



# 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Our Mission

To continue building upon the Wagnalls legacy by serving as a hub of opportunities to foster community unity, diversity and appreciation through arts, culture and educational programs and services.

## Our Vision

A community that is thriving through high quality educational and cultural experiences.

## Our Board of Directors

**Jeffrey Cotner, Chair**

Retired Bloom Twp. Firefighter; Realtor

**Ron Fridley, Vice-Chair**

Retired Maintenance, Scout Leader

**Katherine Graham, Past Chair (Bloom Twp.)**

BC Primary Teacher, Scout Leader

**Steven Bauers**

Financial Advisor, Bauers Financial Group

**John Bitler**

Retired, Wagnalls Memorial Foundation

**Ernest "Rocky" Gaal (Bloom Twp.)**

Retired Architect

**Dylan Knecht (Lithopolis)**

Realtor/Agency Owner

**Mark Rickrich**

Project Manager

**Paul Roepcke (Bloom Twp.)**

Retired School Administrator

**Craig Vandervoort**

Partner-Sitterley, Vandervoort & Nixon, Ltd.

**Deb Silvia, Executive Director**

## A Letter from the Chair

The Board of Directors hopes you find this 2023 Annual Report informative.

Along with the Executive Director, we had a busy year working with several committees dedicated to fundraising, friend-raising, finance, safety, scholarships, centennial, board development, and facilities/grounds. The focus of the Facilities/Grounds committee and the historic structure report is especially noteworthy, as preserving a nearly 100-year-old building requires careful planning and attention. It's great to see that the committee is prioritizing repairs to maintain the building in good condition. The anticipation for the centennial celebration starting in 2024 is exciting. Following The Wagnalls Memorial on social media will undoubtedly keep you informed about upcoming events and initiatives. We invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting on Monday, May 20 at 6:30 pm in the Loft above the Library.



To donate to The Wagnalls Memorial, scan the QR code to the left, donate online at [wagnalls.org/page/donate](https://wagnalls.org/page/donate), or mail or drop off a check. **Thank you!**



# Wagnalls Financials

## Library of The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation

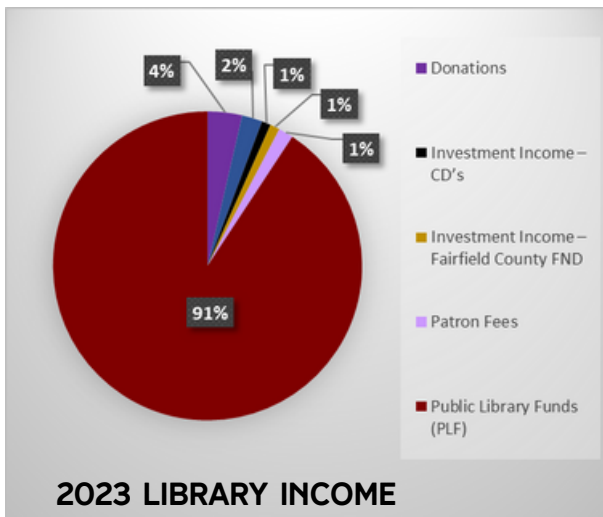
### Income

Donations	\$ 16,759
Fairfield County District LIB Tax	\$ 0
Grants	\$ 9,896
Investment Income	
CD's	\$ 4,321
Fairfield County FND	\$ 4,739
Patron Fees	\$ 7,185
Public Library Funds (PLF)	<u>\$ 421,083</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 463,983</b>

### Expenses

Books & Materials	\$ 42,948
Central Library Consortium Dues	\$ 40,510
Copy Machine Lease	\$ 6,988
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 106,270
IT/Computer Expense	\$ 34,373
Library Staff Wages*	\$ 225,432
Membership Dues	\$ 2,226
Office Supplies & Staff Recognition	\$ 6,309
Professional Fees	\$ 5,467
Programming	<u>\$ 13,261</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 483,784</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$ 19,800)</b>

The Library of The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation receives a portion of the State of Ohio's Public Library Fund (PLF).



## The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation

### Income

Donations	\$ 37,970
Events	\$ 20,680
Facilities Income from Library	\$ 96,000
Misc. Income	\$ 2,618
Room Rental Income	\$ 72,520
Sponsorships	\$ 6,515
Transfers In	
Capital Improvements	\$ 76,534
Endowment	\$ 90,000
Scholarships	\$ 27,500
WCT Ticket Sales & Programming	<u>\$ 28,151</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$458,488</b>

### Expenses

Building & Grounds Insurance	\$ 35,765
Capital Projects	\$ 34,351
Events Expense	\$ 21,505
Facilities Maintenance Expense	\$ 82,503
Foundation Staff Wages*	\$ 163,653
Office Expense	\$ 8,876
Parking Lot Loan Expense	\$ 13,278
Performing Arts Expense	\$ 27,335
Professional Fees	\$ 4,539
Scholarships	\$ 27,500
Slate Roof Loan Expense	\$ 6,352
Utilities	\$ 53,105
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 478,762</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(\$ 20,274)</b>

\*Library Staff Wages includes a salaried Library Manager, one full-time Librarian, one part-time Fiscal Officer and twelve part-time employees.

\*Foundation Staff Wages includes a salaried Executive Director, one part-time accountant, one part-time historian, two part-time maintenance employees, one part-time custodian and four part-time events employees.

## Endowment

2022

Restricted/Scholarship Fund:	\$ 929,929
Foundation Fund:	\$ 689,643

2023

Restricted/Scholarship Fund:	\$ 1,088,910
Foundation Fund:	\$ 677,257

# Scholarship and the Arts



New in 2023, the Wagnalls Community Theater (WCT) began teaching children as WCT Jr. In February, WCT Jr completed their five week sessions with *Babe the Sheep Pig* and then in May, their sessions ended with a performance of *Farmageddon and The Undercover Crop*. The spring show of WCT in April was *Death by Chocolate*, a who-done-it with intrigue, murder, comedy, romance and a whole lotta coffee! In November, the classic musical, *Willy Wonka* was brought back to the Wagnalls stage with 6 performances that filled the auditorium!

We have started planning improvements to the theater along with the Executive Director and Board of Wagnalls for 2024.



## Net Proceeds for WCT:

*Death by Chocolate* - \$3,196

*Willy Wonka* - \$9,834



## Performing Arts Series

With a grant from the Fairfield County Foundation's Ann Chess Fund, a musical performance series was revived for the first time since the Lithopolis Area Fine Arts Association (LAFAA) ceased operations in the early 2000's. Coupled with the performances from the Wagnalls Theater Company, the Wagnalls Auditorium had a new artistic opportunity nearly every month for the community's enjoyment.

Wagnalls strives to offer musical and other artistic performances from favorite genres as well as introducing new ones for all generations! Opportunities to become involved with showcasing the performing arts in our area abound from ushering, promotion, and recruiting talent. Please contact Deb Silvia, Executive Director, to get involved.

*"All I can say is that there is something special within those walls. It's the people, the history, the building, the passion for community, Lissie's MST Book Club, and of course THE THEATER!!!"*

**--Joe Werstak, Patron**

## 2023 Volunteer of the Year

Donna Elliott, Theater Manager and President of the Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library, was awarded the Tribute of Love by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting.



## 2023 Scholarships



The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation awarded eleven new scholarships and three renewal scholarships to Bloom Township residents for \$18,500 for the 2023-2024 academic year.



# The Library

## 2023

**34,453**  
**Visitors**

**410**      **8,718**  
**Programs Attendees**

**Summer Reading Program**  
**928 Participants**  
**45 Programs**

**115,793 Physical**  
**Circulations**

**17,636 Digital**  
**Circulations**

The Wagnalls Memorial Library continued to grow in 2023. We registered 1,024 new patrons. This is almost double the number of new patrons we registered in 2022. We also welcomed three new staff members – our Guiding Ohio Online technology trainer, a library associate and a children’s library associate. We were able to offer many new and exciting programs, with art and crafting programs being one of our greatest hits! We offered classes on crocheting, embroidery, photography and watercolors, with most classes filling up within days. We continue to offer four book clubs a month and our historic “Mabel” tours monthly. Our technology trainer helped our patrons 236 times with one-one-on technology assistance and tutoring. Our Egg Hunt and Christmas Open House continue to be our biggest community events with over 900 in attendance at each.

Our new Guiding Ohio Online technology trainer was able to offer some incredible new services to our patrons. Programs were offered for all ages. Our young patrons learned the basics of computer programming by taking classes on the Scratch programming language. Classes on a variety of topics ranging from online safety to how to use a smartphone were offered for our senior patrons in our new “Tech Savvy Senior” program. Wagnalls now even has our own podcast, called “Junior Librarians Exploring Wagnalls Library”. Our trainer guided homeschool children on all aspects involved in creating a podcast from start to finish. We hope to expand this service to more patrons in 2024. In addition to the in-library programs, we expanded our technology outreach in 2023 with our trainer making visits to several local senior centers.

*“What a blessing Wagnalls is to the community,”*  
- library patron, Michelle Black





# The Children's Library

**"WOW! This is amazing! Look at this!"** From the time the elevator doors open into the Children's Library at Wagnalls, a child steps into a land of creativity and wonder. It is a child's special place and one that he/she feels at home to dream and discover! A library space dedicated just for them! Children of all ages enjoy creating memories that will help launch them into being lifelong readers. That's why we do what we do—helping children develop and strengthen their reading skills for both academic and pleasure reading. And that's just the first chapter! With 100 years of the Wagnalls Memorial in our community, we continue to help write the book on making a difference in the lives of young readers one page at a time.



*"I am in awe that my children have such a beautiful place to go and learn, the staff quickly feel like family, and there is always something fun and exciting to do. The people, the beauty, the community, and the educational opportunities they provide just can't be matched."*

*--Lindsay Workman, Patron*

## For the Kids!

- Creative Playspace
- Lego Lab
- Mabel's Makery
- Homeschool Programs
- Storytimes
- Book Clubs
- Sensory Boards
- Summer Reading Program
- Traveling Museum

# Gardens & Scouts

## Our Beautiful Gardens

Wagnalls continues to be indebted to the Fairfield County OSU Extension Office's Master Gardeners for the care and development of our gardens. In 2023, 19 gardeners gave 1,130 hour of service. We are also grateful to community members, the Scouts, BC National Honor Society and the BC Football team for their help!

The Master Gardeners hosted activities in the garden during our Summer Reading Program, the Lithopolis Honeyfest, and new in 2023, a pumpkin walk!



BC Football Team (above)  
Scouts (left)  
BC National Honor Society  
and Gardeners (below)

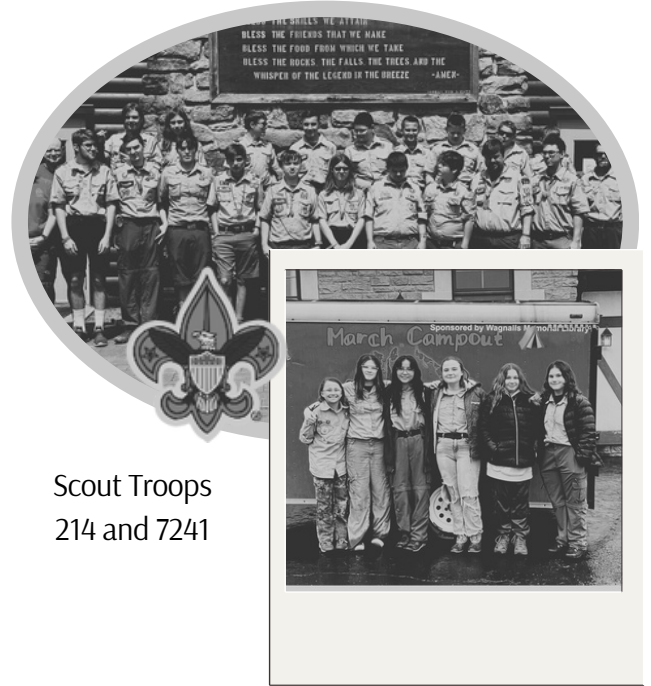


## Thank you!

Many thanks to Pam & Neil Jarvis for their leadership, time, and donations to The Wagnalls Memorial Gardens!

## Scouting

The Wagnalls Memorial has proudly chartered scouting for at least five decades. In 2023, Wagnalls also chartered Cub Scout Pack 241.



Scout Troops  
214 and 7241

In 2023, Troop 241 earned 39 merit badges and had 10 scouts advance in the ranks. Troop 7241 earned 22 merit badges and eight scouts advanced in the ranks.



During the Wagnalls annual holiday open house, the scouts held a pancake breakfast as a fundraiser for the troops. They look forward to this as an annual event!



# Community & Friends

## Memorial Day

It was our pleasure to work with Bloom Township Fire Association, American Legion Post 677, and the Village of Lithopolis for our Memorial Day festivities. This year we lent our new sound system for the memorial ceremony.



## Lancaster Festival

We enjoyed hosting a Sunday afternoon concert by members of the Lancaster Festival orchestra in July.



## Honeyfest

Wagnalls was delighted to be a part of the Lithopolis Honeyfest 2023! Several educational beekeeping and gardening opportunities were on the grounds including a craft with our own Teen Garden Club.



## Simply Christmas!

We had such a great time at our annual Christmas open house during Simply Christmas in Lithopolis.

We're always happy to join in with our community events.

Thank you to everyone that participated in our basket raffle benefitting the Library!

## Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library



The Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library is a separate non-profit organization. The Friends' mission is to support the library by educating the public, recruiting volunteers, aiding in events, and raising funds.

The Friends of Wagnalls have 28 members and 39 volunteers. They are led by Donna Elliott, President; Gina Meyers, Vice President; Patty Leibold, Treasurer; and Cristy Meade, Secretary.



In 2023, the Friends raised funds through member dues, used book sales, theater concessions, donations, and Amazon Smiles. The Friends supported Wagnalls with nearly \$8,800 including a seat cushions for the auditorium, the National Historic Register plaque outside on the tower, a couch for the Children's play space, and experience passes to the Franklin Park Conservatory, The Works in Newark and AHA! A Hands-on Children's Museum in Lancaster among many other wonderful things!



The Friends were also visible in our community this year at the Canal Winchester Farmers Market and with a Little Free Library at Preston Farms.

To join, volunteer, or donate to the Friends, email [friendsofwagnalls@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwagnalls@gmail.com).

You can also follow them on Facebook for their latest news: [facebook.com/FriendsoftheWagnallsMemorialLibrary](https://facebook.com/FriendsoftheWagnallsMemorialLibrary).



Mailing sponsored by our friends:



**Celebrate with us!**

On Memorial Day 1925, The Wagnalls Memorial was dedicated to the residents of Village of Lithopolis and Bloom Township. We hope you will join us starting this Memorial Day through Memorial Day 2025 to celebrate this wonderful gift given to us by Mabel Wagnalls Jones.

The Centennial Committee headed by Carol Gaal, the Wagnalls Historian, has planned a year-long celebration for activities every month. We thank Carol and her team: Carol Black, Haley Black-England, Julie Cecutti, Cathy Giles, Emily McClay, and Mary Massara. We also thank the Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library, Wagnalls Library staff, and the Wagnalls Community Theater for their contributions.

**THE Wagnalls**  
MEMORIAL  
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