Programming Outside the Lines

Amy Muchmore – Adult Services Librarian
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CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY, DUBUQUE, IA
About Carnegie-Stout Public Library

- Where is Dubuque?
- Where is the library?
- Population
- Card holders
- History of the building.

**Adult Services Department**
- Programming Budget $5,500
- Catering Budget $2,400
- Promotion Budget $1,800
- 120+ programs a year with 3000+ attendees
General Program Advice

1. Start planning early
2. Mix things up
3. Steal ideas from everywhere
4. Don’t be afraid to fail
5. Promote! Promote! Promote!
event preview CABIN FEVER MINI-CON

Event: Cabin Fever Mini-Con
Time/dates: 3-7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.
Site: Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11th St.
Cost: Free.
Online: www.dubuque.lib.iu.us

TIDBITS
• This is the second year for the event.
• It will feature indie comic artist and writer Blue Deliquanti.
• Deliquanti will give a presentation on her work and the comics industry at 5.
• It also will feature the Dubuque TARCIS, a video game tournament, local artists, a tabletop and board games room, a costume contest, a fan art contest, craft activities and more.
• Attendees will be able to vote for their favorite in the fan art contest from 3 to 6.
• The costume contest will be at 6. Those interested in participating should call the reference desk at 563-589-4225, ext. 2224.
• Sponsors include Holiday Inn Dubuque/Galena, Video Games Etc. and Dyersville Comics & Games.
• There will be a panel discussion, “Ask a Gamer,” featuring Paul Michael Zurawski, Luke Vorwald and Andrew Fuerste-Henry, who are local gamers.

QUOTABLE FROM LUC VORWALD AND PAUL MICHAEL ZURAWSKI
• “The reason why I think the library reached out to me is because I’ve interacted with them on Twitter a decent amount with my podcast (The Rules Lawyers Podcast) Twitter account. I run an actual-play podcast for Fifth Edition Dungeons & Dragons, and I’ve talked to them about stuff on Twitter.” — Vorwald
• “I’ve always been into tabletop games since I was a kid. I tried playing D&D with some friends in college, but it fell through. Then, me and one of my high school buddies went to Comic World (a games) in town, and they were running Adventurers League Dungeons & Dragons, which is kind of like their version of organized play to get people into the game.” — Vorwald
• “I actually gave a bit of a talk about role-playing games as kind of a lunch-and-learn for the company I work with right now. The big answer that came out of that was, I think it’s really important for people to utilize and develop their capacity to tell stories. I think one of the really awesome mediums in which to do that is in role-playing games with your friends. It’s a really cool collaborative story-building opportunity. And, as far as I’m aware, there’s no other species on Earth that’s able to do something that cool.” — Vorwald
• “I’ve been a gamer for most of my life. I started playing video games at a young age (“Super,” “Advance Wars,” etc.). In college, I played Dungeons & Dragons for the first time and immediately got hooked.” — Zurawski
• “After that, my friends and I started looking into different board and cards games the group would enjoy.” — Zurawski
• “I work at the James Kennedy Public Library, and there I would run gaming events, which (include) a large social circle of local gamers. This led to some of my friends and I starting a comic book/gaming shop in Dyersville (called) Dyersville Comics & Games.” — Zurawski

Anthony Fremzel
Terrible artists get creative at Dubuque library

BY ALLIE HINCK

Beth Wright wrapped two action figures in patterned tape to place in her classroom Tuesday evening.

She wanted to give some pop to the Walter White figure before her visitors to her card stock and foam library. Her action figures don't look like the main character from the Breaking Bad TV series.

"I think it's going to be a couple of guys hanging out enjoying a drink," said Wright, of Dubuque.

Aspiring — and perhaps not-aspiring — artists gathered Tuesday in the Carnegie-Stout Public Library for Bad Art Night. The sub-par artists were turned house to create pieces using leftover library supplies.

The event serves as a chance for adults in Dubuque to tap into their creative sides, regardless of their talents, librarian Sarah Smith said.

"I hope that they're having a chance to relax and be creative and expressive in a fun environment and maybe learn a bit about some of the weird things that happen at the library that you don't expect to see," she said.

Amendes worked quickly at tables with artistic creations made from paper, rocks, ribbon, action figures, Nerf bullets and past noodles.

"After a long day at work, it's fun to go (to) somewhere in the evening instead of go home and clean things," said Alix Lauter of Dubuque.

Lauter crafted a book out of paper, adorning it with an action figure who played drums made out of rocks.

"I was thinking a fun way to tie it in with the actual reading aspect was to go crazy and show how much I love coming to the library," she said.

Library workers offer Bad Art Night events two or three times each year, Smith said. "Turnout to this week's event was lower than usual, with just six people dropping by. Typically, the events draw 20 to 26 people," Smith said.

The event emphasizes creativity, but also are designed to be welcoming to people who may not feel like they have that artistic gene," Smith said.

"Most of us are not Picassos," Smith said, laughing. "Although, Picassos would probably get a kick out of something like this." Jacob Robertson, of Dubuque, fastened sparkly pipe cleaners and pictures of anime and manga to a pool noodle adorned with action figures.

"My parents are professional potter, so I was kind of going against their life work of meticulous pottery creation," he said.

While he started coming to Bad Art Night to blow off steam, Robertson has grown more interested in playing with the available supplies to try to create something.

"This is more coming to terms with the creative process and trying to make something kind of cool looking," he said.

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Fellowship of fun, food

Carnegie-Stout Public Library hosts Hobbit Day celebration with activities and tasty treats.

BY JIM SWENSON

"When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his chosen first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton," — opening line of Lord of the Rings.

Seth Etris, of Platteville, Wis., and Emily Ott, of Dubuque, search through the library on a wizard quest Saturday as part of the Hobbit Day Celebration at Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque.

"I like how Cavallini says they are not what they seem. They are small, but they are very large in importance," said Seth Etris, of Platteville, Wis., who wore a craft wig stapled in his blood hair. Ott, 21, of Dubuque, said her sister suggested to just use the two of them attend the event, which was a birthday celebration for "Lord of the Rings" characters Bilbo and Frodo Baggins.

"I like how hobbits are loyal and have more heart, more depth and more love than you think," she said.

Seth Etris, of Platteville, Wis., and Emily Ott, of Dubuque, search through the library on a wizard quest Saturday as part of the Hobbit Day Celebration at Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Dubuque.

"Many Libraries and bookstores do," Smeth said. "We just thought it was a neat activity. The timing is nice, too, as school just started."

Seth Etris is far too tall to be a hobbit, but that didn't stop him and his friend, Emily Ott, from donning capes as they attended the Hobbit Day Celebration Saturday at Carnegie-Stout Public Library.

"The timing was just perfect, Martin said.

"It's not going to be quite perfect, Martin said.

Technically, their birthday was yesterday.

"It was a great day," said Seth Etris.

Half an hour into the event, a diverse group of about 20 people of all ages helped them.

"We're thinking of coloring and another for creating hobbit huts," Etris said.

Picassos said he hopes to make the event a "Hobbits, Page 15," an annual celebration for the "Lord of the Rings" series.
Nerf @CarnegieStout

- Monthly games since April 2013
- Ages 18+
- 20-30 players per month
- Popular with younger adults & a gateway to other library offerings!
Growth: Nerf @CarnegieStout

• Nerf weddings
• Other libraries
  • Dyersville, Iowa
  • Verona, Wisconsin
• Press coverage
Budget: Nerf @CarnegieStout

• 3 staff members take turns as monthly Referee
• Supplies $50-$100 a year
  • Blue & red bandanas
  • Whistle
  • Cones and poles for flags
  • Nerf darts/balls
  • Communal Nerf blasters
  • Nut gatherers
  • Safety glasses
• Catering
  • $25 a month for water & candy
Game Play: Nerf @CarnegieStout

- Find a game that works for your space
- Capture the Flag
- Zombies
- Hunger Games
- Freeze tag
Fandom Trivia Night
(to celebrate Harry Potter’s Birthday)

- One time program
- Registration
- Gameplay
- Covered all kinds of fandoms
- Themed snacks
- Budget - $60 snacks/drinks, $40 prizes
- 2 Staff members
- Overwhelmingly positive response
  - Has led to planning bi-monthly general trivia nights
Bad Art Night

- 2-3 times a year
- Ages 18+
- 6-18 artists
- Popular with younger adults & a great way to get rid of random leftovers
Bad Art Night
Adult Spelling Bee

- Idea came from Library Journal’s “Programs that Pop” May 25, 2017 (Sip & Spell).
- Long planning/preparation period
- Partnership with a local brew pub
- Budget: $30-40 for supplies/prizes
Adult Spelling Bee
Cabin Fever Mini-Con

- All Ages – Family Friendly
- Celebration of all things nerd/geek
- 3-4 staff members (+ volunteers)
- Budget
  - $350 honorariums, prizes, etc.
  - $75 catering
  - $200+ promotion
Special Guests: Cabin Fever Mini-Con

• 2017 Phil Hester
  • & Jeff Dyer

• 2018 Blue Delliquanti
Local Fans: Cabin Fever Mini-Con

- Cosplayers
  - 501st Legion
  - Dubuque TARDIS
  - Ghostbusters
- Gamers
- Podcasters
- YouTubers
- Artists
Activities: Cabin Fever Mini-Con

- Makerspace Activities
- Costume Contest
- Fan Art Contest
- Tabletop Games
- Video Games
- Movie/TV showing
Artist Alley: Cabin Fever Mini-Con
Not all Programs are Successful 😞

- Adult Quidditch for Muggles
- Anime After Hours
- Sci-Fi Sunday Movies
- Campfire
What we have coming up

- Bad Art Night at a bar/restaurant
- Live Action Clue after hours
- Retro Gaming/Board Games/VR for International Game Day
- Human Battleship
- Murder Mystery Dinner
- Whatever we can “borrow/adapt” from another department/library 😊
Questions?
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