so finely carved that the veins in their necks and legs are visible. Special hours are available for groups or special occasions. The carousel will close for the winter on December 31, 2026 and reopen on April 1, 2027.

The Hampton Carousel is located at 602 Settlers Landing Road, in Downtown Hampton. Regular hours of operation: Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., closed on Mondays. Rider fees are \$1.00 per ride. Tickets on sale at the Hampton History Museum and at the Hampton Carousel. For more information, call the Hampton Visitor Center at 757-727-1102 or visit www.HamptonHistoryMuseum.org.

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Images attached:

- Photos of 2025 Carousel Carnival courtesy of Hampton Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.