



Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI | CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

*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 decided he needed some fresh air after all that cleaning and sorting and pushing and stacking books and there was no better place to find that fresh air than on a walk through all of his favorite outdoor places that would lead to one of his new very favorite places of all. Doodle Dog had heard that there was something very special going on in the park and that everybody who was somebody and every puppy who was somepuppy would be there and, since Doodle Dog is very much a somepuppy he decided he should most certainly be there too.

The early fall sun warmed the top of his ears and a light breeze cooled his nose and Doodle Dog enjoyed the scenery as nature's artistry put together colorful creatures zipping or floating through the air in a sort of contrasting harmony with the sturdy trees and stable flower stems sticking straight up and holding steady in that same wind. As the floppy-eared puppy came upon the park and made his way around the glistening fountain with its spurts and gushes, he quickly noticed that a crowd of people and a crowd of pets had gathered in the center of the park. A little stage was set up at the other end of the park, farthest away from where Doodle Dog was standing, and between where he was now and where he would be in a few minutes was a gallery lining each side of the park on the way to the stage. On the left side was an array of all things art, paintings and sketches and carvings of all shapes and sizes. And on the right side was an assortment of more of the same, scribbles and abstracts and sculptures of every width and height.

As the floppy-eared puppy meandered through the crowd of people and pets perusing the paintings, he recognized a few of the pieces as being the ones he'd seen in various stages of progress from the day he'd helped make paint tracks across the giant piece of paper. Although Doodle Dog didn't recognize all of the artwork — some were definitely new — he could see paintings and sketches and even sculptures made of clay that were sort of familiar. And then, just as he came around the corner to another row of art pieces, Doodle Dog saw something that was more than sort of familiar — it was VERY familiar! There, right in front of him staring eye-to-eye with the floppy-eared puppy, was a painting of him! Doodle Dog had never seen that painting before but he didn't need a preview to recognize the subject matter. There he was, floppy ears and fluffy tail and all, meandering through flowers and trees and butterflies and

bumblebees just like he had earlier on the way to the park, except this Doodle Dog with all of his nature friends was quite a bit smaller, quite a bit flatter, and hung up on the easel in the middle of the park.

Doodle Dog was quite proud to see all the beautiful paintings and even a little bit prouder to see that someone thought he was special enough to include in one of those beautiful paintings. He was marveling at the resemblance between the flat Doodle Dog and the real one that he knows he is, noticing all the little details that were very quite accurate, when he then noticed too that just next to the painting of him was tacked a beautiful ribbon with a round medal hanging from it. The ribbon was a light blue, nearly the color of the sky, clear and bright above him just then, and the medal was somewhere between a silvery gold and a goldish silver, just like the clouds when the sun hits them just right. Engraved on the front of the medal was a very pretty star, just like Doodle Dog imagined the ones in the night sky would look up close. And then, as Doodle Dog took a step back to see all the spectacular paintings and sketches and sculptures lined up and so very beautiful in their own unique ways, he also noticed that each one of them had a ribbon with a medal tacked nearby. There were no markings on the medals except for the pretty star on the front, no 1st or 2nd, no one designated as better than the next. The ribbons too were all unique — each ribbon's color, Doodle Dog noticed, represented not a ranking but rather complemented a color that was in the artwork to which it had been awarded. Every one there was being celebrated for their unique contributions to the art world, the role only they could fulfill.

As Doodle Dog admired the brilliant colors and intricate details of the other pieces on display, a lady at the podium asked for the audience's attention and called each artist and their subject up to the stage. One by one the artists went up and one by one were followed by their subjects — the pets or human models who inspired the array of all things art and the assortment of more of the same. Before he knew it, the artist who had sketched his smaller and flatter version was on stage too. The lady at the podium draped a ribbon over the artist's neck that matched the one hanging by the easel, light blue like the clear sky above them with a medal like the sunlit clouds, and then motioned to Doodle Dog in the audience. The little floppy-eared puppy bounded up on stage and smiled proudly as a second matching ribbon was draped around his neck, honoring and celebrating his contribution to the day's event. And he didn't even know he had helped!



Shaker Tree
Quilt fabrics, home furnishings, period furniture & lighting, folk art, special gifts
8119 Main Street, Garrettsville, OH 44231
330-527-0112

the VILLAGER SHIPS via UPS
8454 Windham Street, Garrettsville (Corner of SR 82 and Stanley Rd.)
330.527.5761
Monday thru Thursday: 9am-4pm
Friday: 9am-3pm Closed Sat. & Sun.

Stonewall Veterinary Hospital

New Doctor Welcome Special:

\$25 OFF all spays/neuters/declaws

30% OFF heartworm testing with a Proheart 6 heartworm preventative injection.

Stonewall Veterinary Hospital
11900 Mills Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio 44231
330-527-4400

Mind Health Matters

AMIE CAJKA | COLUMNIST

I have been thinking about the Portage high school student who died this spring from a drug overdose and was abandoned in a Garrettsville park. It's shocking and heartbreaking because it was so public.

If you are a parent, your mind goes to that devastating place where you could be the mother or father of this young person. Maybe you are the parent of a teen or young adult who is struggling with the brain disease of addiction. Possibly you are a grandparent who is raising a grandchild because your son or daughter has an addiction.

The loss of life due to drug abuse and addiction has been steadily increasing in Portage County. Research from organizations that survey young people shows the age of first use is around 14 years old. What is so different from earlier decades? Young people are using more deadly addicting substances, such as prescription opiates, heroin and cocaine, at younger and younger ages. Ohio's cities and urban areas are hardest hit but the epidemic has spread to areas like Portage County.

At the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, we are seeing an uplifting movement by parents and people in recovery to stop the damage and help other families push back against the stigma and the availability of addicting drugs while also working to increase treatment services.

You can meet some of them on Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Hope for Recovery from Addiction event, 7 p.m. at Ravenna High School. For more information you can go the website of the

Citizens for Addiction Recovery and Education (C.A.R.E.), www.portagecitizensCARE.org, or the Mental Health & Recovery Board site at www.mental-health-recovery.org. Plan to attend and learn more about the disease of addiction; talk with staff from local treatment agencies; and find support from others who know what it is to battle against an invisible enemy. The community is welcome to the event.

C.A.R.E. members are driven by their own personal losses—a family member, time, relationships, employment and education to name just a few. They are focused on working to improve local services as well as breaking down the stigma that surrounds addiction and keeps people from recovery.

Their collaboration with the Mental Health & Recovery Board has helped the community find a way to fund a sober living house for men, set to open its doors in January of 2013. The project is a joint effort of the board, Family and Community Services, Coleman Professional Services, Townhall II and Children's Advantage.

There is also a definite shift in public awareness happening in other areas of the community. In the past year, school leaders in Portage County have been opening the door to parents to learn more about identifying substance abuse, what to do about it and what school districts are experiencing. School officials are monitoring social media sites and heading off potentially dangerous student substance abuse. They are organizing town hall meetings where young people in recovery and parents who have lost children tell their stories.

Almost once a week, I am visited by a person in recovery who works downtown in Kent whose son is struggling with addiction. The person is a writer and has penned a book about what it took to become clean. The other day this hard working individual, shoulders visibly sagging, sighed and said sadly how the situation with the son was almost unbearable.

Others also have taken the unbearable and transformed it into progress against stigma. C.A.R.E.'s leaders are vocal about hearing from people who want to work with them or who need support. Here are their phone numbers: Valerie Root, 330-281-3974, C.A.R.E. president, and Jeremy Taugner, vice president, 330-281-0698. If you would like to know more Jeremy and his recovery, go to www.rock889.com/insight/taugner.mp3 for his interview with Bob Long on WSTB 88.9FM in Streetsboro.

There are some things you can do right now to increase your education about addiction. Go to www.hbo.com/addiction/thefilm/ and watch the segments of the HBO documentary "Addiction."

You might see your story there. The other helpful site is "Parents. The Anti-Drug." at www.theantidrug.com/. The name is the means to an end: Parents period The Anti-Drug period. Parents are the number one defense against teen drug abuse. And that's another column coming your way.

Thank you for this chance to share information from the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County. You can call to comment at 330-673-1756, ext. 207, and you could end up the subject of a column.

Amie Cajka is the Director of Community Relations for the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County.

The Mental Health & Recovery Board is a county government agency that plans, funds and monitors public mental health and addiction treatment services and substance abuse prevention education. Partly funded by local levies, the board's responsibilities include ensuring Portage County has services for residents in crisis including funding 24-hour crisis services through Coleman Access and Townhall II's Helpline. The MHRB is online at www.mental-health-recovery.org and on Facebook.

The ABCs of Business Structure

CHRIS PERME | COLUMNIST

A small business can adopt a number of business structures for tax and legal purposes. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages. Sole proprietorships, partnerships, and limited liability companies (LLCs) are fairly basic forms of ownership, whereas corporations are significantly more complex.

There are two primary types of corporations in the United States. C and S corporations may provide broader legal protections, but usually must meet more demanding legal requirements. Some states also recognize benefit corporations, a new legal structure that tends to appeal to "social entrepreneurs."

A corporation is a separate legal entity from its owners, a distinction that explains why shareholders generally cannot be held liable for a corporation's debts.

Tried and True
Introduced in 1958, S corporations were originally intended to offer tax relief to small, privately held companies. S corps share many of the formal corporate requirements as C corps, including articles of incorporation (and other document filings), a board of directors, an annual meeting, corporate minutes, and shareholder votes on major decisions. S corps are limited to one class of stock and a total of 100 shareholders.

The primary difference between C and S corporations has to do with taxation. C corps may be subject to corporate income tax at both the federal and state levels, and any earnings distributed to shareholders as dividends are taxed again at personal income tax rates. S corp profits and losses are "passed through" to shareholders, who are taxed at individual income tax rates. Both types of businesses must file annual tax returns.

An Idealistic Newcomer
Seven states have passed benefit corporation laws in the last two years, and at least four others are considering them.³ Normally, corporations are legally required to act in such a way as to ensure the greatest profitability for shareholders, which can result in legal or ethical challenges for some socially conscious firms. A benefit corporation's status may compel the board of directors to consider the social and/or environmental implications of some decisions.

When choosing an ownership structure for your new or growing business, it's important to weigh the potential costs and benefits of the various options and consult with your tax or legal professionals. Your firm's unique needs and characteristics may also influence your decision.

1, 3) The Wall Street Journal, January 19, 2012
2) Small Business Administration, 2012

Christopher A. Perme is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, Inc. Member SIPC. Supervisory Office: 1660 W. 2nd Street # 850, Cleveland, OH 44113. 216-621-5680.

Monroe's Orchard & Farm Market LLC
6313 PIONEER TRAIL, HIRAM • 1 MILE WEST OF S.R. 700 • 330-569-7464

~ Calendar of Events ~

PYO Apples begin Sept 8th
Weekends only.
Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Portage County
"Drive it Yourself Farm Tour"
September 22nd, Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Annual Apple Harvest Festivals
Sept 29th, Oct 6th & 13th
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

A Tribute to Willie Nelson
with 5 Star Entertainment,
Sept 15th, Oct 13th & 20th

www.monroesorchard.com

Middlefield • Chardon • Garrettsville • Chagrin Falls • Cleveland

G E A U G A

V I S I O N

We Now Accept CareSource

Geauga Vision Middlefield, Ohio 44062 (440) 632-1695	Geauga Vision Eyewear Gallery Chardon, Ohio 44024 (440) 286-3373
Geauga Vision of Garrettsville Garrettsville, Ohio 44231 (330) 527-2020	Geauga Vision of St. Vincent Charity Cleveland, Ohio 44115 (216) 363-2513
Geauga Vision of Chagrin Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022 (440) 247-4920	Ellet Eye Care Akron, Ohio 44312 (330) 784-1155

Eye Examinations by Cathy Pappas & Assoc., Independent Drs. of Optometry

BURTON AUTO SERVICE & TIRE
COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

— BURTON —
**AUTO BODY
AUTO REPAIR
AUTO SALES
AUTO RENTAL**

LUBE, OIL & FILTER
\$17.85
PLUS TAX
UP TO 5QTS OF OIL • DIESEL & SYNTHETIC EXTRA
MOST VEHICLES • VALID W/ COUPON ONLY
EXPIRES: 12/10/2012

ON THE CORNER OF ROUTE 87 & RAPIDS ROAD
440-834-3330 • BURTON, OH
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 am - 6 pm • SATURDAY 8 am - 1 pm

PFG BY THE NUMBERS
Invest • Insure • Retire

- QUIT TOO SOON?** - The headline in the business section of the USA Today newspaper on Thursday 9/02/10 (i.e., 2 years ago) was "Shell shocked investors quit the (stock) market." In the 100 trading days prior to the article's release, the S&P 500 was down 9% (total return). In the 2+ years since the article's release, the S&P 500 has gained +38% (total return) (source: BTN Research).
- BACK TO WORK** - Congress has been out of session for the last 5 weeks, returning to business in Washington today (9/10/12). The job approval rating of Congress fell to 10% in mid-August 2012 (source: Gallup).
- DO THEY OR DON'T THEY?** - 58% of more than 2,500 Americans surveyed in July 2012 believe that "upper income" people do not pay their "fair share" of federal income taxes. From 2009 tax data, the top 5% of US taxpayers pay 59% of all federal income taxes (source: Pew Research Center, Internal Revenue Service).
- LESS AND LESS** - The cost to the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to rescue failed banks in the country during the first 8 months of 2012 (i.e., YTD as of 8/31/12) has been \$2 billion. The cost of failed banks to the DIF was \$7 billion in 2011 and \$24 billion in 2010 (source: FDIC).
- RUNNING ON EMPTY** - The average car and light truck on the road today is 11 years old, tying an all-time record in the USA (source: Experian Automotive).

Call Chris Perme for your complimentary consultation today.

Perme Financial Group
"Your retirement income specialists since 1989"

8133 Windham Street, Garrettsville, OH 44231
(330) 527-9301 / (877) 804-2689

Christopher A. Perme is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services for MML Investors Services, LLC. Member SIPC Supervisory Office, 1660 W. 2nd Street #850, Cleveland, OH 44113. 216-621-5680. Perme Financial Group is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, LLC or its affiliated companies. CRN201307-150385