

Trolley ride worth every penny (all 25)

In 1888, a loaf of bread cost 5 cents, which was the same price as the first trolley rides through Richmond, Va. That city was the first to offer electric trolley service as part of its public transportation infrastructure.

Would it surprise you to learn that 124 years later and 140 miles up the road you can still get a trolley ride to and from your destination for just 25 cents?

You can — and in southern Anne Arundel County.

The Beach Trolley Association was formed by a consortium of local businesses earlier this year to create a transportation service for locals and out-of-towners who wanted to travel between the Chesapeake Bay beach villages in northern Calvert County and the waterfront towns in southern Anne Arundel. The trolley makes a continuous two-hour loop every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We took the trip on a recent Sunday to see what all the fuss was about.

We were short on time, so we skipped the Calvert portion

of the trip and started our journey at Mangoes Restaurant at Herrington Harbor South in Rose Haven. The schedule said the trolley would stop at 11:18 — and it did, right on time.

Mark Irving, the driver, gave us a warm greeting as we boarded the bus. There were already nine people on board.

Jessie Zanelotti of North Beach was one of the riders. She and two friends, Joanne McCarron and Elsie McClannan, who regularly lunch together in North Beach, were all heading up to Deale to have lunch at Happy Harbor restaurant. They thought the 25-cent fare was a deal and afforded them the opportunity to have a change of pace.

We left Herrington Harbor South and headed toward Friendship. At our first stop in Friendship we picked up Lisa Baden. She lives in the area and was the VIP at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the trolley service the previous Friday. She and her husband, Tom, had decided to take the trolley for fun. A quick camaraderie formed as everyone made introductions.

Everyone was enjoying the air-conditioned comfort of the trolley. Before we knew it, we were heading into Deale.

We dropped off the lunching ladies from North Beach at Happy Harbor and proceeded into the heart of Deale. We turned onto Drum Point Road and traveled past the fishing boats and quaint houses.

After we made the U-turn at Skipper's Pier, we began the return trip to Chesapeake Beach.

The trolley runs from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Fridays; 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays.



AROUND SOUTH COUNTY

By Michelle Stephenson