

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

THE WAGNALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY



www.wagnallslibrary.org

150 East Columbus Street
Lithopolis, OH 43136

614-837-4765



ABOUT US

MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich community life
by maintaining a vital
cultural center where
resources, learning and
talents are shared.

A FIVE STAR LIBRARY

Out of all the nation's libraries, the Library Journal, a publication of the American Library Association, awarded The Wagnalls Memorial Library five stars in both 2019 and 2020, placing it as best in its financial expenditure category ahead of 1,000 other libraries. In 2020, the Journal evaluated 5,608 public libraries across the country. 262 libraries received star ratings and only 85 libraries received five-star ratings.

The 2020 award marks the 10th year in a row that Wagnalls has received this prestigious award.



*It's a gem; our favorite library by
far. We never hesitate to drive the
extra to visit. - Amanda A.*





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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello!

It is with much pride that I present this library annual report. Both 2019 and 2020 will be covered so you can see a “normal year” and then how we managed in 2020 through COVID-19. I am excited to report about our people, our programs, and the services we provide at our great Five-Star library.

Our small but mighty staff of 12 presented 117 teen/adult programs and 218 children’s programs in 2019. During 2020 they were still able to hold 131 teen/adult programs and 127 programs for children and families safely outside or on Zoom.

The 2019/2020 library budget was \$362,858. Our 2020/2021 budget took a big hit and was reduced to \$337,762. This has led us to make major cuts in the budget. We lost a staff member and reduced the materials and computer budget to make up some of the difference. We were also forced to cut back our hours. The 2021/2022 budget will be reduced even more since we will get a smaller amount (1.66% instead of 1.7%) from the state Public Library Fund. We currently receive no other tax monies.

However, not all was gloom and doom in 2020! The lights were all changed to LED, and we are enjoying better and more affordable lighting. COVID-19 dollars have allowed us to completely clean and sanitize our buildings. We were able to provide lobby pickup when we had to close our building and still provided inside computer services for patrons.

We were also able to open an account at the Fairfield County Foundation to ensure the future needs of the library. Donors gave \$5542.45 in 2020.

We continued to have some summer/fall programs, including outside story time in our garden area for ages 3-5 years. The Walker-Hecox-Hickle gardens have been a life saver for us this year. We were able to hold our 2020 summer reading program outside. Families could come anytime and enjoy the weekly activity in a safe manner. Teen and adult book clubs continued with Zoom or in person programs when able. We also had “swag” book bags for teens and adults that staff put together with a little gift inside, goodie bags for children and letters written to the Grinch that our staff answered!

Our Guiding Ohio Online tech tutor worked with patrons to guide and teach them, including adding content to our webpage. Virtual programming is fun too, and our Friends Group purchased an Oculus!

Lastly, I am so happy that we were able to start a teen garden club in October of 2020. Our Fairfield County Master Gardener members will lead the club in learning about plants and their care through active gardening. Fun programs included pumpkin decorating and apple tasting, funded by a Nationwide Thrivent Grant.

Thank you for your support you have shown the library over these many years. The staff and I love seeing you and guessing who you are behind that mask! Here is hoping that in 2021 we will be back to hosting our great in-person programs for you to attend and seeing your happy faces!



TAMI MOREHART

Library Director

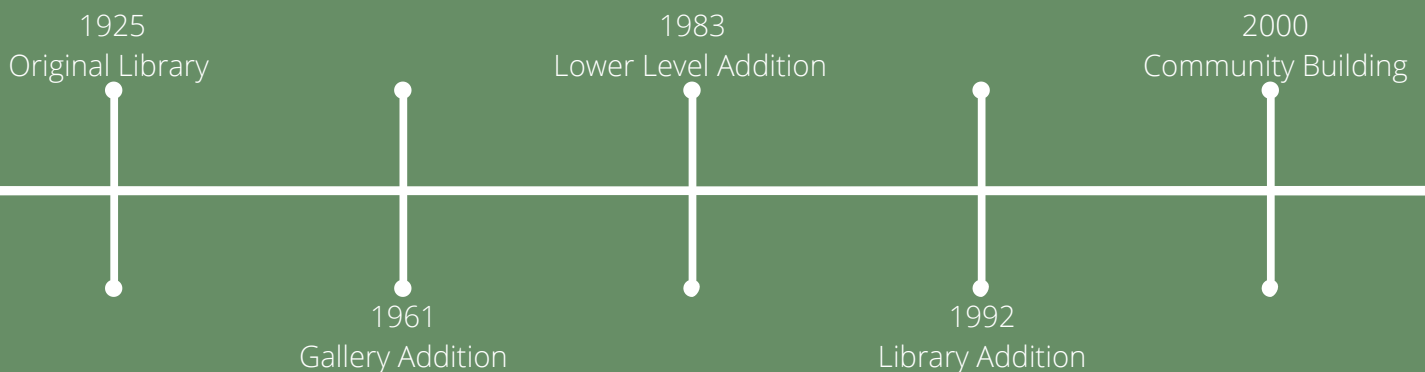
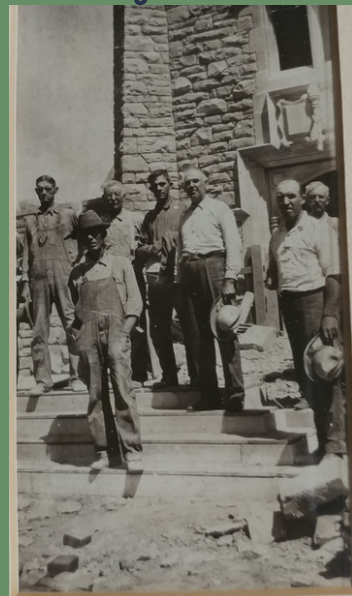
HISTORY

A RICH HISTORY IN THE COMMUNITY

On May 30, 1925, Mabel Wagnalls Jones dedicated The Wagnalls Memorial in honor of her parents, Adam and Anna Willis Wagnalls. Adam was the co-founder of the publishing giant, Funk & Wagnalls. Both Adam and Anna were born in log cabins in Lithopolis. Mabel knew it had always been Anna's dream to do something for the little village, which had never had anything done for it, and to provide opportunities not available to her as a child. With the building of The Wagnalls Memorial, Mabel would fulfill her mother's dream.

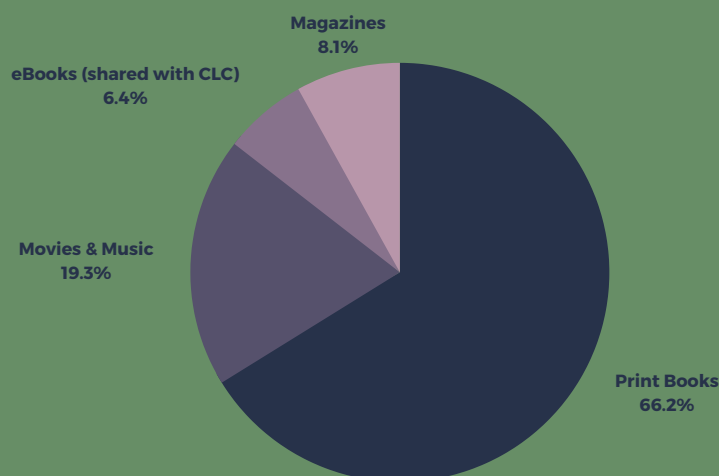


This building is dedicated to the perpetual use of the people of Lithopolis and Bloom Township, irrespective of race, color or creed - Mabel Wagnalls-Jones



LIBRARY OVERVIEW

2020 LIBRARY MATERIAL BUDGET BY TYPE



TOTAL MATERIAL BUDGET = \$36,140



**LONG OVERDUE LIBRARY
ACCOUNTS AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2020:
725**

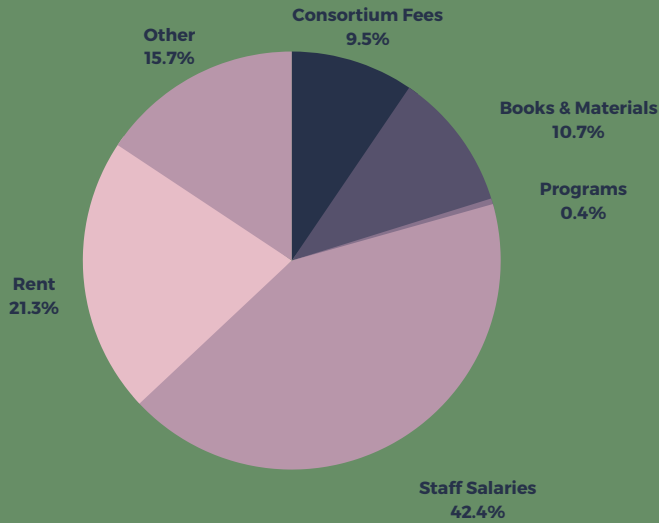
**TOTALING A LOSS OF:
\$74,155**

*Thank you for the support and help
you offer us readers - Sarge P.*

MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

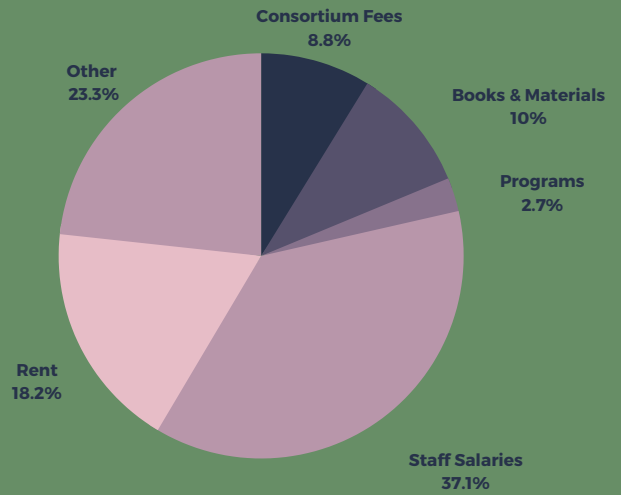
The Wagnalls Memorial is a member of the Central Library Consortium. Patrons can use their Wagnalls card at the Bexley, Columbus Metropolitan, Delaware County, Grandview Heights, Granville, Marysville, Pataskala, Pickaway County, Pickerington, Plain City, Southwest, Upper Arlington and Worthington libraries. A Wagnalls card can be used to request items from these libraries as well as from the Alexandria, Fairfield County and London libraries. Wagnalls library patrons also have access to materials all over the state through SearchOhio and OhioLINK.

FINANCIALS



**LIBRARY 2019-2020
ACTUAL BUDGET**
Total = \$362,858

**LIBRARY 2020-21
PROPOSED BUDGET**
Total = \$337,762



Thank you!

2020 Donors

- Lithopolis United Methodist Church Christmas local mission for children's literacy = \$8,992
- Lithopolis UMC Women's Group for library updates = \$2,172
- 2/13/20 Library Movie Night = \$26
- In Memory of Brenda Solt = \$200
- 10 individuals totaling \$124
- Barb Marshall - Large donation of children's books

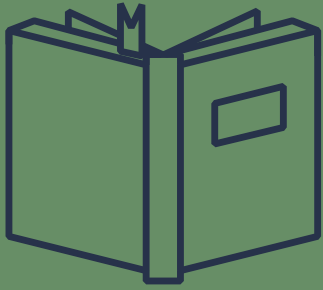
A Fairfield County Foundation account was set up in August of 2020 with \$10,000. As of December 31, 2020 a total of \$7,693 was donated for future capital improvements.

Thank you to our 40 donors and the \$850 in matching funds from the Fairfield County Foundation.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND

The Public Library Fund for the state of Ohio is set at 1.7% of the State's General Revenue Fund. From there, each individual county receives a portion of the of the PLF. For 2020, Fairfield County is estimated to receive \$4,101, 216. Of this, The Wagnalls Memorial will receive 8.3%, or \$340, 401. There are two other library systems in Fairfield County. Fairfield County District Library will receive 63.2% or \$2,591,969 and Pickerington Public Library will receive 28.5% or \$1,168,847. Additionally, The Wagnalls Memorial budget consists solely of the PLF, whereas the other two libraries receive tax levy monies. In 2021, The Wagnalls Memorial will enter negotiations with the two other Fairfield County libraries to fight for a more equitable division of the PLF. At the current PLF division, we will not be able to sustain cost increases in upcoming years and will be unable to meet our patrons' needs.

CIRCULATION



2019 CHECKOUTS

119,254

2020 CHECKOUTS

80,040

2019 HOLDS PLACED

17,379

2020 HOLDS PLACED

14,686



7,290 REGISTERED PATRONS

Impact of Covid on Circulation in 2020

March 17 - May 11: Library completely closed. No materials available for check-out.

May 12 - June 27: Materials available by request for lobby pick-up only.

June 29 - July 9: Library open to the public.

July 11 - August 20: Materials available by request for lobby pick-up only.

August 22 - November 5: Library open to the public.

November 7 - end of year: Materials available by request for lobby pick-up only.

The closure of the library for almost two months and the move to lobby pick-up impacted the number of checkouts and holds placed in 2020 compared to 2019. However, the impact was not as great as might be expected. Checkouts were reduced by about 33% and holds placed were reduced by about 15%.



The CLC consortium ranked 10th in the whole world for checkouts with OverDrive ebooks. Our circulation for 2020 was a whopping 4,610,362!

SERVICES



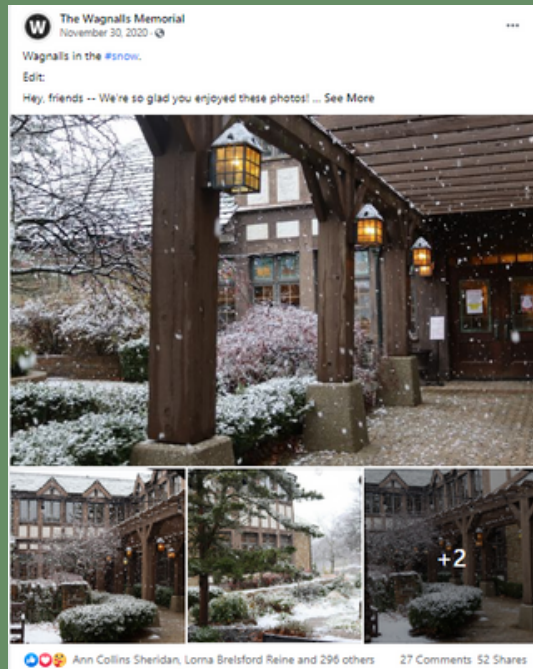
The library offers many in-house services. We were able to continue most of these services after the Covid closure in 2020 by appointment. These services include:

- Computer Lab
- Self-serve copier
- Printing Services
- WiFi Network
- Notary Services
- Faxing Services
- Scanning Services
- Ipads
- Therapy Light
- One-on-one Computer Help



SOCIAL MEDIA

Posts with the most engagement - likes, shares, and comments - across each platform.



Social media following growth in 2020

Facebook followers
December 2019: 2719
December 2020: 3078
Up 13%

Instagram followers
December 2019: 455
December 2020: 852
Up 87%

Twitter followers
December 2019: 72
December 2020: 93
Up 29%



GUIDING OHIO ONLINE

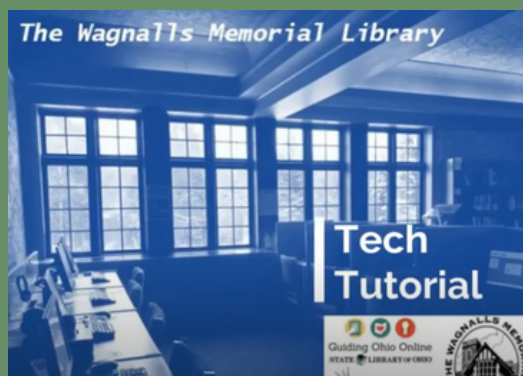


Guiding Ohio Online

Guiding Ohio Online is a State Library administered competitive LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant. The purpose of the grant is to allow libraries in rural Ohio to hire a dedicated technology trainer for their library. The technology trainer is hired as an independent contractor in a full- or part-time capacity depending on the needs of the library for a 1-year period. Trainers can assist with computer instruction, technology-focused community outreach, one-on-one instruction, and other technology related duties.

The LSTA funding covers 75% of the project costs; the remaining 25% must come from a library cash match.

This is the 6th year that the Wagnalls has been awarded this grant.

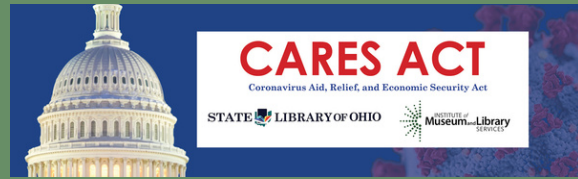


Our technology tutor, Paula, provided over 100 tutoring sessions in 2020. She helped patrons learn how to use their smartphones, tablets, computers and computer programs.

Guiding Ohio Online Programs

- Lumo Play floor projector
- Homeschool computer basics
- Homeschool keyboarding
- Khan Academy class
- Augmented Reality class
- Curated live animal camera YouTube playlists for storytime children
- YouTube tutorials on Novelist, Flipster and Plantnet
- Checkers TV

COVID GRANTS



In 2020, the library received two Covid relief grants:

\$25,000 from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management

\$3,000 from the LSTA Cares Act

This money was used for:

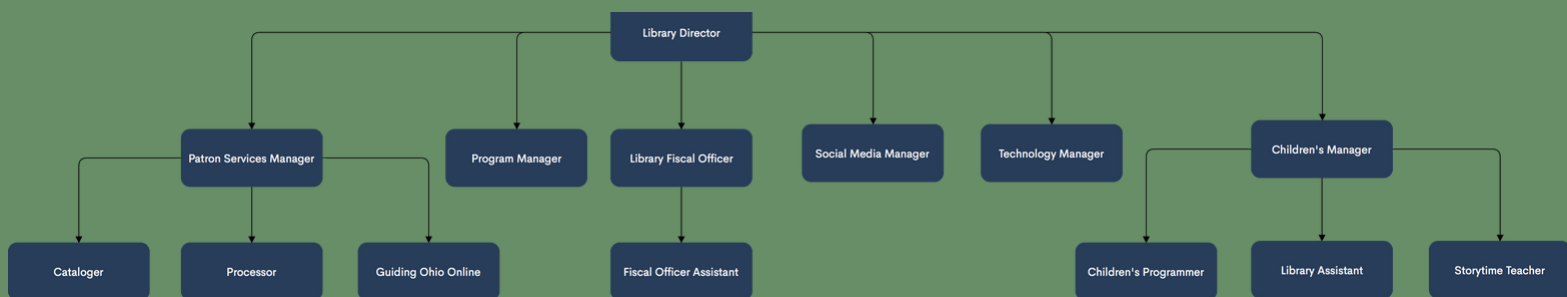
- DSLR Camera
- Camera Microphone
- 2 Headphones
- Outdoor pick-up lockers
- Large rolling bins for quarantining returned materials
- Plexiglass shields for desks and tables
- Cleaning supplies
- Janitor carts
- Sign holders for outdoor garden activities
- 3 Webcams
- Portable air cleaners
- Masks
- Checkers TV



In addition to the library grants, the Wagnalls Foundation received a \$5,000 Covid relief grant from Ohio Cares. This grant paid for professional cleaning of the building and the purchase of cleaning supplies and an ultraviolet sterilizing wand.

ORGANIZATION

Library Staff Structure



*We need to preserve this amazing landmark in honor of Mabel,
her parents and the library's past, present and future patrons -
Amy*



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larry Browne, Chair
Katherine Graham, Vice Chair
Miranda Zircher, Treasurer
Patricia Drodofsky, Secretary
John Bitler

Jeff Cotner
Ron Fridley
Mandy McNutt
Vic Miller
Debra Thompson

LIBRARY STAFF



Tami Morehart
Library Director

Emily McClay
Patron Services Manager



Sarah Mayzum
Program Manager

Hannah Camp
Social Media Manager



Fiona Spears
Technology Manager

Brenda Lucko
Patron Services/Cataloging



Lissie Scherer
Processing

We can only imagine the many challenges of keeping the library and the many activities going during the Covid crisis. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers for all you do. - Bob & Mary S.

LIBRARY STAFF



Betsy Kotwis
Children's Programming

Erin Vaughan
Children's Manager



Carol Gaal
Assistant to the LFO/Storytime Teacher
"Our Mabel" Historian and Tour Guide

Alexandra Blume
Children's Library Assistant



Paula Maier
Guiding Ohio Online

Nicole Jurgensmier
Library Fiscal Officer



A life well-lived is a life full of friendship connections. At The Wagnalls Memorial, you will make those important connections
- Rose M.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Library volunteers are essential to keeping the library running smoothly! Our circulation volunteers help pull and check in holds and shelve books. Our children's volunteers help at storytime and summer reading as well as help shelve books.



Circulation Volunteer
Carol M.



Circulation Volunteer
Patty D.

*thank
you* ♥



Circulation Volunteer
Mike D.



Children's Volunteer
Suzee T.



Children's Volunteer
Christine W.

FRIENDS OF THE WAGNALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Donna Elliott -
Friends of the
Library President



The Friends group meets monthly with the library director to plan various events and projects to support the library. They depend on the public's support to make the library a wonderful place for families to enjoy!

The purpose of the Friends group is four-fold: to recruit volunteers; to help produce events and programs in collaboration with the library director; to set up and run the two annual book sales; and to raise money to support library programs and needs.

Support the Friends by becoming a member, donating materials, volunteering, or shopping at the next sale. Our membership sign up form can be found online. As a benefit of joining the Friends, you will gain admission to preview book sales which provides access to the sale before the general public.

In 2019 and 2020, the Friends purchased:

- Projector for the theater
- Lego wall and other items for the creative play space
- Gift cards for the staff for Librarian Appreciation Week
- Refreshments & paper products for piano concert & breakfast with Santa
- New signs for book sales
- Outdoor table & chair set
- Garden butterfly spinner
- Outdoor Adirondack chairs
- Gift cards for summer story time volunteers
- Reader rewards prizes
- Two stoves & two refrigerator/freezers for the kitchen remodel
- Hand-held vacuum
- Handheld two-way radios
- Movie license
- Constant Contact subscription
- Braille Book
- Media Cart
- Oculus VR Gaming System



WALKER-HECOX-HICKLE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



Since 2017, the OSU Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) of Fairfield County, the Lithopolis Garden Club and community members have cared for the beds in the Walker-Hecox-Hickle Memorial Garden with the help of various local student organizations and churches.

The Nationwide Thrivent organization was very generous to The Wagnalls Gardens in 2020. Four grants were received from Thrivent, totaling \$1,000. These grants were used to purchase mulch, bulbs and plants for four improved beds by the driveway, white out for pavers, pumpkins, and Teen Garden Club materials including trowels, dandelion diggers and gloves.



TEEN GARDEN CLUB



The Teen Garden Club is for students in seventh to twelfth grades in our tri-county school districts that meet monthly to explore various gardening topics with guidance from Master Gardeners and a library staff member. The program kicked off in October 2020 with an introduction to the club and a tour of the Wagnalls garden. Each students received their own trowel, gloves and t-shirt by completing a scavenger hunt through the garden, courtesy of a \$258 Nationwide Thrivent charitable grant.

The State Library of Ohio has provided The Wagnalls Memorial with a \$4,259 grant to continue the club through 2021. Activities planned include education from Master Gardeners on topics such as garden design, flower arranging, plant identification, canning, pollinator gardens and rain barrels. A librarian will be at each club meeting to recommend relevant books and technology resources to the students.

2019 ADULT AND TEEN LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

- Adult Book Club
- Harry Potter Club
- Teen Book Club
- Writing Club
- Summer Reading

Special Programs

- Historic Mabel Tours
- Evening of Writing Uncontrollably, Write-a-thon
- UFO Lecture
- "Game of Soups" Competition
- Canning Classes
- Ghost Hunt
- Beginning Technology Classes: Powerpoint, Excel, Word, Typing, Video Editing and more
- "Mabel's Iron Chefs" Adult Cooking Classes
- World War One Presentation
- 3D Printing Demonstrations
- Cupcake Challenge
- Author Fair
- Sewing Classes
- Phone Photography
- Ghost Lecture
- Yule Ball
- Pet First Aid

Did you know?

In 2019, The
Wagnalls
Memorial had 117
teen and adult
programs.



2019 ADULT & TEEN PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR

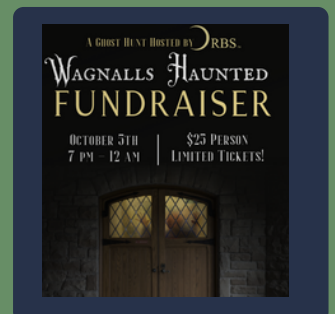
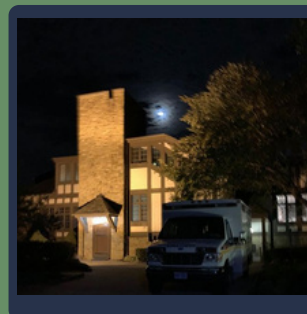
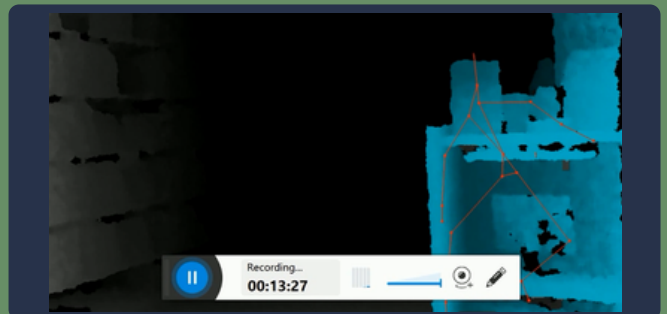
Our local author fair was held in our Loft in April 2019. Twenty - two authors from Central Ohio displayed, sold and discussed their books and their writing process with over 85 attendees. To add interest, authors donated books for a raffle. One lucky attendee won a bag of donated books.

Great job with the author fair. It was a lot of fun! I'm excited we had so many come out. - Roxanne W. (Local Author)

GHOST INVESTIGATIONS

In June 2018, the ORBS (Ohio Researchers of Banded Spirits) stayed overnight in the library to do a ghost investigation. ORBS researchers have been featured nationally on shows such as "Haunted History" on the History channel and "Haunted Case Files" on Destination America. They presented their findings in a free presentation held in the auditorium in March 2019 with over 200 attendees. In October 2019, the ORBS team returned to the library to host a fundraiser. 30 tickets were sold and the team led small group investigations in various parts of the building using their professional equipment. According to ORBS, there are several ghosts sharing our library space!

This has to be one of the most beautiful and haunted libraries we have ever seen. - ORBS



2020 ADULT AND TEEN LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Adapting to a challenging year

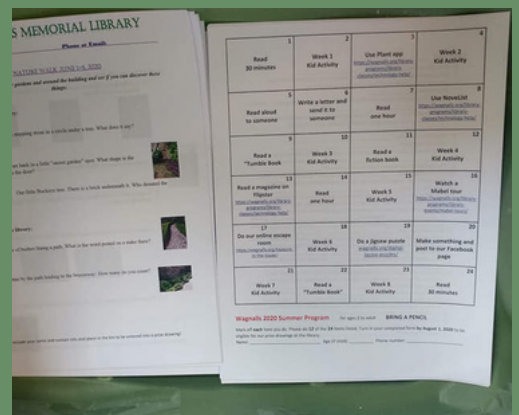
2020 started out promising with some very popular new programming: the Books and Brews book club which was held at a local brewery, the return of 25 cent family movies in our historic auditorium and another sold-out Yule Ball. However, in March, our in-person programming was suddenly suspended due to Covid. The Wagnalls staff quickly adapted and started thinking out of the box for socially distanced programming.

Some adaptations included:

- Adult Book Club meetings over Zoom
- Harry Potter Club self-guided scavenger hunts
- Historic Mabel Tours recorded as video series
- Family garden activities for Summer Reading
- Fall family garden adventures
- Online escape room
- Teen Garden Club
- Bee education garden activities and honey sales in place of Honeyfest
- (s)Wag bags providing reader's advisory services
- Virtual Game of Soups in the form of a community recipe book

Did you know?

In 2020, The Wagnalls Memorial had 131 teen and adult programs.



2020 ADULT & TEEN PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



(S)WAG BAGS

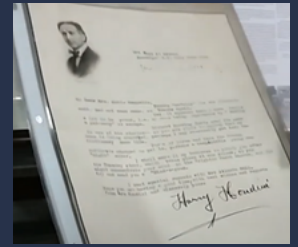
When the library building closed to the public, the library staff began providing materials for patrons for lobby pick-up only. We noticed that sometimes patrons had difficulty finding books to order. They were used to browsing and asking the library staff for recommendations. This need was filled through the (s)Wag Bag program. Adult and teen patrons fill out a form on our website detailing their reading preferences. The library staff chooses two books based on these preferences. These books are checked out to the patron and added to their (s)Wag Bag along with other goodies such as candy, a free book from our book donation stash, little notebooks or leftover summer reading prizes. This program introduces patrons to books and authors that they may have never discovered on their own. We started providing (s)Wag Bags in November of 2020 and provided 35 patrons with bags in November and December.



*Thanks for making the (s)Wag Bags so special!
Love it! - Andrew T.*

ONLINE MABEL TOURS

Carol Gaal is a library employee and also a Wagnalls historian. She has done extensive research on Mabel Wagnalls Jones, her family and the history of the building. She has been dressing as and giving tours as Mabel to small groups for many years. In 2019 and early 2020 she decided to offer these tours to the public and the tours were very well attended. She told the story of Mabel's upbringing, her famous friends (including Houdini, O'Henry and Joshua Slocum), and her process of designing and building the library. Attendees also got to see areas of the library that they might otherwise never see, including the Tower Rooms. When the library building was forced to close in spring of 2020, Carol worked with our Social Media Manager, Hannah, to create an online version of the tour. This brought the beautiful interior of the library, otherwise inaccessible to the public, to people in their homes as well as a lesson on the history of the Wagnalls library and family.



I felt I was listening to Mabel... a beautiful way to present our lovely library - Ruth F.

2019 CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

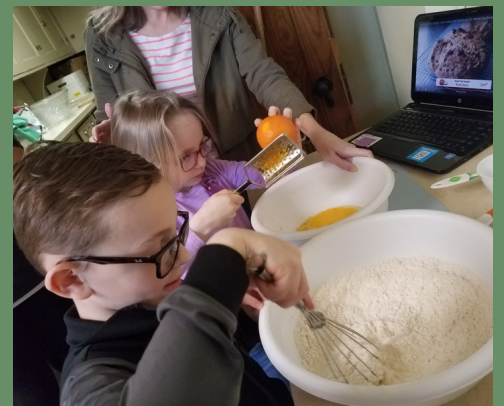
- Storytime
- Family Storytime
- Homeschool Classes
- Summer Reading
- Lego Club

Did you know?

In 2019, The Wagnalls Memorial had 218 children's programs.

Special Programs

- Easter Egg Hunt - sponsored by Lithopolis United Methodist Church
- Lego Competition
- Bee and Honey Activities - as a part of the Lithopolis Honeyfest
- Be-a-Vet - sponsored by Diley Hill Animal Emergency Center
- Magic Wand Making Class
- Slime Making Class
- Christmas Open House - as a part of the Village of Lithopolis Simply Christmas
- "Mabel's Mini Chefs" Children's Cooking Classes



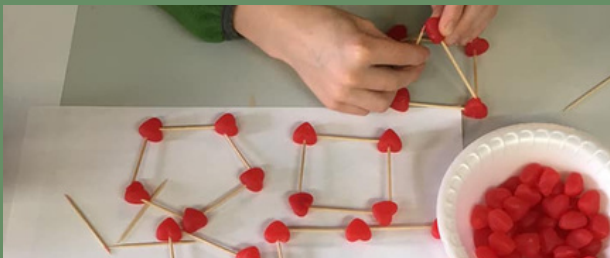
2020 CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROGRAMS

January - March 2020

The beginning of the year was business as usual for the Children's Library. Storytime classes were full. The three year old class learned about nursery rhymes and colors. The 4/5 year old class continued learning about the alphabet, concentrating on letters K to O. Homeschool classes were also full. Those classes were held for 8 weeks, serving an average of 27 children a week. The classes were broken into two age groups - age 4-6 and age 7-12. Other popular programs that started in 2019 - such as the Lego Club and Family Storytime - also were held during this time.

Did you know?

In 2020, The Wagnalls Memorial held 127 children's programs.



2020 CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROGRAMS

March - December 2020

The Covid pandemic forced the end of traditional programming starting in March 2020. However, the Children's staff immediately got creative with safe ways to keep children engaged with the library.

May 2020 - Storytime teachers wrote letters to the storytime children asking that they decorate a "You Shaped You" and send it back to the library. Staff took pictures of their shapes and wrote letters back.

June - August 2020 - We had twelve weeks of self-guided activities in the gardens and throughout Wagnalls grounds for our Summer Reading Program, including a nature walk, a fairy walk, color walk, scavenger hunt and a story walk.

September - October 2020 - Fall storytime in the garden. We had eight weeks of storytime for families to walk around the garden and learn about the seven continents. There were stations with information and activities about the continent. A storytime teacher read stories to small socially distanced groups of children.

October 2020 - Self guided activities resumed in the garden with five weeks of Halloween themed self-guided adventures including owls & crows, bats & spiders, Harry Potter, pumpkins and a fall fest.

November - December 2020 -The Around the World theme was continued through curated links on our website to live animal cameras from each continent. Thanksgiving and Christmas activity bags were distributed with activities for children to complete at home. Checkers TV was purchased and videos were personalized to Wagnalls by book readings from children's library staff.

December 2020 - A character pen pal program was started in which children write to and receive letters from book characters each month. The first character was the Grinch. Christmas goody bags were distributed through lobby pick-up. The annual Santa storytime visit went virtual with Santa recording personalized videos for families.





We would like to say thanks to our patrons for their support of us during this unconventional year. You were there for us through our closings, openings and then closing again. You adapted and continued utilizing the library through our lobby pickup. You moved outside with us to participate in our family garden activities. Our gardeners continued to work in their beds. You joined together for book clubs over Zoom. But most importantly, you kept our spirits up with encouraging notes, supportive social media comments and kind words over the phone.

We could not ask for better patrons!!!!

We have much to look forward to in 2021. We have a new "microbranch" in the form of outside pick-up lockers. This will make access to materials even easier for our patrons. Our Board of Directors have almost completed a total renovation of the banquet hall/kitchen area. We will be able to use this area for programming and the Foundation will use it to generate rental income. LED lights were added throughout our buildings. The Board has also purchased an electronic sign for our front lawn. This sign will be used to communicate important news and events to our patrons. There are many exciting fundraisers planned by the Board for 2021 as well – our annual Art Festival and Gatsby event – as well as a brand new fundraiser, Winterfest. Money raised will go to help maintain the historic building that houses the library.

*With much appreciation to you, our patrons,
The Wagnalls Staff*