



# WAGNALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



[WWW.WAGNALLSLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.WAGNALLSLIBRARY.ORG)

150 EAST COLUMBUS STREET  
LITHOPOLIS, OH. 43136

614-837-4765

# ABOUT US

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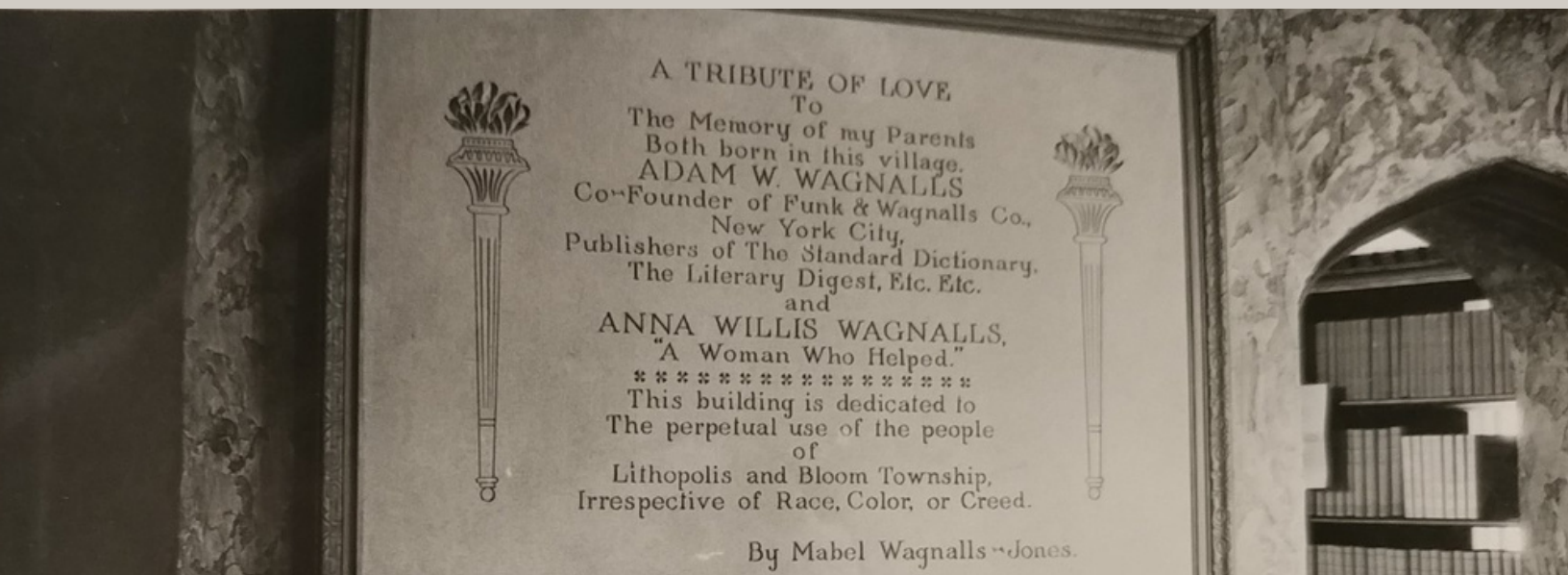
## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## OUR HISTORY

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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.





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Greetings,

Looking back at 2021 and the challenges we faced, I feel an over all feeling of being blessed. The library was able to stay open all year and our staff was healthy. We did lose some valuable staff, who are dearly missed, but gained new creative people to fill their shoes.

Our programs are going strong, and we had over 500 people attend our annual Christmas Open House.

The library budget increased due to great state tax revenues! This enabled us to do some updating and replacing of very old items and equipment.

Lastly, I was very happy to celebrate my 40th year here at Wagnalls. I have worked with so many great people here, and all of us over the years have come together to make Wagnalls a center point of our wonderful community.

Thank you for your support,



**TAMI MOREHART**

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR**





# LIBRARY OVERVIEW



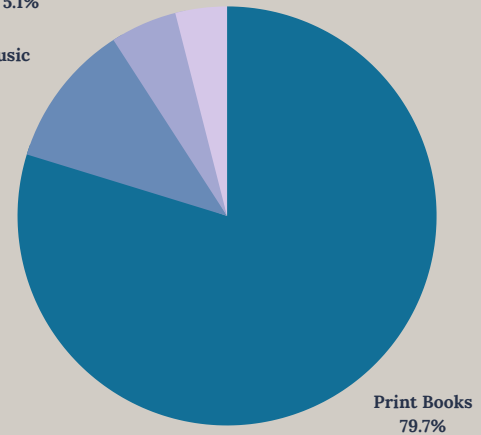
## LIBRARY MATERIAL BUDGET BY TYPE

**TOTAL MATERIAL BUDGET**  
**\$38,848**

eBooks (shared with CLC)  
5.1%

Magazines  
4%

Movies & Music  
11.1%



The Wagnalls Memorial is a member of the Central Library Consortium (CLC). Patrons can use their Wagnalls card at the Bexley, Columbus Metropolitan, Delaware County, Fairfield 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 and London libraries. Wagnalls library patrons also have access to materials all over the state through SearchOhio and OhioLINK.



## LOSSES

Long overdue library accounts as of December  
31, 2021:

**802**

Totaling a loss of:

**\$49,438**

## CIRCULATION

**2021 Check-Outs**  
**98,174**

**2021 Total Holds**  
**16,209**

**2021 Total Registered Patrons**  
**7,497 (2,470 active borrowers)**



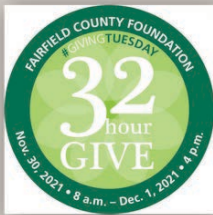
THANK  
YOU

## 2021 Donors

- In Memory of Ruth Jones \$13,224
- 27 individuals totaling \$3,921
- Friends of the Library \$1,210
- Lithopolis United Methodist Church (books for Ruth Jones) \$675
- Fairfield County Foundation – 32hr Give – 22 Donors \$1,715
- 32hr Give match \$228

## 2021 Grants

- South Central Power \$2,500
- Village of Lithopolis Am. Rescue Act \$9,834
- Guiding Ohio Online \$6,009
- LSTA Teen Garden Grant \$4,259



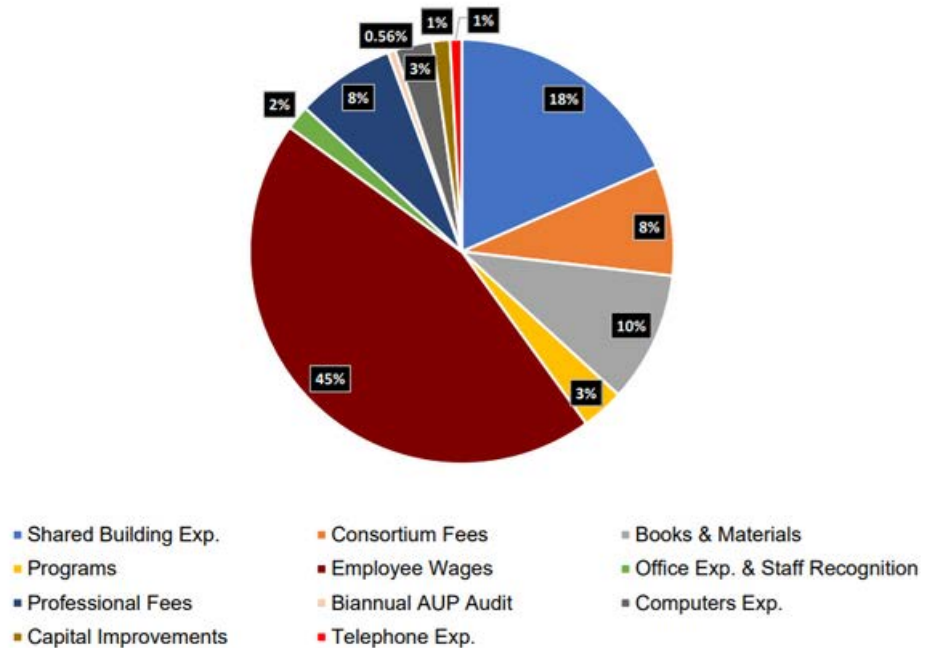
During this year's Fairfield County Foundation's 32 Hour Give, supporters of The Wagnalls Memorial Library donated  
**\$1,715**

Fairfield County Foundation supplemented that donation with an additional \$228.18 to bring our total raised to:  
**\$1,943.18**

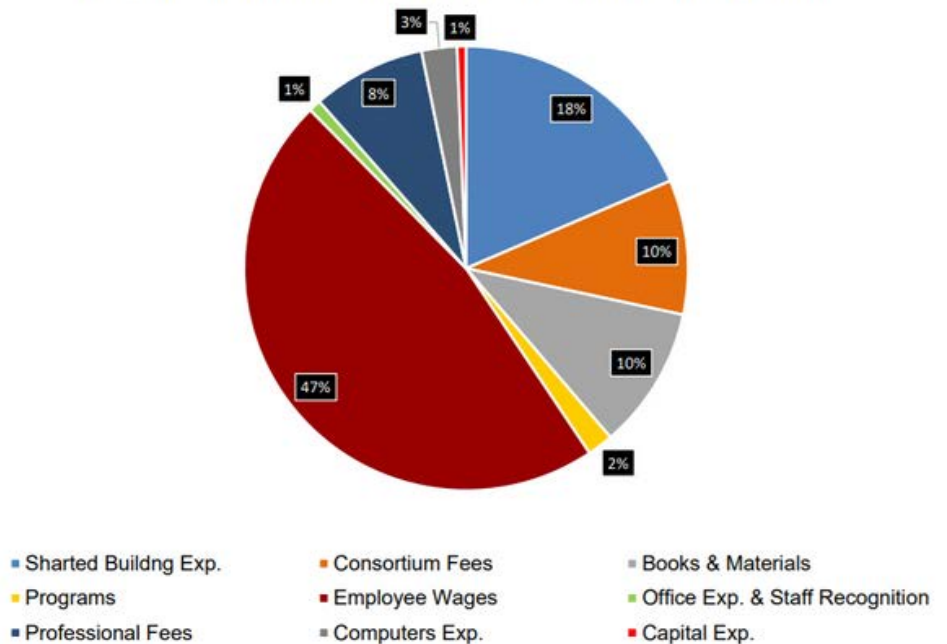


# LIBRARY FINANCIALS

Wagnalls Memorial Library 2021 Operating Expenses



Wagnalls Memorial Library Proposed 2022 Operating Budget





# LIBRARY SERVICES



## New in 2021 - Partnership Passes!

The library has partnered with several community attractions to offer free "member-for-a-day" passes to our patrons. This service removes barriers and opens these educational destinations to all. We have a partnership with:

Dawes Arboretum

The Columbus Museum of Art

The Works

The National Veterans Memorial & Museum

## Also New in 2021 Circulating Hotspots

Patrons can checkout a hotspot for temporary internet access in an emergency or for vacation. Hotspots can be reserved for up to two weeks.



**EXPLORE**  
*Our Community*

THE LIBRARY CIRCULATES FREE MEMBER-FOR-A-DAY PASSES!

**DAWES ARBORETUM**

- Located in Newark
- 2,000 acres of plant collections, gardens and natural areas
- Passes admit up to six people

**COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART**

- Located in Downtown Columbus
- Collects and exhibits American and European modern and contemporary art, folk art, glass art, and photography
- Passes admit up to eight people

**THE WORKS**

- Located in Newark
- Interactive history, science & technology exhibits, plus a glass-blowing studio
- Passes admit up to four people

**NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL & MUSEUM**

- Located in Downtown Columbus
- Takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared experiences of Veterans throughout history
- Passes admit up to two adults and five children
- Parking validated free of charge

THE WAGNALLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## Continuing services include:

- Computer lab
- Scanning services
- Ipads
- Therapy light
- One-on-one computer help
- Ellison die cut machine
- Printing services
- Wifi network
- Notary services
- Faxing services
- Self-serve copier



# SOCIAL MEDIA



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



## Facebook



In addition to these social media outlets, our social media manager has started working on rebuilding our Pinterest account which has great potential in showing the beauty of this library. We have also started a Tik Tok account. In three weeks, before the year ended and before any videos were posted we had gained 15 followers. LinkedIn was started in May 2021 and has gained 14 followers.



Social media following growth in 2021

Facebook followers  
Up 16%

Instagram followers  
Up 18%

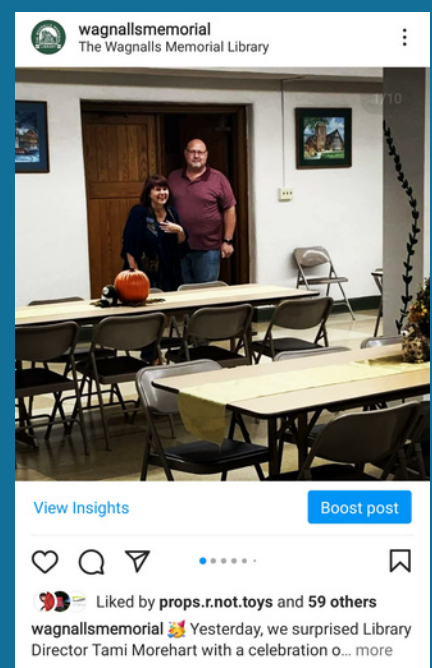
Twitter followers  
Up 30%



## Instagram



## Facebook Children's Library





# GUIDING OHIO ONLINE



Our technology tutor, Paula, provided 338 tutoring sessions in 2021.

She helped over 20 patrons a month learn how to use their smartphones, tablets, computers and computer programs.



## Guiding Ohio Online

Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) 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 LSTA funding covers 75% of the project costs; the remaining 25% must come from a library cash match.

This is the 7th year that the Wagnalls has been awarded this grant. This grant funded our technology tutor through September 2021. After September 2021, this position is paid for through the library budget.



## Oculus Quest Virtual Reality

The focus of the Technology/Guiding Ohio Ohio Program was the emerging technologies of Virtual and Augmented Reality. We began with the Introduction to VR/AR Program. It covered differences between Virtual and Augmented Reality, practical examples of each, and then a demonstration.

# 294

Patrons participating in technology programs in 2021.



### Virtual Reality

Patrons experienced Virtual Reality themselves with our Oculus Quest. Each month a new app was available to explore. Images (from the headset) were projected to a TV so patrons could observe the content while another person experienced the full 360-degree view while wearing the headset and controllers.

The monthly Oculus Club was added to explore beyond the one-on-one and family sessions. Each meeting we competed with Club members, shared ways to improve technique or speed and tried an app or learned something new. Typically, 5-11 club members attended. Recently, we added an Open Play hour at the members' request, so they have another opportunity each month to interact with other club members.

### Augmented Reality

Our Interactive Displays in the Children's Library offered hands-on time with our Spongey Merge Cubes. Families were able to browse through a variety of 3D objects and videos that were linked with either the Storytime theme or the Checkers TV episode or find other 3D objects that interested them.



# LIBRARY STAFF

## Library Managers



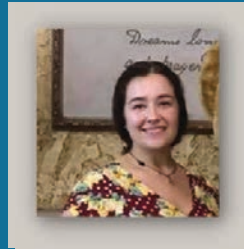
*Emily McClay*  
Patron Services Manager



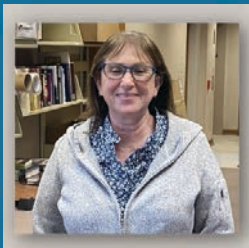
*Erin Vaughn*  
Children's Manager



*Sarah Mayzum*  
Program Manager



*Hannah Camp*  
Social Media Manager



*Fiona Spears*  
Technology Manager



*All staff is under the  
direction of Tami Morehart,  
Library Director*

### OTHER LIBRARY STAFF MEMBERS

Alex Blume, Children's Library & Social Media  
Carol Gaal, Children's Library & Historian  
Amy Hesterman, Library Outreach  
Nicole Jurgensmier, Fiscal Officer  
Brenda Lucko, Patron Services & Cataloging  
Paula Maier, Technology Tutor  
Lissie Scherer, Acquisitions & Processing





# WALKER-HECOX-HICKLE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS



## Congratulations Master Gardeners!

The Walker-Hecox-Hickle gardens at Wagnalls are a place where Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteers and community volunteers gather to tend gardens, identify plants and to teach youth about plants and gardens. The Fairfield County Master Gardener Friends of the Wagnalls Project Team was recently named the Outstanding Project of the Year 2021 in the Community Service category for a medium size County Program.





# TEEN GARDEN CLUB



## 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.

A librarian is at each club meeting to recommend relevant books and technology resources to the students. The State Library of Ohio provided The Wagnalls Memorial with a \$4,259 grant to continue the club through 2021.

Students received education from Master Gardeners on a variety of topics including:

- Garden design
- Flower arranging
- Plant identification
- Canning & preserving
- Pollinator gardens
- Rain barrels
- Fairy gardens
- Planting perennials
- Flower pressing
- Flower painting







# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Donna Elliott -  
Friends of the  
Library President



The Friends of the Wagnalls Memorial Library 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 on the library's website. As a benefit of joining the Friends, you will be able to access book sales before the general public. An additional way to support the Friends is to choose our non-profit when shopping on Amazon Smile!

In 2021, we did some amazing things!

- Sponsored summer reading program.
- Organized building & placement of Free Little Library, built by Girl Scout Troop 6079, in front of HER Gilmore Group on Columbus St.
- Purchased gift certificates to library staff for National Library Week
- Used Book Wagon at Canal Winchester Art Stroll & Farmers Markets (each Saturday May through September).
- Updated bylaws, officer job descriptions, and procedure for library requests.
- Monetary pledge for Bloom Carroll Schools outreach project.
- Beer sales at Lithopolis Honeyfest during Wagnalls Community Theater production.
- Held fundraiser on Giving Tuesday towards new lighting in the theater.
- Finalized plans for Friends canvas tote bag with original artwork by Lauren Leibold.
- Used book sales during Lithopolis Honeyfest in September & Art Festival in May.
- Concessions for Rocky Horror Picture Show event.



Artwork designed by Lauren Leibold. New and returning Friends members will receive a tote bag with the design.



# LIBRARY OUTREACH



## A message from Amy, our Outreach coordinator:

With an increased emphasis on reaching our community, beyond the majestic walls of our library, Wagnalls has a new partnership with Bloom-Carroll Elementary to promote literacy and learning for K-5th Grade Bulldogs. As their new school opened in the Fall, we felt it was the perfect opportunity to collaborate with teachers by providing collections for their classrooms, new books for classroom libraries, and a new library card initiative for students as well. We supplement teachers' reading lives, by supplying books for their professional development and personal enjoyment too. A grant provided by **South Central Power's Operation Round Up** has enabled us to provide these services on a weekly basis to both teachers and students. We believe this partnership is vital to students' educational growth and reading success.

We also hosted a living history tour of the library for 3rd Grade Bulldogs in the Fall. Students got a "behind the scenes" look at the library with "Mabel Wagnalls" and toured the Children's Library. Students were encouraged to get their very first library card as they learned about book series which will help them achieve individual reading goals with resources provided by Wagnalls.

*Thank you for all the work you did getting books together for my Holidays around the World unit. We enjoyed them so much. In fact you made it so easy, I am about to submit a new request for books!" - Caryn D, Kindergarten teacher*



# ADULT PROGRAMS



The Greater Ohio Spirit Trackers (GOST) offered a private ticketed ghost hunt overnight in the library. The event sold out and earned \$540 with all proceeds going to the library.

Patron and local author Bill Sykes stepped up to lead the Wagnalls Writing Club when it was at risk of being disbanded. This very popular club is now still going strong. Our patrons are the best!



This year we continued our monthly in-person Mabel tours. Carol Gaal, Wagnalls historian gives the tour in character as Mabel Wagnalls.

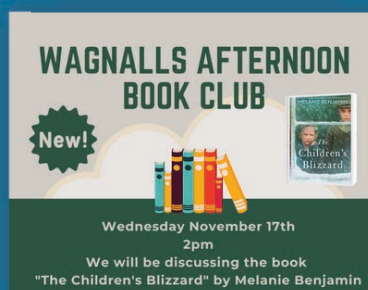
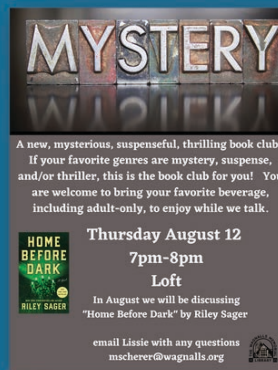
New this year - Mabel tours are available any time the library is open by scanning the QR codes found throughout the library to hear a message from Mabel!



## Wagnalls Book Club



Thursday September 23  
7pm - 8pm  
Wagnalls Memorial Loft  
Join us for a discussion of "Have Brides, Will Travel" by William W. Johnstone. Books available for check-out in the library.



## Three new book clubs!

In addition to our regular Adult Book Club, three more book clubs were added in 2021. The most popular book club, the MST book club, reads only mystery, suspense and thriller titles. The afternoon book club caters to patrons that do not want to go out at night and was an immediate hit. The local author book club allows local authors to donate books for attendees to read. The author then attends the book club, giving book club participants the unique opportunity to talk with the author of the book they read.



## Summer Reading Program

The summer reading program for 2021 began on June 23rd and ended July 29th. Our theme was “The Animal Library” based on the book of the same title written by local author Penelope “Nell” LaRock. Nell wrote the book and its sequel “Blue” specifically for Wagnalls, and each book was set in the Wagnalls gardens. Each week, a different segment of the story was displayed in sign holders in the garden or inside the library if needed due to inclement weather. Games and activities also took place outside each Wednesday and Thursday and a Take-home packet was made weekly for the registered participants. These packets contained information and activities on the animal of the week, which changed weekly and was also based on the animals in Nell’s book.

Children were able to collect prizes for reading and participating in the Storywalk which they tracked on a BINGO style game board. If they completed the board, they were able to collect a final prize of “adopting” a small stuffed animal. They were able to choose from a frog, owl, or raccoon, all animals featured in “The Animal Library” story. Fifty-nine children completed the program.

On November 30, we dedicated a small collection of books to Ruth Jones, in loving memory of what would have been her 10th birthday.

Lithopolis United Methodist Church donated the books, which were some of Ruthie’s favorites.



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



## COSI Connects

**July 2021**

Columbus based COSI (Center of Science and Industry) in partnership with the State Library of Ohio gave free Learning Lunchboxes to a limited number of Ohio Libraries. Wagnalls was fortunate enough to receive 50 of these boxes which contained items for kids in grades K-8 to perform five Space-themed experiments at home. We held an event on the last day of Summer Reading to pass out these free boxes.



## National Dog Month

**August 2021**

We had several activities in celebration of National Dog Month. First was a Famous Dogs Scavenger Hunt in the garden. We also had an indoor “follow the clues” hunt in the spirit of the show “Blue’s Clues” that we called “Wagnalls’ Clues.” We also had a dog breeds scavenger hunt in the garden and ran a dog photo contest asking patrons to send in pictures of their dogs reading or dressed up.



## Fall 2021

We assembled and passed out 46 Halloween goody bags for Trick-or-Treat.

We assembled and passed out 30 take-and-make Thanksgiving turkey crafts.

The Creative Play Space was reopened November 1.







Our Patron Services Manager, Emily, created a fairy world inside the library to complement the seasonal fairy gardens outside in the gardens.

If you give a fairy a book...  
...then they'll want to come inside the library.



Next thing you know, they'll want more tiny books and more areas for reading.



They'll bring friends and build a whole Libraryopolis!



It will continue to grow...



...and grow!



## 69

Patrons participated in the Fairy Scavenger Hunt.

In October, patrons could participate in a fairy scavenger hunt in the library. Each participant got a small prize and an entry into a drawing for a large prize.

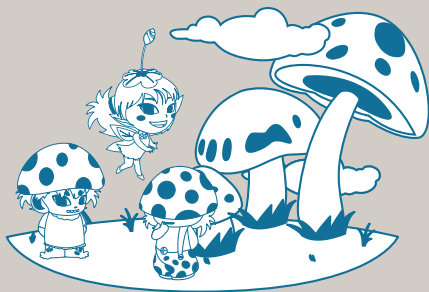


# FAIRIES IN THE GARDEN



Our local gardeners, including the Fairfield County Master Gardeners and the Wagnalls Teen Garden Club, made the Wagnalls gardens a magical place to explore.

You will find some fairy houses and gardens, which were first started by Ann Brocker in the herb garden! Many of this year's were created by Nell LaRock, a volunteer Master Gardener at Wagnalls. Nell is a retired speech therapist as well as an author, artist, beekeeper, and imaginative gardener. She has been fascinated by fairies since elementary school. Nell has written two children's books set in the Wagnalls gardens. A third book is in the works.







Wagnalls played an integral part of the annual Lithopolis Honeyfest in 2021 by providing spaces for various activities and attractions.

Wagnalls hosted:

- Honey Extraction Demo
- Honey Show
- Wagnalls Community Theater production "Once Upon a Murder in Fairyfieldland"
- Buzz the Bear Photos
- Butterfly Story Walk
- Lithopolis Garden Club Plant Sale
- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale
- Ask the OSU Master Gardeners
- Pollinator Exhibit
- Beekeepers Tents
- Honey Bake-Off and Sale
- Photo Contest





# CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



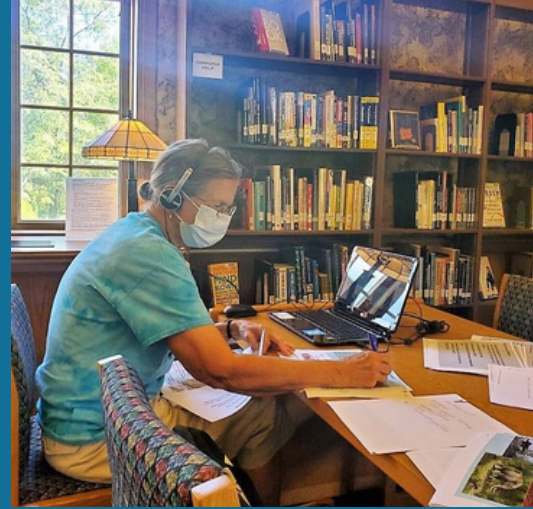
Our annual Christmas Open House returned in 2021 with over 500 guests!

Highlights included:

- Live Production of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" by Mouth of the Wolf Productions
- Photos with Santa and the Grinch
- Adult Crafts
- Children Crafts
- Grinch Bingo
- Christmas Storytime
- Live Piano and Violin Christmas Music
- Letters to Santa
- Oculus Quest Demos
- Hot Dog Lunch
- Norman Rockwell "Home for the Holidays" Art Exhibit







The staff of The Wagnalls Memorial Library would like to thank our wonderful patrons. You truly are the reason we do what we do!





# Click below to read the Foundation's Annual Report

