



# Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU

**Media Release**

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## **Historic Hampton Carousel Opens for Season April 3**

**Hampton, VA** - Operated by the Hampton History Museum, the former Buckroe Beach carousel, one of the City of Hampton's most treasured historic assets, opens for the 2018 season on April 3.

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 only 170 antique wooden merry-go-rounds still existing in the U.S. 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

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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 in January 2019, and reopen in the spring.

The Hampton Carousel is located at 602 Settlers Landing Rd. Regular hours of operation: Winter (April, September-December) Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., closed Mondays: Summer (May-August) Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., closed 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](http://www.HamptonHistoryMuseum.org).

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 Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.

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