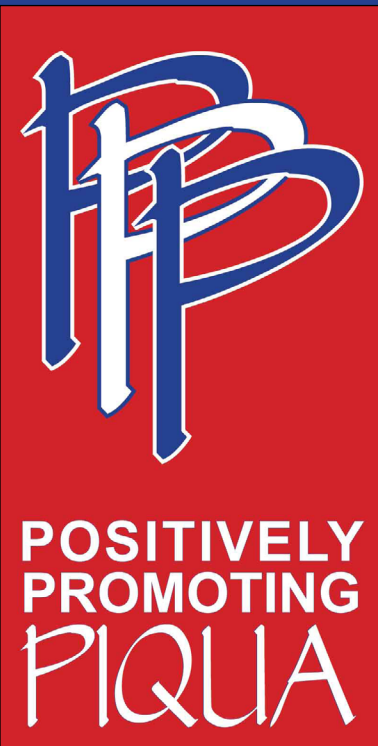


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[www.positivepiqua.org](http://www.positivepiqua.org)  
Visit us on Facebook



## What's all the Buzz About?

by Kazy Hinds

It is 8 a.m. and the room is buzzing with energy and excitement. This is how it was every Wednesday morning during the Piqua Safety Services levy campaign when a group of concerned citizens gathered. Each week the table was full with eager-faced citizens that believed in their community.

Once the Levy passed and the campaign ended, these citizens continued to meet, because they felt their work was not done and actually in many ways had just started. It was decided to meet on a monthly basis to "champion causes," take on special projects, and address urgent community needs. Believing that we can help Piqua be a better city, Citizens for a Better Piqua came into being.

Some of the work we have focused on...

- We looked at the heroin problem here in our community and invited The Salvation Army, Miami County Recovery Council, & Tri-County Board of Recovery to share their insight and knowledge.
- We have discussed needed legislation for Second-Hand & Pawn Shops, which would force owners to return stolen property.
- We helped City of Piqua Employees - Nikki Reese and Rhonda Meckstroth- launch a free CO2 detector project.
- We were instrumental in encouraging a young citizen, Levi Harrison, paint the Gazebo and clean up the area around it.
- We adopted the Gazebo and park area through the "Adopt-a-Park" city program and now members of our citizens group take time each week to sit and oversee this wonderful part of our community.
- We held a "Peace & Prayer" vigil on May 19th at the Gazebo.
- We began a monthly "Cookie & A Smile" program, where we pass out free cookies at the Gazebo courtesy of the Scott McDonald Family. This will happen on the

second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. We will do this now through October.

- We are planning to sponsor a young adult roundtable discussion to address questions such as: "Why do you live here in our community?" and "What is keeping you from returning here to live?"
- We also are starting a "Pass the Positive" campaign where local citizens, businesses, and non-for-profits will be honored for ways they have contributed positively to our wonderful city.

In May, it was decided to merge the PPP (Positively Promoting Piqua) citizens committee into our committee. So, we are a strong committee that is growing and welcoming new faces all the time. Our most important venture is to be a positive voice here in our community, celebrate our community's successes and work in every way we can to make Piqua the best that it can be. We are moving forward, my friends! It is an exciting time to be here in Piqua. A quality life is here, right in our very own community, so let's be about celebrating and enjoying each and every moment we have here in this wonderful place we call home! ♦



## Mission statement

We are Positively Promoting Piqua, a diverse group of Piqua citizens, including wage earners, retirees, responsible property owners, and local business, professional and civic leaders, united to help Piqua be the best it can be and focused on positive efforts to help Piqua improve and grow as an outstanding community in which to live and work.

## Striving To Be an Outstanding Community

Piqua needs a comprehensive program to make our community a great place – and a more attractive community for our citizens, our businesses, their employees, and business leaders.

## Keeping Piqua on a Path Forward

We need to keep our City on a positive, progressive path – poised for economic development and providing an excellent quality of life for our citizens.

## Speaking Up for Positive Solutions

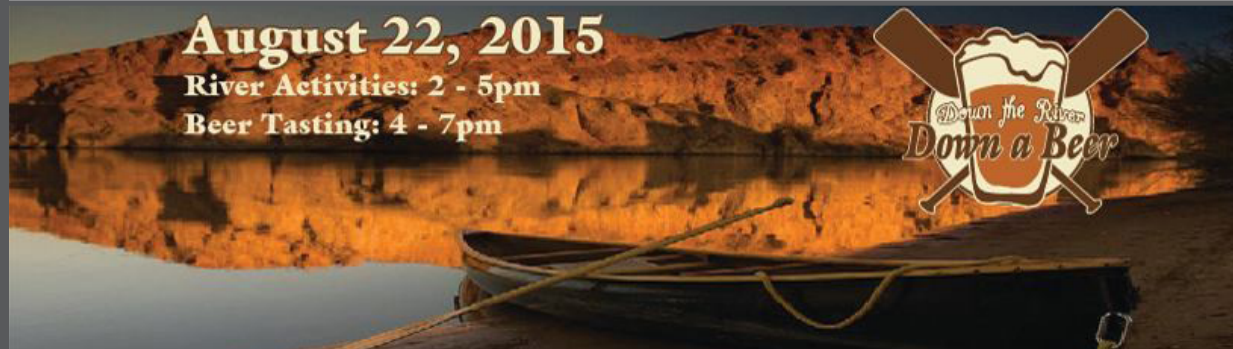
Affirmative, positive action by the many Piqua citizens who agree with our principles is needed to oppose the forces of negativity in our community. Remaining a silent majority on Piqua's future is not a viable option.

## A Well-Informed Community

We need to work together to provide the community with accurate information on issues that affect the citizens of Piqua.

## Forward-Thinking Leadership Committed to Working for Piqua as a Whole

We need elected representatives and city officials who are intelligent, well-informed, experienced and forward thinking, who are committed to working for the benefit of Piqua as a whole, who face our problems squarely, who want Piqua to be a strong, clean, and safe community in which to work and live, and who develop and implement innovative programs to achieve these objectives.



## DOWN THE RIVER, DOWN A BEER

More than 80 craft beers will be available at the upcoming **Down the River, Down a Beer** event scheduled in Piqua on Saturday, August 22. River activities are planned from 2 to 5 p.m. with the beer tasting “on tap” from 4 to 7 p.m. A popular event, Down the River, Down a Beer is designed to benefit and promote river corridor stewardship along the Great Miami River near Piqua. Tickets are \$25 per person. Jim and Cheryl Burkhardt indicate tickets will be on sale at both the downtown Mainstreet headquarters and Readmore's Hallmark.

**...AND WHILE THE FOCUS IS ON PADDLING** Protect Our Waterways (POWW) volunteers will be boarding canoes and/or walking along the Great Miami River pathways on Saturday, July 18 as part of the 12th annual Clean Sweep. One hundred and twenty volunteers and over 40 canoes will be involved in the massive clean-up which begins south of Sidney for nearly 16 miles to south Piqua behind the former Bennett School. POWW President and Founder Jeff Lange reports the organization has collected at least 135,000 pounds of trash from the river since its inception. For more information about POWW and the Clean Sweep, visit [www.protectingourwaterways.org](http://www.protectingourwaterways.org). ♦

## PACK THE PATH AT LOCK 9

By Sharon Semanie

In an effort to increase awareness of heart healthy exercise and proper nutrition, Cindy Pearson and Positively Promoting Piqua (PPP) have scheduled the fourth annual Pack the Path 5K walk/run on Saturday, July 18, beginning at 9 a.m. at Lock Nine Park.

The entry fee is one canned good, according to Pearson, with all proceeds benefiting the Bethany Center whose mission is to provide four meals per week to those in need. Bicyclists are also welcome. The event will begin at Lock Nine and return to the park via the path that travels southward.

Pearson invites everyone to “come out to the walk and enjoy the beauty of our bike path”. For more information, contact her at 778-9017. ♦

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES

By Sharon Semanie



Brandon W. Johnson, aka “Positive Energy Guy”, is keynoting the Positive Energy People (P.E.P.) Rally in Piqua as part of the iLOVE Piqua Community Workshop Series on Thursday, August 6, from 1:30 to 5:30pm at the Fort Piqua Plaza (fourth floor).

This event brings people together to “learn, connect and create positive energy and results in your life and career”. Johnson is a Top 30 Global Guru in the hospitality industry and an award-winning author/speaker coming to Piqua since 2011 to share his powerful tools, strategies and message of Positive Energy and HEART with businesses, schools, organizations and families.

To register, access the iLOVE Piqua Community Workshop Series via Facebook. The cost is \$32.64 per person.

This workshop is presented by a collaboration of local non-profit organizations who “desire to promote and strengthen the community of Piqua, its residents and its businesses”. ♦

## ROCKIN' RIVER DUCK DROP SET FOR AUGUST!

By Lorna Swisher

Watch out Piqua – the ducks are coming! The first-ever Rockin' River Duck Drop is about to invade Piqua! On Saturday, August 1 there will be at least 1,500 rubber ducks dropped into the Miami River (immediately prior to the last Rock Piqua! Concert.)

The ducks will be individually numbered and the first duck making its way through the finish line chute will earn the winner \$1000 cash! The second prize is a \$500 landscaping makeover donated by Lillcrap Mulch and Timber Sales. The third duck through the shoot will win a \$250 shopping spree at Barclay's Men's – Women's Clothier in Piqua. The last place duck is also a winner – with the prize being a rocker/recliner donated by Town and Country Furniture.

**Adoption Fees: \$5 per Duck | Quack Pack of 6 Ducks for \$25 | Grand Quack of 25 Ducks for \$100**

The ducks may be adopted at the Mainstreet Piqua office (with credit card, check or cash). Ducks can also be adopted online at [www.mainstreetpiqua.com](http://www.mainstreetpiqua.com) The ducks will also be available weekly at the Piqua Farmers Market.

The Rockin' River Duck Drop is sponsored by Piqua Guitar, Unity National Bank, Soak 'n Suds Car Wash, Ticon Paving, PSC Crane and Rigging and Miami Valley Centre Mall and POWW. The Duck Drop is also receiving design supported from Buckeye Insurance Group.

All proceeds from the Rockin' River Duck Drop will be used to further Mainstreet Piqua's mission of promoting and redeveloping downtown Piqua. ♦





## Positive Piqua News!

### Rock Piqua! Continues on July 18 and August 1

By Dan Ramer



Positively Promoting Piqua is proud to once again be a supporter of the popular Rock Piqua! Riverfront Concert Series. There are three outdoor summer concerts in 2015

– all with free admission. All take place on Saturday evenings, from 7 to 11 PM, at Lock Nine Riverfront Park. New for 2015, Rock Piqua is presenting its Unplugged series on the first Thursday of the month, through September, at Piqua’s Farmer’s Market.

Rock Piqua’s second season returned with a blast and a distinct rock tilt on June 18. The first concert of the 2015 Rock Piqua! lineup presented an evening of rock and alternative rock music, headlined by the creative Columbus group Truslow. Opening the evening’s entertainment was New Bremen’s Forgery at Best, followed by a compelling show from Shapes and Colors, from Detroit. James Truslow, on keyboards and vocals, led his namesake band in providing a lively headline show featuring an entertaining mix of original music and covers to cap the evening’s concert. A crowd of some 1,500 enjoyed the show under pleasant skies.

#### The Southern Gothic to Head Up July 18 Concert



Piqua’s riverfront music series will continue on Saturday, July 18, from 7 to 11 PM at Lock Nine Riverfront Park with a rock-country focus. The headline entertainer will be The Southern Gothic, a country and southern-rock group from Nashville and Atlanta.

The Southern Gothic was formed in 2007. Under the name “Connor Christian & Southern Gothic,” they released two studio albums. The 2013 album “New Hometown” sold 5,000 copies in its first week of release, debuting in the Top 20 of the Billboard Top Country Albums chart and at number one on the Top Heatseekers chart. In January of 2014, the band recorded a double-live album entitled “Shuffle & Stomp,” as well as its first full-length concert DVD entitled “CCSG Live in Atlanta.” The group consists of S. Connor, Jeff Spirko, Rashad Abu-Azzam, Shawn Thacker, and new member Faye Petree on fiddle.

For more on The Southern Gothic, visit [www.TheSouthernGothicMusic.com](http://www.TheSouthernGothicMusic.com).



Warm-up entertainment will be provided on the 18th by Dayton’s Ashley Martin. Ashley is “country rocker” with a sound unique to the music world, representing a cross between Rock and Country. Ashley, who has a new single named “Going Under Getting Over You,” is very popular in southwest Ohio. Her concerts consist of originals and covers, all designed, in Ashley’s words, to provide the audience “a fun country, rock-your-face-off show!”

#### The Orphan, The Poet to Headline August 1 Concert



The final Rock Piqua! concert for 2015 is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, from 7 to 11 PM at Lock Nine Riverfront Park. The headline entertainment for this evening of rock-focused music will be provided by the creative group the Orphan, the Poet. The Orphan, The Poet is a prolific group with an extensive catalog of music. Check out the Orphan, the Poet on its web site, [www.theorphanthepoet.com](http://www.theorphanthepoet.com), for a sampling of their unique sound. You can also find the group Facebook or YouTube. Warm-up entertainment on the 1st will be provided by You vs. Yesterday and The Weekend Classic.

#### Unplugged Series Continues August 6 and September 3

Rock Piqua’s Unplugged series continues on August 6 and September 3 at the Piqua Community Farmer’s Market. These free monthly concerts provide an entertaining backdrop for Piqua’s Farmers’ Market.

#### Rock Piqua!: You Make It Happen

Rock Piqua’s Riverfront Concert Series and its Unplugged series are brought to Piqua through a partnership between The Piqua Arts Council and Mainstreet Piqua. Key financial support for the 2015 concerts has been provided by The City of Piqua, Polysource, Mullenbrock and Associates – Ameriprise Financial, and Francis Cricket Wireless. The concert series also has received substantial assistance from PPP and other organizations and individuals throughout the Piqua community, which you can find identified at the concerts and on the Rock Piqua! web site. You probably know people associated with most of Rock Piqua’s supporters. When you see them, tell them “Thanks!” Thanks also to the volunteers who play a vital role in the success of the series. We could not do it without you!

Food trucks are onsite for all of the Rock Piqua! concerts at Lock Nine and bottled water, soft drinks, beer, and wine are available for purchase.

A goal of the Rock Piqua! concert series is to draw people to Piqua’s downtown riverfront, so we can appreciate the Great Miami River for its natural beauty and recreation potential. The Rock Piqua! team is hoping to thereby encourage the community to take advantage of the many opportunities that the River – and the Recreational Path that runs along it – provide for fishing, boating, kayaking, stand-up-paddle boarding, running, walking, cycling . . . or just sightseeing. This is a tremendous community asset. Let’s take advantage of it!

To keep current on Rock Piqua!’s exciting concert lineups, you can check out the Rock Piqua! web site, [www.rockpiqua.com](http://www.rockpiqua.com). You are also encouraged to visit Rock Piqua! on Facebook.

#### Supporting Our Public Amenities

Our public amenities, including our streets, our city parks and other recreational areas, our schools and our public library, make up an important part of the fabric of the Piqua community. We must work together as a community to support them and keep them in good condition and appropriately funded.

#### The Importance of Great Neighborhoods

We want Piqua and its neighborhoods to be the best they can be. The appearance of our neighborhoods, and our willingness as a community to stand up for their appearance, are vital. The majority of Piqua people take pride in their property and our neighborhoods. But we cannot afford to ignore neighborhood blight and its negative effect on our community as a whole. For this reason, Piqua needs to continue its focus on improving our neighborhoods.

#### Putting Our Best Foot Forward, to Help Grow Piqua Now

We need to constantly recognize that Piqua competes with many other communities for businesses, jobs and people. We need to act and look our best, to help **Grow Piqua Now** succeed.

#### A Great Future for Piqua

We see Piqua as a community with a great future before it. We need to work together, in a positive and cooperative manner, to achieve this vision and sustain it, for Piqua’s citizens today and those coming after us.



**POSITIVELY  
PROMOTING  
PIQUA**

[www.positivepiqua.org](http://www.positivepiqua.org)

“LIKE” us on Facebook!



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For information about  
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meetings held in Piqua visit  
[www.piquaoh.org](http://www.piquaoh.org).

## CYCLING SUMMIT DEEMED SUCCESS!

By Mike Gutmann

The Miami Valley Cycling Summit hosted by the City of Piqua and its cycling advocacy committee held a most successful summit event on May 28 and 29. The theme was “Cycling Cultivates” whether it is tourism, healthy lifestyles, or economic development.



It is estimated that the attendance at the 2015 Cycling Summit exceeded 400 persons, with an additional 80 persons having attended the VIP Social the evening before. These figures reflect the continued pattern of growth that has been evident with each Summit since the first one took place in 2009.

The highlight was the keynote address of Mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto, who shared his vision for turning Pittsburgh into a friendlier cycling and walking city. He communicated that ‘millennials’ are looking to live closer to where they work. They want access to good cycling lanes and the convenience that they can offer. In addition, the city has become a destination for visitors who can now explore the city by bike.

With the next Cycling Summit slated to take place on the campus of Wright State University we expect the attendance figures will be even greater in 2017.

Until then, let’s keep the cycling movement rolling in our communities and throughout the region by continuing to work together to advocate, promote, and create opportunities for all forms of bicycling in the Miami Valley. Watch the Bike Miami Valley Facebook page for an announcement of the date and location for the next quarterly Regional Advocacy Social and come join us to share what Cycling Cultivates... in your community!

## GOING FOR 1000 LIKES!!!

The PPP Facebook page has over 750 “LIKES” and our goal is to reach 1000 by the end of July. Facebook is an easy and fun way to learn about the positive things happening in our community so please “LIKE” us at, [Positively Promoting Piqua](#), and stay informed. You will receive all the latest happenings in the city: Piqua alerts, community events, charity events, and city news. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to be in the loop!

## CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

### FOURTH ANNUAL - PACK THE PATH 5K RUN, WALK OR BIKE

July 18, 9am, Lock 9 Riverfront Park in Piqua. Fee: at least one canned good to benefit Piqua’s Bethany Center.

### ROCK PIQUA! RIVERFRONT CONCERT SERIES

July 18, 7-11pm, Lock 9 Riverfront Park in Piqua; Music by Southern Gothic and Ashley Martin

### ROCK PIQUA! RIVERFRONT CONCERT SERIES

August 1, 7-11pm, Lock 9 Riverfront Park in Piqua, Music by The Orphan, The Poet

### ROCKIN’ RIVER DUCK DROP

August 1, 6pm, Lock 9 Riverfront Park in Piqua. For more information visit [mainstreetpiqua.com](http://mainstreetpiqua.com) or follow Mainstreet Piqua on Facebook.

### COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES

August 6, 1:30-5:30pm, Fort Piqua Plaza (Fourth Floor). Keynote Speaker Brandon W. Johnson, aka “Positive Energy Guy”, to host the Positive Energy People (P.E.P.) Rally in Piqua as part of the iLOVE Piqua Community Workshop Series. To register [click here](#).

### DOWN THE RIVER - DOWN A BEER

Saturday, August 22, Lock 9 Riverfront Park in Piqua

Beer tasting and events on the Great Miami River. The River events start at 1 PM and the beer tasting with 80 beers starts at 4PM. Tickets are \$25.00 for 20 beer samples and includes river events. Proceeds go to establish river steward program. For more information follow “Down the River, Down a Beer” on Facebook.

### PIQUA BIKEFEST

September 18 & 19. For more information visit [piquabikefest.com](http://piquabikefest.com) or follow them on Facebook.

### MOONLIGHT STRIDE & RIDE

September 26, 7:45pm. Visit [mainstreetpiqua.com](http://mainstreetpiqua.com) for more information.

### A CHOCOLATE WALK

October 2, 5:30-8pm, downtown Piqua. Visit [mainstreetpiqua.com](http://mainstreetpiqua.com) for more information.

### GROOVY GOURD BIKE TOUR

October 10, 8am. Visit [mainstreetpiqua.com](http://mainstreetpiqua.com) for more information.