



# Puppy Tails

Mialie T. Szymanski

*As the moon goes to bed,  
the sun comes up  
And here we meet a sleepy pup,  
Who was walking through  
G-ville one bright sunny day,  
Then saw The Villager  
and decided to stay.*

Doodle Dog hurried along the sidewalk, his brisk pace helping to keep his paws off the still-toasty concrete. The road had already been blocked off so Doodle Dog didn't have to worry about the fast cars zipping by as he crossed the street to sniff out the very best location. From his spot a safe distance from the curb, Doodle Dog could see most of the parade route, waaaay up that way, and yet still be able to look at the participants as they lined up in the field. Doodle Dog loved seeing all the vehicles large and small with vibrant decorations and all the people, large and small too, in their various glittering outfits. He couldn't wait to watch them all march down the street!

As more and more people crowded around him, vying for that just-perfect spot, Doodle Dog thought of the parade not long ago when he'd had the chance to carry a flag in honor of the servicemen and women all over the world. This parade would be a bit different: Independence Day is a day of celebration, a day to remember the freedom gained many many years ago when brave men – and women too! – stood up for what they believed in to make their country a better place, a day now apparently also for making loud noises by way of truck sirens, car horns, and fireworks, and for throwing candy to little kids in the cheering crowd. Doodle Dog heard a rumor that an animal rescue group would be tossing pet-friendly treats from their float. He hoped that was true; maybe he would get one!

Majorette squads and drum corps lined up behind show cars with tiny beauty queens in backseats. Ball teams piled in pick-up trucks ready to toss Tootsie-Rolls and Life-Savers using their well-practiced curveball arms. Marching bands from what seemed to be every high school in the county fluffed their plumes, tuned their instruments, and squished into formation under a director's command. The floppy-eared puppy watched in quiet admiration as fire engines and ambulances carefully wove their way into position. Each bright red truck had an obedient Dalmatian standing straight and proud behind the protective railing of the open mid-ship area. Each truck, that is, except two. Doodle Dog noticed a fireman with a kind smile walk over

to the crowd where a little black dog was sitting next to a lady holding its leash. He noticed as the man spoke with the woman for a minute and she nodded and smiled too as the little dog was carefully picked up and placed on the back of one of the empty red trucks. Doodle Dog noticed that the dog's tongue lolled happily when the fireman gave a pat on the head. What a lucky puppy Doodle Dog thought. He was happy for the little dog that was going to get to ride on the fire truck. What Doodle Dog didn't notice as he was smiling at the little dog, now bouncing excitedly on a soft seat cushion, was that another fireman was looking directly at HIM.

This fireman called over to Doodle Dog, inviting him to go on the other empty fire truck. Me? Doodle Dog looked to his left then looked to his right to make sure there was no other dog beside him that perhaps the fireman meant instead. He turned around in a circle, almost crashing into the end of his tail, but nope, no other four-legged friends. Me? Must be! Doodle Dog wagged his tail happily and went over to where the fireman stood. The truck was much too high so the fireman gently reached for the floppy-eared puppy. UP went Doodle Dog; UP went a little girl who giggled as she was lifted high; UP went the bags of candy for her to throw; and UP went the fireman right behind them, holding onto the angled side-bar of the truck. He would stand at the top of the ladder to keep the riders from falling out! Every vehicle was loaded and lined up now; it was time to go! The hometown department's trucks went first, leading the procession with each visiting unit falling into place behind them. Then the majorettes and the ball-teams, the marching bands and the beauty queens, floats from this group and that, and horses carrying riders wearing funny red, white and blue hats.

As the truck slowly drove on, Doodle Dog peered over the edge to the people down below. He'd always wondered what they looked like from way up here! From his high perch he recognized several friends in the crowd. Doodle Dog

waved his tail happily as he spotted the golden dog from the library and a reading buddy, the little boy and his father from the park, and even the mud puppy – without the mud! At that moment the driver honked his horn and set off the sirens. They were LOUD! The little girl put her tiny hands over his floppy ears as they flattened against the sound. Thanks! When the parade was over, all the candy was thrown, and the crowd's cheers behind them, Doodle Dog was gently set back on the sidewalk by the kind fireman. That was sooo much better than catching a yummy treat!

Now Doodle Dog had just enough time to get home and hide from the fireworks. He had the perfect spot – keeping company with the dust bunnies under the desk. And boy, did he have a perfect story to tell!

## Thanks

DEAR EDITOR

Thank you to the Garrettsville Police Department and the driver of the pickup truck that helped James Bender stop the run away horse and buggy.

Greatly Appreciated,  
The Family

## Letters

*The Villager welcomes letters, thank you notes or other comments from readers who wish to be heard. The views and opinions of this newspaper or its employees. The Villager reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. We publish only original letters which are signed and addressed to the Villager.*



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# Notes from the vineyard

Amanda Conkol

I think we are finally starting to see some summer like temperatures around Garrettsville finally! While I love hot temperatures and sitting outside soaking up the sun, I find it hard to drink my normal dry red wines on such hot days. With so many choices in a white wine, where does a wine drinker start? Hopefully this quick guide to white wines will help you get through the summer.

Unfortunately, there are too many varietals of grapes to name and every year researchers in New York and California continue to experiment with new grapes. Some of the most popular white wine grapes are Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Grigio, Niagara and Vidal Blanc. Each year the grapes (and eventually the wine) can range in sweetness, color and acidity based on the weather during the growing season. Here are some of the general characteristics of some white wine grapes so you have a better understanding the next time you are at a wine tasting.

Chardonnay – usually known for a buttery or vanilla taste, Chardonnays range from a soft flavor to a very crisp flavor. When Chardonnay grapes are fermented in oak, the result is a big, full bouquet (or smell) of vanilla, butter and a smooth finish. Chardonnays that are fermented in stainless steel have a tendency to be more crisp with pear or apple bouquet.

Gewürztraminer – just trying to say the name of this wine (sounds like guh-VOORTS-truh-MEE-ner) makes it a fun summertime wine. Gewurtz (a shorter name of this grape) is usually on the drier side which creates a peppery or spicier finish. Gewurtz is an excellent wine to have with a jalapeño cheese or a

spicy dish like Thai or curry.

Riesling – depending on the style of Riesling (German, Italian, French or a Late Harvest) this wine can be very dry or very sweet. A drier Riesling tends to be filled with green apple aromas but as the wine tends to sweeten you may get more of a citrus to a mellon-like flavor in your wines. Riesling grapes are hearty enough where they can stay on the vine until late fall (called a Late Harvest Riesling) which greatly increases the sweetness of a wine making it a great dessert wine.

Vidal Blanc – similar to a Pinot Blanc, Vidal tend to be crisp, fruity and sweet. Most wineries use Vidal grapes as an excellent source to blend with other wines that tend to be too dry. The grape is very versatile as well which makes for a great ice wine.

Niagara – if you like the taste of fresh grapes in your wine, Niagara is the perfect wine for you. Niagara grapes are very sweet and can trick you into thinking you are drinking white grape juice instead of wine. For non-wine drinkers this varietal is a great introduction to the wine family. Or on hot summer days, this is a great wine to mix with a little bit of Sprite – making it a great wine spritzer.

When you are out visiting other wineries, be sure to try a variety of wines – you will be surprised at the different styles of wine you taste based on the same grape.

*Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Street, Garrettsville. For more information on winery dogs or the winery's anniversary, please visit [www.candlelightwinery.com](http://www.candlelightwinery.com)*

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