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, 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): $421,083

**Total Income**: $463,983

**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: $13,261

**Total Expenses**: $483,784

**Net Income**: ($19,800)

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**Endowment**

#### 2022
- **Restricted/Scholarship Fund**: $929,929
- **Foundation Fund**: $689,643

#### 2023
- **Restricted/Scholarship Fund**: $1,088,910
- **Foundation Fund**: $677,257

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### 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: $28,151

**Total Income**: $458,488

**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: $13,261
- Performing Arts Expense: $27,335
- Professional Fees: $4,539
- Scholarships: $27,500
- Slate Roof Loan Expense: $6,352
- Utilities: $53,105

**Total Expenses**: $478,784

**Net Income**: ($20,274)

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*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.

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

### 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.

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**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
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
"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.

For the Kids!

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

“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
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!

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

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.

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

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!
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.

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!

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!

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.

You can also follow them on Facebook for their latest news: facebook.com/FriendsoftheWagnallsMemorialLibrary.
Celebrate with us!

Memorial Day 1925, The Wagnalls Memorial was dedicated to the residents of Village of Lithopolis and Bloom Township.

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 Ellis, and Mary Massara. We also thank the Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library, Wagnalls Library staff, and the Wagnalls Community Theater for their contributions.

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Celebrate with us!

ON MEMORIAL DAY 1925, THE WAGNALLS MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED TO THE RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE OF LITHOPOLIS AND BLOOM TOWNSHIP.

150 E. Columbus St.
PO Box 217
Lithopolis OH 43136

Return Address Service Requested