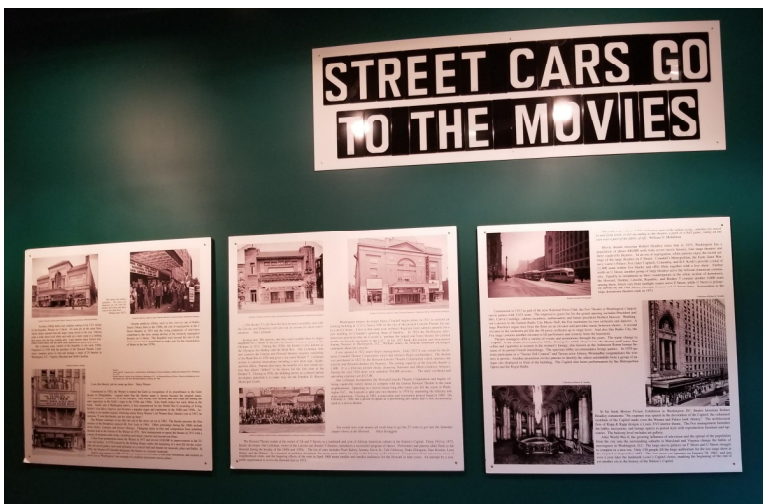


# Trip to the National Capital Trolley Museum

October 17, 2019



The JCC Men's Club visited the National Capital Trolley Museum. The museum highlights street car transportation in our local communities including a working street car in the Chevy Chase area.



A docent led us through the museum and explained the History of trolleys operations in the Washington DC area. Trolley service started in Washington in the early 1860s using horse drawn cars. Because horse droppings were causing public health problems, they started to use electricity to power the cars.

Initially, the electric power was supplied by an underground cable that was buried between the tracks. A piece of this infrastructure was on display. After a fire destroyed the electric power plant in the 1890s, the underground cables were replaced with overhead cables. Trolley service ended in the 1950s when ridership dropped dramatically due to other competition.



The docent also led us through the Great Hall where many historic trolley cars are stored. She related the history of the trolleys that we were looking at. We also saw the last trolley that rolled on the streets of Washington, DC.





The 17 attendees then enjoyed a trip around the 1 mile loop on an old trolley car. And our conductor explained more about the history of trolley cars and answered many questions. For one thing, he explained why trolley service disappeared. He told us that after many people bought TV sets, they went to the movies much less often. Most people used trolleys to get to the movie theater.

We then departed for a great lunch at the Big Greek Cafe located at Norbeck Road and Georgia Avenue. Overall it was a nostalgic trip for many of us who grew up riding trolleys as youngsters.

