

# Village Productions 2016 Highlights

We had another great year at Village Productions and wanted to share our successes with our friends and contributors. Our mission states that we: provide learning opportunities through the living arts. Our goal is to create classes and programs in movement, music, crafts, nature, ecology and life skills that support healthy development of children, families and individuals. Our objective is to support and strengthen the Amesville community.

We believe we have been true to our mission in 2016 and have helped create a vital, vibrant center for community activities in Amesville. We held several special events, offered more classes than ever and have reached out to other groups to create collaborations that are positive and effective.

Our classes are the backbone of VP programming, but we also have a wealth of special events that are embraced by the Amesville community and have received notice beyond Athens County. Ohio Hill Country Heritage group wrote this in their tourism guide for the region: "Amesville: small town living couldn't be finer than in this tight-knit Athens County hamlet (population 154) on the back road from Athens to Marietta (Ohio Route 550). Its claim to fame in Ohio history came in the year of statehood when settlers sold pelts back East to raise funds to buy books. The library became known as the Coonskin Library, the first in the Northwest Territory. The Coonskin Museum, located in the old school cafeteria, opens upon request. Mayor Gary Goosman and allies are known for organizing dinners featuring local foods, gardening classes, and even a quirky inauguration ball. Events are held at Village Productions-where yoga, dance, music, Pilates, drumming and more take place ([www.village-productions.org](http://www.village-productions.org)). Don't forget the Amesville Firemen's Festival the third weekend of every July. Outside of town you'll find organic farmers including the well-established Green Edge Gardens, and the upstart Homecoming Farm started by returning son John Wood purveyor of fresh maple syrup each spring."

Our major events include: Farm to Table, Greens at the Grange, VP Talent Show, VP Annual Holiday Concert/Movie, Ten Mile Yard Sale and numerous other small activities. As usual, Farm to Table: a Taste of Amesville reached new heights with over 110 attendees. Board members and volunteers provided a great meal (using 80% local ingredients) that culminated with live, local music and entertainment. We appreciate the terrific support that was evident from attendees and volunteers alike. This event funds our scholarships, building repairs and other costs of operating a small, non-profit.

As always, we hosted an annual Talent Show, lit up Amesville with the holiday luminarias, offered workshops several times during last winter and participated in the "Ten Mile Yard Sale" running from Amesville to Trimble on Route 329. We also hosted several art workshops ranging from "Greens at the Grange" to gardening classes for the local community. At this year's Talent Show we rolled out a new award honoring the Village Production's Outstanding Volunteer for 2016. This first ever recognition went to David Stafford for his ceaseless support of VP and all its events. Also, Board Member and Treasurer, Mary Ann Westendorf received recognition from Serve Ohio (the state Commission for Volunteerism) as the "Outstanding Volunteer for Southeast Ohio" in 2016, which came with \$1000.00 for Village Productions. We also received support from Kroger's Community Rewards.

On a recent note, Guinevere Whitford (VP Choir Director) received news that she had been awarded a grant from the Modern Woodman's Association and Insurance Company to purchase music books for our choir and other materials for children's classes and workshops.

There were many more highlights, but suffice it to say that Village Productions was an active and vibrant part of community building in and around Amesville. We thank all those that helped us achieve our goals and ask that you continue to be involved in growing community in 2016.

The entire Board of Village Productions is thankful for all the great community support we receive and looks forward to another fantastic year in the "Best Small Town in Athens County".

**You can support all this good work by buying an annual membership at Village Productions. For just \$350 for an individual or \$500 for a family you can attend ALL the classes you want during 2017. All our teachers are local and every dime stays in the Amesville community. What a great way to support our community and help create a healthier lifestyle! Also, check out our website to see our new T-shirt design. Great for holiday gifts!**