

The decision to make changes to the carnival this year weren't easy and weren't made lightly. The committee met several times and spent many hours discussing possibilities, concerns, and the likelihood of a successful event. We obviously can't predict the future and came to the realization that, despite our brightest hopes, it wouldn't be feasible to try and move forward in the same manner.

It's easy to say that our decision to make adjustments "doesn't make any sense because other carnivals still go on" or "everything is back open and business as usual". Our carnival was never like the others that pop up in our area. We were the largest all-volunteer carnival on the East Coast – requiring more than 1,000 volunteers (in addition to the ride operator and staff). We found that many of our past volunteers could not commit to helping in the summer when we were looking for answers at the beginning of the year. Increased pricing on everything (fuel, food, products) makes it almost impossible to balance with setting a family friendly pricing structure. The instability of the supply chain created concerns on the availability of food and products. Ongoing coin shortages made it impossible to ensure we could access all of the loose change needed for the various stands and games.

For those reasons, the Executive Committee felt it was best to pause for this year and to partner with Jolly Shows by allowing them to provide their portion of the carnival atmosphere. Our decisions had nothing to do with laziness, unwillingness, covid, or politics.

We hope you'll consider supporting the Glen Burnie Improvement Association by visiting the Jolly Shows – Glen Burnie Carnival this year. The event will be held Wednesday – July 20th through Sunday – July 31st (they will be open on Sundays). You can find complete information related to the event on the Jolly Shows Facebook page. Your support allows GBIA to continue hosting other family events (Ice Cream Social, Fireworks at Sawmill Creek Park, Annual Tree Lighting, Santa's Sleigh Ride) throughout the year.

I hope this answers most of your questions and please know our decision was not made lightly! We are eager to see what the future brings.