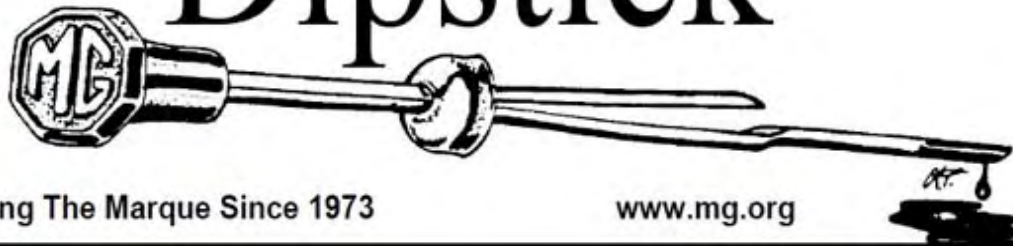




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 52 Issue 12

December 2025



TMGC Coming Events

Dec 6 (Sat) - Suffolk Holiday Lights

Dec 14 (Sun) - Holiday Brunch

Jan 10 (Sat) - Meeting at Lockside

Bar and Grill 11:30

TMGC Holiday Brunch,

10:30 Sunday, Dec 14, 2025

Our Holiday Brunch will be at the Princess Anne Country Club, 3800 Pacific Ave, Virginia Beach. The brunch will be on Sunday morning, December 14, 2025. Doors open at 10:00 and Festivities will begin at 10:30am; we will eat after a period of socializing. The extensive brunch buffet will include an extensive breakfast fare, omelet station, fruit, lunch and desert selections. The cost will be \$15 per person and will be payable at the door.

We will be having a silent auction to support the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia so bring some "good stuff" or a check payable to the "Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia". Rose Ladd will be coordinating the auction and she would like to be notified of items being brought for the auction; Rose Ladd "Best way is to call me 747-737-2468. If I don't answer, please leave message"

RSVP to Mark Davidoski; markdavidoski@icloud.com or (757) 831-4196 by Tuesday December 9 so we can provide an accurate attendance count.



Marque Time!

President's
Message
from
Rob MacPherson



Well, November has flown by! We had a good turnout for the Veterans Day Parade, in spite of the coldest temperature so far this year, eight cars I think! It's almost Thanksgiving (can you believe it?), so I guess it's time to start Holiday preparations. We had great weather for the Fall Tech Session, and another great turn out at the Bond's! Thanks Sue and Terry, and everyone that was able to attend!

Take advantage of the good days and mild temps when you can and get out for a drive in your cars. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Brunch...

Safety Fast. Rob

TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Rob MacPherson	TMGCPres@mg.org
Vice President	Russ Murphy	TMGCV@mg.org
Secretary	Terry Walburn	
Treasurer	Mark Davidoski	Treasurer@mg.org
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Webmaster	Mike Haag	Webmaster@mg.org
Historian	Sue Bond	
Regalia	Rose Ladd	
Technical	Terry Bond	
Membership	Mike Haag	Membership@mg.org

TMGC Membership

As November 18th we have 98 paid memberships and we picked up two new members in October:

Chris Sullivan, Virginia Beach with a 1979 MGB

Jeff & Deane Broughton, Moyock, NC with a 1974 MGB

Safety fast. Mike Haag

November Activities Report

by Shayne McKean

How did it become November so fast! The cold weather is upon us and it was very evident for the Veterans Day Parade. We had eight MGs for the parade and all were “tops up”! It was a great parade though. The kids, old and young alike, enjoyed the LBCs with their loud engines (especially Tommy’s) and high-pitched horns. The waved American flags as we drove by, while were sporting American flags of our own. The parade wasn’t the only place our LBCs entertained the kids. We all enjoyed a fun afternoon of Trunk or Treat at Big Ugly Brewing, some of us enjoying a treat or two of our own, courtesy of Big Ugly. The cars looked great and the smiles were plenty!



We did have a few very nice days though, and one of them allowed us to enjoy some time outside at Terry and Sue Bonds house, for the annual Bond Tech Session. I’m not sure how much work got accomplished, but there was lots of engine inspection and technical conversations happening. Two problems did get fixed though. Tommy’s car apparently had a vacuum leak that was identified and fixed (which explains his “hard revving” at the parade) and Shayne fixed his leaking carb bowl issues with some hard-to-find washers from Terry’s massive stash. His car isn’t quite finished, but very close! Leaking fuel bowls is the one problem he doesn’t want to deal with when it comes time to turn the key for the first time. All in all, a great day with the MGs and the people who own them.

There has been a recommendation that we visit the Barry Art Museum at Old Dominion University. It is closed for renovation and expansion, but the opening is not far off. Once ready, we’ll be planning a visit. We also received a recommendation to visit the Currituck Maritime Museum. The Museum honors the rich maritime heritage of Currituck. It’s located in the heart of Historic Corolla Park, surrounded by the Currituck Sound to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. As always, if anyone has a recommendation for club outings, please feel free to let Shayne and Pam know.

Upcoming events:

Suffolk Festival of Lights holiday drive – Sat Dec 6th, 4 – 7 PM. We’ll set a meeting place for an early drive and possibly a stop for dessert in downtown Suffolk, then carry on the Holiday lights. This is the 6th year for the festival, and it seems to get better each year. Details will be sent out very soon.

Weekend dessert drive to Be Free Ice Cream – TBD. They don’t just have ice cream, they have croissants of all kinds, Danish, pastries, cookies and donuts, as well as coffee to go with all. We will try to plan a nice weekend, but with indeterminate weather, it may be a relatively short notice based on weather forecasts.

Safety Fast. Shayne



Meeting Minutes - Nov 8, 2025 By Terry Walburn



Pres. Rob MacPherson.

The meeting was held at the home of Bill and Renee Olcheski, and the weather was spectacular. What a great day too drive an MG.

President Rob MacPherson called the meeting to order at 12:13, and thanked the Olcheski's for hosting the meeting at their wonderful home. Rob then invited new members to introduce themselves. Chris Sullivan provided a quick introduction as the only new member in attendance. Rob mentioned that we have other new members, Jeff and Deane, who were not in attendance. Last months meeting minutes were approved.



Vice President Russ Murphy.

Russ Murphy provided the Vice President's report. He will be looking for people to host next years meetings at the Christmas Party next month. The 2026 Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 14th at the Princess Anne Club.

Rob reviewed the upcoming activities. The next activity is the Veteran's Day parade, and the logistics were discussed for those who plan on attending. The next Tech Session will be at Terry and Sue Bond's house on Sunday, November 16th. Show up between 11:00 and 12:00. There will be coffee, snacks, and a full refrigerator. Any acorns or leaves that fall into your car become your possession.

Rob provided the Treasurers Report. We have \$3308.89 in the account.

Jim Villers reminded everyone that articles for the Dipstick Report are due by the 20th.

Rob provided the membership report, stating that we have 97 paid members.

Terry Bond provided the Technical Report. He informed the club that he will be providing a demonstration on how to tune an MGB at the Tech Session.

There was no Old Business to discuss. Scott Kampe talked about his experience at the winery, and how driving Route 5 was a nice way to get there. Jennifer Ash informed the club that the Air Museum has a tapestry display on the military landings in Normandy and the fighting in France during World War 2. The tapestry will be on display until the end of the year.

Steve Charles provided information about Clark and Clark and some of the products they sell.

New business was discussed. Jim Villers made a motion for the club to provide \$20 per person towards the cost of the Christmas party, so the remaining cost per person is only \$15. Motion was approved. Scott Parker made a motion to amend the by-laws to correct the timeline for elections and when the executive board assumes their roles. It was decided to table this discussion until a future meeting. The next item for new business was to hold a Silent Auction to raise money for a charity. The club voted and decided to hold a silent auction, and the charity would be the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank. Several names were identified as potential leads, including Don and Rose Ladd, Mike, or Robert Perrone. The point of contact will be provided at a later time.

Terry Bond then discussed the Hershey Car Show, the largest antique car show in the world. during Marquee Time.

If you don't have a name tag, you can go on the website, pay for a six-month membership, which is \$10. Then email through the website, the treasurer's email, which will go to Mark Davidoski, tell him what you want your name to be on the name tag and that you've paid \$10 for a six-month membership. You can let Mark know at a meeting.



New member Chris Sullivan won a metal sign: "I'm not old, I'm Classic"



Great food as always at the Olcheski's meeting.

Next was the monthly raffle. Linnie Pearce won the first raffle, and the right to be the first in line for food. Chris Sullivan won a metal car sign. Russ Murphy won an MG Matchbox car. Mark Childers won a metal car sign. Doug Kennedy won the 50/50 (\$57) and donated it back to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51.



Aubrey Austin
Junior Editor



TRUNK OR TREAT

CHESAPEAKE, VA

On October 26, 2025, we attended Trunk or Treat at Big Ugly Brewing. It was a fun event and we had a great turnout this year. There were so many awesome costumes and decorated trunks. Thank you for everyone who participated in the event. We look forward to this event next year.



Fall Tour Tech Session November 16

.... by Mark Davidoski

The Fall Tech Session was held at the Bond's Automotive Compound in Chesapeake on a beautiful autumn Sunday. A bevy of MGs and a few other marques started arriving about 11:00 a.m. under sunny skies. Within an hour we had at least a dozen cars on hand, all of which seemed to be in fine running condition. Lots of tire kicking ensued as bonnets were raised and conversation flowed.



The driveway was full and cars overflowed onto the street. A large cadre of members enjoyed a beautiful day at the Bond's Automotive Compound.

Susan and Terry had hot coffee and plenty of doughnuts available to get folks going. There was also the usual excellent selection of cold beverages in the fridge, including Guinness (Breakfast) Stout. The only technical "work" that your writer observed was Frank Linse and a gaggle of onlookers fixing a vacuum leak that had been bothering Tommy Keiningham's B. He was able to drive home later with a perfectly tuned car! I also watched Shayne McKean fix the lever on one of his carburetor floats. It may be time for someone to drag a barn find beater to a future session, if only so we'll have some actual work to do!



Finding the vacuum leak.

Terry's museum was a big hit for everyone, especially the newcomers who had never experienced automotive time travel before. We all enjoyed Terry's tales of the new finds that he'd brought back from Hershey.

Susan served up a delicious luncheon spread, right in the same garage with the beer-laden refrigerator – delicious! By the time the crowd had started to thin, we counted at least 34 attendees. It was especially good to see Donald and Rose on the scene. Other highlights included Paul Voss' red TR-3A, Chuck Gilbert's beautiful MGB in British Racing Green, Doug Kennedy's MGA "Special", and Dan Ciccone's red 1950 Ford Custom Convertible and the folks from Mathews County, Mike and Carolyn August and Sam Kern with his friend Judy.

It was another superb gathering hosted by the Bonds. Perfect weather, beautiful (mostly) British cars and great friends combined to make more TMGC memories.

Fall Tour Tuesday October 14 by Robert Peronne

The forecast for Tuesday morning, the first day of the 2025 Fall Tour, was supposed to be partly cloudy. Well, that's the first time I have been soaked to the skin by "partly cloudy" while packing my car in the driveway.

Thankfully, I had time to get into some dry clothes so that I wouldn't smell like a wet dog for the rest of the day. By changing clothes I could go back to my usual scent, a dry dog.

Rob MacPherson met me at my house so we could drive to the group meeting place together. The rain caused quite a few problems for Rob, and I won't quote him here because we're trying to keep a kind of "PG-13" rating for this publication.



We had lunch at the Farmville Printing restaurant in Farmville.

On the bright side, I had new windshield wipers, and they were well used for about the first two hours of my drive.

The Tidewater group met the other adventurers in Farmville for lunch at the North Street Press Club. By that time the skies had cleared up nicely, and we enjoyed beautiful driving weather for the rest of the week.

Of course, it was great to see everyone there. Well, almost everyone. Jim and Betty were unable to go at the last minute, and Rose and Don had to cancel a few weeks earlier. Hopefully everyone will be well and able to join us for our next drive.

Our stop for the day was Patrick Henry's Red Hill. The group was greeted by none other than Patrick Henry. Well, actually his name is Patrick Henry Jolly, but he did portray Patrick Henry in the film we watched at the visitor center.

He is a direct descendent of Patrick Henry, and traveled all the way from Ohio when he learned our group



We visited “Red Hill”, a replica of Patrick Henry’s last home and had a very interesting tour.

was coming, just so he could share his knowledge of the life of Patrick Henry and the history of Red Hill. We appreciated that effort, and his presentation was very well done.

The rest of our afternoon was taken up in an enjoyable drive to Gretna. We were supposed to have dinner at Momma Rosa’s across from the Hampton Inn. However, they called Bob McKenna and said that they were so short-staffed they could not possibly accommodate our group.

Bob was able to find a great alternative, El Cazador, a Mexican restaurant just a short drive away. The staff there was just great, and they seemed to have no trouble at all accommodating our large group at the last minute.



Then, full and happy, back to the hotel to be rested and ready for Day 2 of “Adventures with Bob and Missy” on Wednesday.



After a change of “menu”, we were served an excellent Mexican meal at the El Cazador in Gretna.

Fall Tour Wednesday October 15

.... by Mike Haag



A view of the dam with its power station.



Gathering at the Smith Mountain Lake dam visitor center.

Wednesday morning started out dry and sunny, unlike the previous morning in Hampton Roads. The first stop of the day was the Smith Mountain Dam at Sandy Level, VA. Bob lead the group down some tree lined 2-lane roads, making several turns along the way. We finally ended up on a dead end road which led us to the dam, passing by a small park along the Roanoke River. A short drive up the hill took us to the visitor center next to the dam. Thankfully everyone made it, some probably assisted by GPS. Built by the Appalachian Electric Power (AEP) Company, the hydroelectric dam consists of two dams, this one at Smith Mountain Lake and another smaller dam downstream on Leesville Lake. Designed in the 1950's, construction started in 1960 and took several years to complete. We watched a movie in the visitor center showing construction, with workers smoking cigarettes and riding the crane. Andy pointed out "that was a time of real men and real trucks". There was a ramp next to the visitor center which took you higher to get a better view of the dam, the enclosed turbines, and Smith Mountain Lake. Before we left, we got one of the workers, a young man who was visiting from Oklahoma, to take a group photo of us standing by our cars.

Our next stop was our cruise on Smith Mountain Lake in Moneta, VA which included lunch. Again, Bob lead the group along more 2-lane roads, which seemed like a long drive with no water in sight. Finally, after entering another dead end road we saw the lake and marina in front of us. We parked our cars in a line which I must admit, looked pretty impressive. We got many admiring looks, smiles and favorable comments. After a short wait we boarded the Virginia Dare where the



Parking at the marina and a view of the Virginia Dare.





Parking the LBCs at the Ramulose Ridge Vineyard.

Captain gave out some basic instructions. Some of our group stayed on the lower level, next to the bar and where the food was going to be set up while some of us went topside on the upper deck. It was a perfect day for a cruise on the lake. The Captain mentioned that some parts of the lake can get windy and if you lose your hat, he is not going to go back and retrieve it, so hold on to your hats! We saw many beautiful homes on the water, some condos, parks and even an island that at one time was inhabited only by goats. After an hour or so, they started serving a buffet lunch. I think our table on the upper deck must have been the last one called, but thankfully there was still food left. After some more cruising we eventually made our way back to the marina, where we got in our trusty LBC's (mostly) for the next stop on our journey.

After a short drive we arrived at Ramulose Ridge Vineyard, which looked like a fairly new winery. Most of us got wine flights where we congregated under a covered patio down from the winery. This was a special day for PJ & Faith, as they celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. They brought out a charcuterie board and invited us to join in. After toasting their special occasion we helped them munch on delicious treats. All too soon it was time for us to venture on to our next stop, the Timberlake Motel in Lynchburg, VA, our home for the next two nights.

It didn't turn out to be our next stop though as after driving for a while, when approaching an intersection Rob's MGA stalled and would not start. A couple of us got out and pushed him to the side of the road, out of traffic. After a few failed attempts at starting, Robert, Terry and I agreed to stay behind and help while the rest of the group continued on, as we had a 6 PM dinner reservation at the Iron and Ale Tap and Table restaurant. We knew gas was getting to the carbs, so next was to check for spark. We could not see any spark at the spark plugs, nor at the points when the engine was turning over. Robert installed a spare distributor he had but unfortunately it ended up 180 degrees out and the spark plug wires were cut to length and would not reach. Failing that, he installed new points and condenser in Rob's distributor. Now we were getting spark at the points but still no spark at the plugs. Robert then installed a spare coil and we finally got spark at the plugs, evident as Robert received a healthy shock when testing. By now Rob's battery was flat and his jump pack was dead. Terry had a jump pack



Taking a wine break at the Ramulose Ridge Vineyard.

but it was only half charged and after a couple more failed attempts, it went dead as well. Robert then pulled his car around and we used my jumper cables to try and get the MGA started. Still no luck so Rob called Hagerty to get a tow to the hotel where we could more safely work on it in the morning. He was told it would be at least an hour and a half so



Rob MacPherson's MGA had an issue which required pushing and some under-hood adjustments.

more head scratching and tinkering. The car was getting gas and spark but still would not start. I remembered a similar situation with Barry Tyson's MGB while we were driving to St Louis, MO for a NAMGBR convention. His car died and no matter what we tried, the car would not start until we removed the air cleaners. So we decided to remove the air cleaners and as Rob removed the rear air cleaner, he noticed a sizable amount of gasket material hanging from the bottom of the assembly. When he installed K&N filters some time back, he re-used the original gasket material. Over time this material worked loose and apparently was being sucked into the carb. Robert noticed the piston in the front carb was not rising and lowering properly so he adjusted that. By now it was starting to get dark and the rollback truck had arrived. We gave it one last try and she seemed to want to start this time but we agreed to have it towed. We followed the tow truck over some more two-lane roads until we reached the motel on Rt. 460, Terry and I in my car followed by Robert and Rob in his car.

We finally made it to dinner around 8:30 PM after everyone had already left except Susan and Denise who were waiting for us to show up. Dinner and a cold beer never tasted so good! Unfortunately, Skip had a minor fender bender when leaving the restaurant, and Scott & Michelle stayed with him as they were witnesses to the unfortunate incident. Thankfully everyone was ok, with some damage to the right front corner of Skip's Alfa Romeo but it was still drivable as he drove it as is for the rest of the tour. Rob, Robert and I were enjoying a beer by the pool (much too cold for a swim) when Skip and the Parkers finally returned. They told us it took over 2 hours for the police to show up as they were understaffed. Good thing it wasn't an emergency! Well, enough excitement for one day!



Skip arrive for dinner with a "new headlight look". Dinner was at the Ale House.

Fall Tour Thursday October 16

.... by Scott Parker

Well, here's hoping for a quieter day after Rob's carb issues resulted in towing his prized MGA back to the motel and a minor fender bender Skip had with a Toyota RAV4 leaving the dinner venue the night before...yikes, that was a crazy day! After some quick troubleshooting on Rob's MGA, Rob opted to ride with Robert for the day's activities and the "pit crew" will attack his carb issue with a vengeance upon our return later in the day. This was a more local day with only about 20 miles of driving required, so off we went to our first stop, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, but without Andy and Cynthia! Surprisingly, Andy and Cynthia's modern mover, Hyundai Tucson, had mechanical issues and they had to return home to address those with the local dealership, so we were a team down for day 3. Who would have thought the MGs would outlast the Hyundai!



Poplar Forest Tour with Billie the Docent



Poplar Forest with the Crew

Most of us arrived at Poplar Forest on time, but we all looked around and said "Where's Skip"? I called Skip and he said I'm here. I looked around, no Skip, and said nope, you're not here. He reviewed his GPS and said wait, I'm at the wrong entrance! So, he quickly drove to the main entrance with his now "one-eyed pirate" Alfa Romeo! Skip and I hustled to the museum entrance to meet up with the team for our tour. After a short video, Billie, our local docent, walked us around Poplar Forest grounds and provided an in-depth look at the main level of Jefferson's retreat home built from 1806-1823. She also provided

some fascinating narratives of the President's daily activities and his remarkable attention to detail regarding the home's octagonal architecture design and building process. It was amazing to be standing in his summer retreat - man, if only those walls could talk!

Following the amazing tour we were off (this time no one got lost) to our lunch stop just down the road at Benjamin's Great Cows and Crabs. The staff was ready for about 20 of us rowdy MG (+ 1 Alfa Romeo) afi-

cionados to invade their space. The service was fantastic and they were probably the quickest and most prepared of all the dining locations on this tour. Everyone enjoyed their pub style food and large variety of adult beverages to quench everyone's thirst and appetite. After some good comradery, we were off to our next stop, Apocalypse Ale Works, in Forest, VA, which was just a couple miles away!

Michelle and I, along with PJ and Faith, made a quick detour to a local Food Truck style coffee house "Joe Beans" for a good cup of java before heading to the Ale Works. We headed in, only to discover, that half of the group had made the short walk to a local vintage shop, Peddler's Antique Mall, just a block away. My wife's eyes grew wide and we also quickly diverted to take in the local antique fare. The mall was packed full of high quality and affordably



Rob's "new" vintage MG TD

prices vintage goods and, as you can image, our local "picking crew" Terry and Sue Bond, were in heaven! Hmm, should we add an antiquing event to future tours?? Alas, if only we had space to bring all our finds home in our little MGs. Well, several folks were able to snag some "small" vintage goods, including Rob, who found an antique MG TD in great shape. Well, unfortunately for us, Michelle was battling some sudden stomach discomfort, so we quickly headed back to the motel for some rest and safety.

The rest of the MG Pit Crew wasn't too far behind and when they arrived back at the hotel, the team descending on Rob's MGA. The usual suspects, Rob, Robert Perrone, Mike Haag, plus Skip all lending a hand to diagnose the sputtery symptoms. After unfouling a piece of air cleaner that somehow got sucked into one of the carbs and cleaning all the spark plugs (some of which were completely gunked up with sludge from the air cleaner mishap) the MGA was up and running to near normal operations! Another year, another rescue—no man left behind! A hearty BZ (well done!) to the crew.

With the MGA problem solved, the team rallied together for an evening dinner at Carmela's At the Loft Italian Restaurant. With Michelle still feeling under the weather from her stomach bug, we opted to stay and rest, but from all accounts the dinner was simply amazing with great food, fun and fellowship with NO mishaps; and on that note, day 3 was in the books!



Lunch at Benjamin's Great Cows and Crabs (Skip's fender bender exposed)



The crew working on the MGA



Fall Tour Friday October 17

.... by Rob MacPherson

After breakfast and a nice sendoff from the owner of the Timberlake Motel (who provided bottled water for our trip and rags to wipe the heavy dew from our LBC's windshields), we said our goodbyes to the Carters and Riesses. We headed east on US 460 toward Farmville and after an uneventful 75 minute drive arrived at Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park. The park staff were impressed with our cars and asked to take pictures.

Inside the visitor's center we received a detailed description of the situation leading up to the battle and its significance from one of the park staff. He said it was the last major battle of the



The crew was back preparing Rob MacPherson's MGA for the trip home.

civil war, and helped deprive the Confederate army of the needed supplies to continue fighting. Just a few days later, after a brief skirmish, Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia and the Civil War finally ended. After the description of the battle, we perused the collection of artifacts displayed in the museum.



Cars in front of the Sailor's Creek visitors center.

After more goodbyes, the McKennas headed for home, and several cars headed for lunch at nearby Richland's Creamery, while two cars headed to the Fiddlin' Pig in Smithfield for a British pub lunch.

Everyone reported making it safely home and thanked Bob McKenna for planning the trip via email!



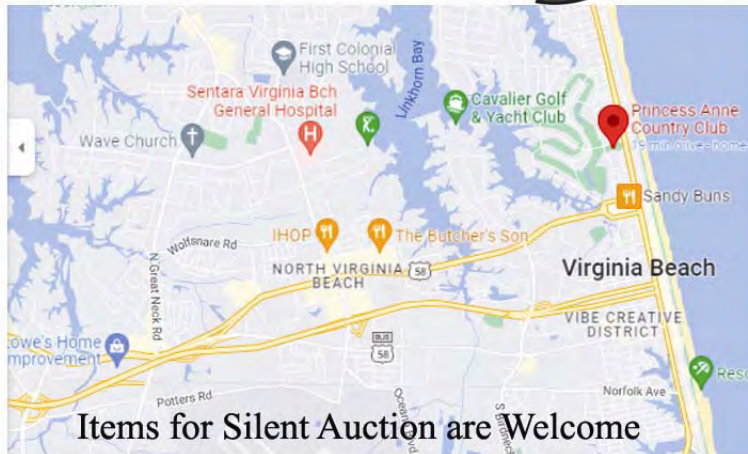
On the road home

HOLIDAY



PARTY

Sunday Dec 14th
Princess Anne
Country Club,
3800 Pacific Avenue,
Virginia Beach, VA



Items for Silent Auction are Welcome

\$15 Per Person
Payable at the door

Come on out
and join the PARTY.
Starting at 10:00 a.m.