

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Turn to Equestrian on page 7 for more evidence of why it is better to read the Monocle than to watch ESPN.



When all is said and done, it really is all about the kids. See Ag News on page 3.



Jason Kramek hard at work. For more soccer turn to Youth Sports on page 3.



Somewhere out in the Potomac was Walnut Island. Local History may help you find it, on page 10.

Poolesville Commission Candidates Present Positions in Public Forum

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville Town Commissioners candidates' forum had a twist this year since the sponsoring organization, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, had to change the venue because candidates Tom Yeatts and Tom Dillingham had travel plans conflicting with the original meeting date. For various reasons, the only place available was the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department hall in Beallsville.

After welcoming remarks by PACC President Jake Perkins, Brian Hundertmark, a member of the chamber, who offered questions that were submitted in writing by people in attendance, moderated the event. Each candidate had ninety seconds to respond to each of the questions. In

opening remarks of introduction, each candidate explained why he was running with those remarks right in line with what will be found in our Voter's Guide in this issue.

There were no sharp differences iterated by the candidates to the key questions of growth and water supply presented. Each voiced support for a growth plan that would maintain home values and the character of the town. On the matter of growth, both Yeatts and Johnson supported the concepts of smart growth which requires the proper infrastructure in place prior to building new homes. Previous building surges in town, which ultimately resulted in water moratoriums, were stated to have been caused by past



Tom Yeatts, Roy Johnson, and Tom Dillingham answered questions submitted by the audience for ninety minutes.

town commissions' desires to provide growth to keep the schools in town. Yeatts and Johnson indicated that they did not see the town growing greater than the master plan target of sixty-five hundred residents. Mr. Dillingham voiced a similar target adding a

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L'Homme de Lettres

By Dominique Agnew

Allan Stypeck of Poolesville knows books. He knows books better than we know our own books ourselves. As the founder, president, and owner of the three Second Story Books, Inc. used-and-rare bookstores in Washington, D.C., and Rockville and Bethesda, Maryland, and as an appraiser of valuable books, it's no wonder that when I asked him about the value of my Harvard Classics collection from 1909, he countered with questions such as: The twenty-six, the fifty, or the fifty-two-book collection? Leather bound, cloth bound, or buckram bound? Uh, Allan, let me go home, take a look, and I'll get back to you.

Allan does appraisals all across the U.S., traveling regularly to book appraisal seminars. Sometimes these are fundraisers, and sometimes they are simply at the behest of various libraries or antique book groups with anywhere from ten to

six hundred people in attendance. For two years, he was on the famed Antiques Roadshow television show for PBS but found that it interfered too much with his family life. In the past thirty-two years that he has been appraising, he has seen many interesting objects. Once, a man brought in an atlas of China dating back to the early 1600s, one of the earliest done by Jesuit missionaries which was valued at over \$200,000. "I was really surprised he was carrying it around," Allan says. There was also the time a family came to him bearing the family Bible of Frederick Douglass's son. It contained numerous family photographs of the Douglass family. Allan was able to help that family get on the Oprah television show.

How did Allan get started in book appraisals? "Destiny,

no escaping destiny," rants Dr. Frankenstein in Young Frankenstein. Allan certainly doesn't liken himself to Gene Wilder—nor does he resemble him. He came to D.C.

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Allan Stypeck

Homecoming Spread on Page 17.
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**"L'Homme" Continued from
Page 1.**

from New York to attend American University graduating with BAs in economics and political science from the School of Government and International Service. "As a lark," he says, he began buying and selling antiques. At one point, he was asked to put some old books into a bookcase to embellish the piece of furniture. All the books were sold but not the furniture.

His intention as a young man had been to go into government work, but he "accidentally fell into bookselling." Fate, he called it. From bookselling, "the natural evolution led to appraising," he adds. Most of his work deals with appraising and acquisition—and his list of clients runs long. "I have a pretty eclectic mix of clientele which keeps it interesting," he says. He gave me a copy of his highlights of appraisals; it is six pages of fine print. He has prepared over five thousand appraisals over the past three decades for people and institutions of note: many of the local universities and many government and museum institutions (Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution, FBI, National Archives, and the Holocaust Museum to name a very

few). He also archives the papers of important people such as political figures, chief justices, composers, and authors. Allan is a senior member of the American Society of Appraisers, a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, the American Booksellers Association, the Universal Autograph Collector's Club, the International Autograph Collector's Club, and the Manuscript Society. He has been a member of the board of directors of numerous libraries and historic societies, and he is the CEO of the Institute for the Preservation of Burned and Banned Books 1933-1945.

As if this weren't enough, Allan also has a radio program entitled The Book Guys which he hosts with Mike Cuthbert. Their collaboration began in the 1980s when Allan visited The Mike Cuthbert Show in Washington, D.C. The popularity of their show grew to the point where, by the 1990s, they were able to offer a weekly show that is offered to public radio stations. The show began with the simple format of listeners calling in, describing their books, and Allan giving them an on-air appraisal. The show has expanded to be about anything relating to books. On every show, an author is interviewed.

Much to the surprise of the guest author, Allan and Mike have actually read his or her books, and engaging discussions usually ensue. Allan and Mike talk about anything and everything related to books with no page unturned. Recently, they've even taken their show on the road, traveling to different cities across the nation, sometimes as part of a fundraiser for a particular library. The Book Guys is broadcast around the nation on forty to fifty stations. Periodically, they'll have a show simulcast on CSPAN, especially when CSPAN is interested in a particular author being interviewed. Locally, one can hear the show on WBJC at 91.5 FM, Sunday nights at 8:00 p.m.

Maybe you have an old book or map or papers, and you've been wondering what they're worth, if anything. Lucky for you, Allan will be at the Poolesville Library on Monday, November 13 from 7:30 p.m. until he's finished. This will be the second time he has been to the Poolesville Library, and Mark Gochnour, manager of the library was truly impressed by Allan's first show. "He really analyzed books that people brought in," Mark says. "Watching him in

action was really fun, so I'm looking forward to having him come back." Allan will give a little talk beforehand about things to look for in valuable books: first editions, different bindings. He brings a box of samples but prefers to use what people bring in as examples. He did happen to mention what he does not want to see. Do not bring textbooks, ninety-nine percent are worthless. Reader's Digest condensed books have no value, and book-of-the-month books are always reprints. He says, "Bring what you'd like to find out about."

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**PROFESSIONAL
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