

Nothing scary about the Halloween fun at your local library

By Jill Fuller

Driving down the street, I see pumpkins on front stoops and fake spiderwebs strung across bushes. The leaves on the trees are changing, like kids putting on costumes for trick-or-treating. It may be the time of year for all things spooky, but there's nothing scary about the fun you can find at your local library. Read on to hear some stories and take a peek at the tricks and treats happening at the libraries across Waukesha County!

The beautiful weather means a great opportunity for outdoor programs. The Waukesha Public Library's Outdoor Storytime has been quite a hit with the kids, who enjoy dancing and singing with librarian Kelli Cramer, as well as listening to stories. This week, one of the kids loved the book so much, she asked Kelli if she could take it home. Of course, Kelli helped make that happen! Another fun event for families took place at the Hartland Public Library's outdoor Monster Bash. Families arrived in costume to enjoy activities and treats, a hike on the Ice Age Trail, and a showing of the movie "Goosebumps" in Nixon Park. "We had a great time," one visitor said. "Hope it becomes a yearly thing!"

If you stop into the Butler Public Library, you'll see dozens of creatively painted pumpkins for the Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Kids, adults, and families had a chance to make elaborate creations based on books. One pumpkin was transformed into the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom tree; another became Hagrid's hut from the Harry Potter books. You can see pictures of all the pumpkins on the library's Facebook page.

Carving pumpkins is cool, but laser engraving them can be just as fun! If you've never tried the gadgets in the Mukwonago Community Library's Metaspaces Lab, there's no better time to do so. Families are welcome to come to the library on Saturday, Oct. 30 to learn how to use the library's high-tech laser engraver to create intricate designs. Pumpkins will be provided! Registration is required, so check out their website.

Do you know about "spooky?" No, it's not a typo — it's amusing new Internet slang to describe cute or silly versions of spooky subject matter like ghosts or skeletons. Think ... a puppy in a sheet-ghost costume. Patrons left some fun comments on the Menomonee Falls Public Library's Facebook page about their "spooky" events for teens. The library's also

been busy going out-and-about in their community. Staff recently visited a local Senior Enrichment Fair, where they shared resources for seniors and got to show off their collections of puzzles, games, and activities for those with memory loss and limited mobility — all available at the library!

October is also Family History Month, so if you're interested in learning how to research your family history, you can pick up a free genealogy take-home kit from the New Berlin Public Library. Each kit includes instructions on how to use Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest from home, as well as a print-out family tree. Want to get even more nostalgic? The library also has vinyl records in their collection! You can browse them at the library or search for them in the CAFÉ catalog at cafelibraries.org.

No matter how you decorate your pumpkins or which costume you'll be donning this Halloween, we hope you'll take a minute to stop into your library to see all the "spooky" fun you can have there!

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