

Beach Trolley makes maiden voyage

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By CAROL HARVAT
Staff writer

A new trolley in the Twin Beaches took its maiden voyage last Friday afternoon amidst a crowd of supporters and trolley organizers who reveled in the accomplishment of bringing the trolley idea into fruition.

Attendees at the celebration lauded the trolley's contribution to the area. The trolley is great for the community and businesses, said Stewart Cumbo, president of the Beach Trolley Association (BTA), and council member for Chesapeake Beach. A lot of people did a lot of work in a short period of time, he said.

Members of the BTA's board of trustees spoke about the effort put forth in the last three months to make the idea of a trolley for the Beaches become a reality.

Marilyn Van Wagner, who came up with the idea about three years ago is "undoubtedly the founder of the beach trolley," said Lisa Baden, an ABC Channel 7 newscaster and master of ceremonies of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Van Wagner thanked the people who believed in her idea and all the members of BTA by name who willingly stepped up to help make the trolley happen. Feb. 10, 2008, is a day to remember in trolley history, she said. That is the date of the meeting when committees were decided upon and chairs voted in, and all agreed to form a nonprofit with BTA and seek private donations for the first year, Van Wagner said.



Staff photos by DARWIN WEIGEL

The board of trustees of the Beach Trolley Association cut the ribbon on the new beach trolley bus last Friday, May 23, at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. The bus, which will have 50 stops along bay towns from Chesapeake Beach to Deale, will run Friday through Sunday through Labor Day weekend.

"We've met almost every Sunday since," she said.

Chair of BTA fundraising Pat Carpenter acknowledged and thanked the financial contributors, considered founders of the trolley, thanking the Chaneyes of Herrington Harbour, Mayor Gerald Donovan and his brother Fred, Joe Magnolia of Magnolia Plumbing, Ron Russo and Peter and Nancy Hooper. "If it were not for their contributions, we would not be here today," she said. BTA continues to seek funds and for as little as \$1, someone can be considered a

"friend of the trolley," she added.

The Not-So-Modern Jazz Quartet played upbeat tunes culminating with "Meet Me in St. Louis," the trolley song with the familiar lyrics, "Clang, Clang, Clang Goes the Trolley."

For 25 cents, riders can take a ride on the trolley and stop off at any of the 53 stops, from Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum to Skipper's Pier in Deale. Riders must have exact change and no eating or drinking is allowed on the trolley.

The trolley's two-hour loop

has a tight schedule and stops numerous times along Route 261 heading North, rounding its way to Bay Avenue, and then the residential district along Frederick Avenue before going back up Route 261 North to Herrington Harbour.

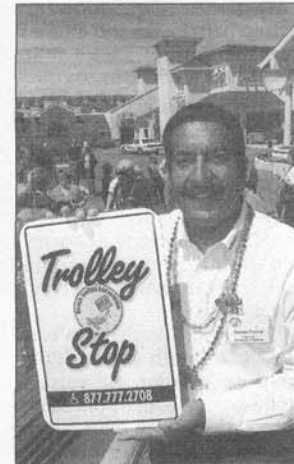
Former Calvert County Commissioner Hagner Mister (D) said the trolley is another drawing card for the Beaches.

"I'm going to ride the trolley this summer," he said.

North Beach resident Cathy Hamilton said she just has to walk down to the end of her



The first trolley riders get on the bus after a ribbon cutting for the new beach trolley bus last Friday at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum.



Stewart Cumbo, president of the board of trustees of the Beach Trolley Association, holds up one of the trolley stop signs after a ribbon cutting for the new beach trolley bus last Friday at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. The bus will run Friday through Sunday through Labor Day weekend.

street to catch the trolley.

"For 25 cents you can't beat it. It's great," she said.

Max and Kathy Schmitz, who boated from West River and planned to spend the

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Cathy Hamilton,
North Beach resident

weekend in the area, said they thought the trolley was a great idea for visitors like them who are landlocked when they stay in areas like Rose Haven.

The BTA printed 15,000 maps that provide the route, schedule and key marking area businesses and advertisements. Maps are available at local businesses.

The beach trolley runs through Labor Day weekend on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The trolley is equipped with a wheelchair lift and a bike rack on the front, and pets are not allowed.

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