

WACHAPREAGUE Times

News, information
& happenings from
the home of the
famous
Wachapreague
Lawn, an amalgam
of 15 kinds of weeds,
with a little grass.

Volume 2

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Photo by Dave Groshong

He's in Charge of Safety

KERRY PAUL IS MORE than an electrician, more than a firefighter, more than a lifelong Wachapreague resident. He's the guy who's in charge of making sure the rides are safe at the annual Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department Carnival.

This year, that job involved taking the Scrambler apart and then turning it over, to inspect a weld that's on the very bottom.

The Scrambler has cars at the ends of several arms. The arms raise and lower, the carts spin and the whole thing goes around in a circle. There are daily and annual inspections of all the rides. In addition to the weld inspection, the main bearings in the Scrambler are replaced every five years.

The Scrambler needs this extra attention, Paul says, "Because the manufacturer says so."

The five-year inspection happened this year. In addition to inspecting the weld and the main bearings, Paul and his crew took apart every seat on the Scrambler.

The seats are built like airplanes, he says, with 4,000 rivets each. Removing the side panels, which is what the firefighters have to do to inspect each car, involves undoing about 400 of the rivets.

All the rides are inspected every year, Paul says. The department hires a company from across the bay to perform non-destructive testing, or NDT work. This is highly specialized work, involving using metal filings and a magnet to check for cracks. None has ever been found, he says.

Every ride at the carnival is also inspected every year by a ride inspector from Chincoteague.

Each ride is inspected nightly, after the carnival closes. There's a checklist for each operator to fill out nightly. Generally, Paul says, the same firefighters operate the same rides every year, so they are pretty expert on their operation and the state of their mechanical health.

Paul has been running the Ferris wheel since the 1980s. Before him,

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This & That

THE SHORE GIRLS flounder tournament first-place winner was April Bridges, who took home \$870.75, for her 20.5-inch flounder.

Second place winner was Page Winstead, with a 19.25-inch flounder; she won \$580.50.

Third place was JoAnne Eshlemen, with an 18 7/8-inch flounder. Yay!

FOURTH OF JULY events start at 9 a.m. by the water at the Nature Conservancy Park, look for David Bright and fellow parachuters to jump!

At 10:30, the parade starts, by Teasers. There's still time to enter! Mail your info - name, phone number and how you'd like to participate, to town@wachapreague.org

MAYOR CHARLES ELLIOTT, featured on the front page of the June 14 Eastern Shore Post, has been nominated for multiple awards, as we mentioned last month, and accepted as a member of the Country Music Association. He will be returning to Nashville in the fall for the Josie Music Awards, where he has been

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From the Editor

WITH THIS EDITION, the Wachapreague Times marks one year of publication.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped, by giving me tips and ideas, taking photos, proofreading and editing, answering my phone calls and questions, and being supportive.

Special thanks to Jim Bell, who uploads the newsletter to the town website each month; to Anne Terry Swick, who proofreads with care and patience; and to Dave Groshong, who has endless enthusiasm, is a grand generator of ideas, and so often runs to the printer for me, and puts the newsletter out around town.

And thank you, all of you, for reading the newsletter every month.

People have asked if they could contribute to the printing costs. If you'd like to, you could stop by the house at 18 Bayview, or send anything to me at PO Box 144, Wachapreague.

That's also a good address for you to mail ideas and tips - or you can email me at carrieBjacobson@gmail.com, or text me at 860-442-0246.

Safety

Tooty Watkinson, Tomeka Watkinson's father, ran it. The oldest ride in the carnival is the merry-go-round, and this year will be its final one. It was built in 1921 by the Allan Herschell Company in North Tonawanda, NY. The Wachapreague firefighters bought it in the 1970s from a man in King George, VA.

Paul says the carousel just needs too much work. The fire department has bought a small carousel, and is going to put up a building that will house it, the Pony Cart and a new ride named the Roto Whip. The new building will go up where the current merry-go-round sits. All three of these rides will be suited to youngsters.

The carnival runs Wednesdays-Saturdays, through July 6. In addition to the rides, there's delicious festival food, games of luck and skill, a raffle for a zero-turn mower, and lots of music.

ON OPENING NIGHT, Little Miss Carnival Queen, Little Mr. Carnival King; Miss Pre-Teen Carnival Queen and Miss Carnival Queen will be chosen.

MUSIC

Week 1: Thursday, June 20 - Accomack Community Band
Friday, June 21 - Corn Funk Revue
Saturday, June 22 - Fil Rhythm Band with special guest Ada Noel Harris

Week 2 : Wednesday, June 26 - Laydbaxx Band
Wednesday, June 27 - Vince Kornegay and Mandy
Friday, June 28 - DJ Sleepy
Saturday, June 29 - Irie Tree Band

Week 3: Wednesday, July 3 - Sherry Belote and Friends
Thursday, July 4 - WESR Throwback
Thursday, July 5 - Escandolo Norteno
Saturday, July 6 - H.M. Johnson Band



lived in

You have to look closely to see it, but this photo shows a lawn mower towing a boat. Hahaha! You've got to love this town.

Awards, where he has been nominated in the categories of emerging artist, songwriter of the year, and songwriter achievement.

THE BOOK BIN, owned by Phil Wilson, a soon-to-be-former resident of Wachapreague, is for sale. It's been in business for 44 years, and is a well-known and much-loved store, selling books and items for readers, children's books, books and art by locals, as well as a variety of coffees and treats. People with serious interest should email Phil at bookbinva@gmail.com

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PORTRAIT ARTIST Carolyn Egeli has moved to town. You will see a sign noting her business on Main Street.

Egeli is a classically trained artist with decades of experience. She lived most of her life in southern Maryland, but more recently, she

Vermont.

She paints all subjects, and specializes in portraits. You can see her work online at <https://www.carolynegeeli.com/>

THE WACHAPREAGUE GENERAL STORE has new work by astern Shore artist Gertraud Fendler, who specializes in working with metal debris left by rockets taking off from Wallops.

Also the store has new coffee and tea concoctions, panini sandwiches and handmade soaps.

POWELTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is hosting a spaghetti dinner July 20, and all are invited. We believe it starts at 5 p.m. Please check the church's Facebook page, or look for info on the sign in front.

HAVE A TIDBIT FOR This & That? Please email me at carrieBjacobson@gmail.com

A Grand Time for Gardens!

IS YOUR GARDEN looking splendiferous? Scrumptious? Absolutely stunning? There are lots of great-looking gardens in town right now. If you're proud of yours, please send a photo to carrieBjacobson@gmail.com



Classifieds

Garden Fish for sale! There are some available at the General Store, or stop by 18 Bayview!



WIN THIS MOWER AND TRAILER!



52" Ferris 500S Zero Turn Mower w/trailer

DRAWING: JULY 16TH
WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Raffle Tickets will be for sale at the carnival!

The mower is valued at about \$6,000.