

Library Mystery Night a Success!

By Melodee Pedersen, Friends of the Library President

The “murder” at the library has been solved. All of the suspects had motive, many made the attempt, but only one was successful, and he was...but I’m jumping the gun.

Guests started off their evening in the art gallery, with pizza and “Smoking Gun” beer provided by Gottberg’s Brew Pub, among other beverages. Library Director Eve L. Queen, played to perfection by Debby Swann, welcomed the packed house to the gala at the Crooke’s Crossing Public Library to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new wing for a computer lab and antique book section. In the middle of her speech, a detective, played by real-life Detective Doug Molczyk, broke in to announce that Mayor Ty D. Proffitz had been murdered. The rules of the game were explained and everyone dispersed to do their own questioning of the suspects. Everyone was given their own notepad to keep track of clues revealed by the suspects and the detective throughout the course of the evening. Clues were also posted on a board donated by Eakes.

It turns out, Eve L. Queen wanted to kill the Mayor because he was standing in the way of her bid for a city council seat. She attempted to hit him in the head with a glass paperweight, but she was surprised by a squirrel on the library shelf, so dropped and broke the paperweight.

Alona N Bidder (Beth Jones in sensible shoes) and Petunia Bud (Sandie Fischer, complete with knee pads) worked together to poison the Mayor’s tea with hemlock, in order to stop construction of the new wing that would force Alona to be in charge of hated computers and demolish Petunia’s beloved garden. Unfortunately, the Mayor dropped the teacup before he could drink.

Warman C. Udley (Bob Arp, sporting a bow tie and froggy hand puppet) snapped when he learned Mayor Proffitz was really his illegitimate half-brother, and attempted to poison the Mayor with a muffin. Sadly, the muffin was consumed by Nutsie, the squirrel S. Mel Macon (Megan Danner, with smudged face and pushing a shopping cart) had trained to rob local businesses, and then coached to kill the Mayor before the bounty he had placed on the squirrel’s head could be collected.

Charity Proffitz (Melanie Knoepfle decked out in fur) was desperate to escape a loveless marriage, so convinced her “special friend”, Alfie Fyle (Todd Pedersen with a pocket protector and tape on his glasses), to kill the Mayor for her. Alfie planned to club the Mayor in the head with a copy of War and Peace, but the book slipped out of his weak grasp and he ran away.

Admiral Coyle D. Snaick (Roger Mueller in a Navy hat and coat) spotted War and Peace and used it to deal the lethal blow to the back of Mayor Proffitz head. He wanted to prevent the Mayor from revealing that his attempt to regain some of his former glory, by “discovering” an antique book on the founding of the town, was a hoax of his own creation. However, Lulu Nattik, played with flamboyance by Stephanie Bourek, and Dusty T. Hoames, brought to life by Dale Rosendahl, had already destroyed the book through some shenanigans of their own.

At the end of the evening, ballots were cast for the murderer, and door prizes were drawn from those who had guessed correctly. When asked her impressions of the event, Library Director Jill Owens said, "It looked like everyone was having so much fun!"

Arts Council director Susan Schoenhofer said, "I don't know who had more fun; the suspects, the guests or the volunteers."

At the end of the event, only one question remained in the minds and on the lips of most participants..."when can we do this again"?