

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>



John Jones ([00:01](#)):

My name is John Jones. This is Parkville Vape House, and we're located at 72 31 Hartford Road. Blue Raspberry, Great Peach, Orange Mango, Pixie Drip, Cinnamon Swirl, Sour Apple, Chubby Bubble, Purple Drink, Lucky Charms with Marshmallows right out of the box. I don't even understand how they did that.

John Jones ([00:38](#)):

I'm not at liberty to tell you 100% that vaping is safer than smoking. But what I can tell you is it kind of is.

Speaker 3 ([00:49](#)):

How can I help you today man?

Speaker 2 ([00:50](#)):

Man, I'm trying to upgrade my vape.

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*Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios. This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).*

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Speaker 3 ([00:52](#)):

What is your spending limit today?

John Jones ([00:54](#)):

Yes, nicotine is deemed to be addictive, but so is caffeine. The nicotine in the cigarette is not, what's actually killing people. It's not, what's giving people cancer. It's the formaldehyde and the fiberglass and the urea. And if you don't know what urea is, it's pretty much cat urine.

John Jones ([01:24](#)):

The ingredients in e-juice is kosher--food grade vegetable glycerin, food grade, propylene glycol, artificial flavorings, the same as your sodas or your juices or your candies and nicotine, that's it.

John Jones ([01:48](#)):

I was working for a heating and cooling company and I actually was sent to come here to Parkville Vape House, to work on their AC unit. While I was out there sweating and smoking cigarettes the owner of Parkville Vape House came out and started talking to me and joking around with me about quitting smoking.

John Jones ([02:15](#)):

I just laughed it off and maybe a few more months passed. And my dad got sick upon being looked at and examined by doctors. They discovered a cancerous tumor in his esophagus. It still hadn't clicked with me though. It still hadn't clicked that, yeah, maybe I need to quit smoking cigarettes. Fast forward, maybe two months, the tumor had now moved from his esophagus to his spine. So again, with the chemo and the radiation and it moved again, and this time it went to his brain.

John Jones ([03:18](#)):

And at that point, the doctors pretty much wrote him off as a lost cause they sent him home on Hospice. And when he passed, that's when it really clicked for me, why am I doing this to myself? Why, why would I put my children through the same thing that I had to just sit here and watch. That very next day, after my father passed, I made my way to Parkville Vape House. And that was the day I, I quit smoking cigarettes and started vaping.

John Jones ([04:09](#)):

So here we are. Now I am now running the very same vape shop that I came to when I was working for a heating and cooling company to work on their AC unit. I am now running that same vape shop.

John Jones ([04:29](#)):

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We as humans, we always wait to make a big change in our lives. We always wait until something very, very drastic and very dramatic happens to us to make that change that we need to make and losing my dad directly from smoking cigarettes, that was the drastic and dramatic event in my life that I needed.

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