

WACHAPREAGUE Times

News, information
& happenings from
the Carnival Capital
of the Eastern Shore

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Parade, prizes and a picnic!

Abby Taylor
is bringing it
all to a small
town near you



ABBY TAYLOR has good ideas, great energy and a lot of pretty wonderful prizes - and she is bringing them all to the town's Fourth of July celebration.

Taylor, 31, lives here now, and has lifelong ties with Wachapreague. Her dad, Charlie Farlow, was born on Pearl Street, and his father docked the Fern A. here for many years.

She grew up mainly in Onancock, leaving the Shore to attend Old Dominion University. There, she says, laughing, she got homesick and moved back - and then found that she was asking herself why, in fact, she had been homesick.

She left again, to work in Virginia Beach while she made her way in nursing school.

Along the way, she married Scott Taylor, who, at the time, was a welder on submarines at Newport News. Abby was

pregnant, COVID had hit, and nursing school fell by the wayside.

The couple moved back to the Shore, had their daughter Charlie, and Abby decided to be a stay-at-home mom and part-time event planner. Scott is now working as a Virginia Beach firefighter, and the arrangement has worked out for all of them. Starting this fall, when Charlie begins school, Abby expects to be working more regularly outside their Liberty Street home.

SO WHEN MAYOR Charles Elliott came to her, asking if she could help with the Fourth, she said yes. (She said yes four years ago to running the pageants for the Volunteer Fire Department Carnival, so her name is probably familiar to many of you.)

Abby says there's a lot to do to get the

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This & That

A MAIN STREET RESIDENT reports seeing a painted bunting at her feeder for several days in a row earlier in the year. This is an unusual bird for our region, according to the



Cornell Lab's All About Birds site. The northern reach of the bunting's range is generally South Carolina - so what was it doing here?

The bunting has a vivid color palette of red, green, blue and yellow. Females have a distinctive green color with white eye-rings.

A Bayview Avenue resident reported seeing an orchard oriole in the spring, as well. It's not quite as unusual a sighting as the bunting, but not common, either. It has a dark head and rust-colored chest.

JIM BELL, who chairs the Planning and Zoning Commission and with his wife Susan is the force behind the Historic District movement, says the town is working on a new website and seeking photographs to showcase Wachapreague.

He's looking for interesting shots of people, places, landscapes and more for a rotating banner, and general photographs to use elsewhere on the site. So if you have photos of our town that you'd like to contribute, and which can be in a 1200 px by 500 px format, please reach out to Jim by calling or texting him at 540-816-9800

THE ARTISANS OF WACHAPREAGUE, a new group of artists and crafters who live in town, will have a show and sale July 12, from 10-2, at the Powelton Presbyterian Church on Main Street.

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Fourth

festivities up and running, and this year, there will be some differences.

There will be no parachute jump, for starters, mainly for financial reasons.

And the parade will start a bit later than usual, at 10:10, rather than 10, mainly because of some police scheduling. People wanting to be in the parade should gather at Bradford Neck Road (the Quinby Road), near Teaser's, to be ready by 10:10.

Participants will parade down Main Street, then turn at Brooklyn and make their way to the carnival grounds, where the picnic will begin.

PARADE CATEGORIES

INCLUDE:

- Walkers
- Pets
- Golf Carts
- Vehicles
- Floats
- Boats
- Bikes
- Coast Guard
- Fire Department

In each category except for the final two, there will be a first, second and third prize.

And Taylor has gone above and beyond in terms of collecting prizes.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- A gift card to the Crab Pot
- An offshore hunting trip on a Chincoteague charter boat
- A gift certificate for Vanity Hair Salon in Onancock
- A meal at Havana 13
- A meal at Molly's Fruit
- A meal at Maurice
- A gift card to the Book Bin

- A hand-carved decoy donated by a Virginia Beach firefighter
- A Marshall's gift card
- And for the kids, tickets to Maui Jack's

THE FOOD FESTIVITIES

are happening, as well, thanks to Taylor and to Sean Fate and the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Department. Wal-Mart has donated 150 hot dogs and 150 ice cream cups. The Fire Department has donated 150 buns, condiments, drinks and fries.

And, she says, "God bless Sean Fate and his wife. They have been the biggest blessing. We would not be having this picnic without them."

With some volunteer help, Taylor is decorating the carnival grounds for the festivities.

She says she'll be putting flowers on the bingo hall tables, getting a big banner with the Wachapreague crest on it, and making a balloon arch, too - something she says she does "all the time."

THOUGH TAYLOR has clearly enjoyed the work, it's been more complex than she had imagined. There was a series of permits to be brought to various police departments, then signed and brought back to VDOT.

She had to wrangle people and groups, ask for donations and gifts, and hammer out detail upon detail.

She can still use some volunteers; there's a sign-up sheet in the post office, of you can email her at abbyLtaylor23@gmail.com, or call or text her at 757-709-3313.

This & That

The group's inaugural show and sale in May was well attended, and visitors enjoyed seeing and buying art, and lunching on hot dogs, beverages and other delicious items, all of which will be available at the July 12 event.

The group includes woodworker Larry Pitts, crafters extraordinaire Tomeka Watkinson and Beth Mendez, graphic artist and designer Lee Anne Shontere, lampshade maker and lamp refurbisher Sue Fountain (who also

does upholstery), garden-fish artist Dave Groshong, author Steve Borgess, baker and beverage maker Jeanie Lazecky, and painters Bob Bilicki, Lynne Rogers, Ted Leonard, Ann Crain and me, Carrie Jacobson. Flower-grower and store owner Tracey Chareas joined the group for the first event, and will have flowers in the July event, too.

Members of the church will be selling delicious baked goods, as well as hot dogs, chips and beverages. .



Photograph by Cindi Bowen

Scenes from the Carnival



Photograph by Cindi Bowen

The 2025 Volunteer Firemen's Carnival, which ends on Saturday, July 5, has been great fun, filled with people of all ages and races, enjoying rides, games and delicious carnival food. It's a fundraiser, but it's a labor of love by members of the fire department and of the community. Thank you! You bring a marvelous event to our sweet town every year, and we appreciate it!

