



# Executive Director's Report November 2024

## Staff Updates

This month, we're focusing on key insights from our staff stay interviews and our mental wellness survey results. To ensure that all feedback remains anonymous, we will share a separate, confidential report with the Board, aside from the regular Board packet. Our Community Engagement Coordinator will share the findings at this meeting. After that, we will answer any questions or provide additional context. We've already started using the information we gathered to draft recommendations for updates to our Personnel Policy for the Policy Committee to review in December.

## ILA Conference

Half the staff who attended and presented at ILA will share what they learned with the Board this month.

## Halloween Celebrations

Our annual Halloween celebrations were a hit with the staff and community, featuring our traditional costume contest, pumpkin decorating, and fall-themed foods. These activities were a great way to bring everyone together. Now that the festivities are over, we expect a quieter period for community outreach until the spring season.

## Branch Updates

Big news for our Branches: the Technology Department successfully upgraded the internet at both locations, boosting speeds to surpass even those at the Main Library. Rest assured, we haven't forgotten about Main – we're actively working on a plan to enhance its internet speeds, ensuring all our locations stay connected and efficient.

## Facilities Projects

We've officially kicked off the elevator project with an initial planning meeting this month. Additionally, we're in talks with our furniture vendors to finalize the materials for the new furniture we've ordered. These upgrades will help us better serve our staff and the community by improving accessibility and comfort across our facilities.



## Calendar



Engberg Anderson: 10/3

ILA Conference: 10/8-10/10

Rotary: 10/15, 10/29, 11/5

Palatine Chamber: 10/15

CPR Training: 10/16

POC Strategic Offsite: 10/17

Community Meetup: 10/22

District 15: 10/22, 10/29

Area Directors: 10/29



## Staff You Should Know

Jennifer is a Material Assistant who recently used her American Sign Language (ASL) skills to help a little boy who could not find his father and had trouble communicating with staff because he was deaf. I'm sure that her efforts were very reassuring at that moment. Don't worry, his dad was located not far away in the Youth Department. ASL is not Jennifer's only special skill, see what her coworkers have to say:

**Thank you for sending me pictures of the weird bookmarks you have found. This is going to make a great social media post -**



**Really appreciate all your work in keeping all our game sleeves and cases in order....**

**Thank you for your help and knowledge setting up the Super Mario mini golf hole. Thanks!**

**I'm so happy you were able to help a young member communicate with ASL this past weekend! Thank you for your kindness and skills 🙌**

## Staff Languages

Along with the benchmarking survey, we have also researched how to compensate staff who know another language. Because more than 85 languages are spoken in our community, we want to pay staff for any additional language skills used. We're putting together a plan to present with the benchmarking that financially compensates employees at any level for having additional language skills. Just like we saw with Jennifer this month, staff are eager to share their skills to help members regardless of their role in the organization.

## Workshop and IT Split

We're still taking the necessary steps to split the Technology Department into two separate departments, Workshop and IT. This split will remove IT staff from the public desk and give them more time to support the large amounts of technology and software that the Library uses. This move will also lead to faster turnaround times on technology tickets. Additionally, the new roles of Workshop Manager, Workshop Assistant Manager, and Workshop Assistants will let staff handle the time-consuming questions that The Workshop gets. We hope these new roles will give us a better idea of how we can staff The Workshop in the future if we want to expand hours.



## New Employees/Promotions

- Azlin Siddiqui, Katie Owen, and Maria Cordova were hired as Workshop Assistants.
- Selicia Applegate has been promoted to Workshop Assistant Manager.
- Mike Szwed has been promoted to Information Technology Manager.

# Northwest Suburban Events Free Access

By Denise Fleischer

on November 01, 2024



The following family-friendly events are hosted by park districts, libraries, and history centers in the Journal & Topics coverage area. Register when requested. E-mail event details to [lifestyles1@journal-topics.info](mailto:lifestyles1@journal-topics.info).

## Palatine

Palatine Library District

Jared the Juggler

North Hoffman Branch

3600 Lexington Dr. Hoffman Estates

1 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26

Jared Janssen will present comedy and a balancing and juggling act for all ages during this program. Tickets are available on Tuesday, Nov. 12, for Palatine cardholders only.

## Main Library Wins 'Best Parking Lot in Palatine

The review site BusinessRate awarded us the "Best Parking Lot in Palatine," based on reviews from the community. It should come as no surprise, given the parking garage, ample spaces, and multiple lots!



## Palatine American Legion celebrates one hundred years of service

For the last one hundred years the American Legion has been a part of Palatine.



Bill Pohlman, Community Contributor

Posted Sun, Oct 13, 2024 at 2:30 pm CT



For the last one hundred years the American Legion has been a part of Palatine. On September 20th of this year the Palatine American Legion Post 690 celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. As the Village has grown over the last hundred years so has the Palatine American Legion with its involvement in the community and with those who have served our country in the military.

Over the years, the Palatine Legion has supported the Scouts, the Palatine Public Library, Legion baseball and opened a playground at Palatine High School. During World War II a desperate need developed for raw materials. The Post organized many scrap metal drives. It helped salvage iron fences, tin cans and clothing. It even raised funds to help victims of the Ohio River flood of 1937. Today the most notable of the Legion's projects is the annual Memorial Day parade and program. The Post, as part of Legion Charities, holds fish fries as well as bingo throughout the year and donates the proceeds to various veteran charities. They also host a Thanksgiving party for sailors from Great Lakes Naval Training Center and send Easter cards to veterans at local nursing homes.

The roots of the American Legion national organization go back to World War I. In that global conflict, fifty men from Palatine were among the thousands who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. The end of the war left those soldiers in France anxious to return home. To avoid a logistical nightmare former President Theodore Roosevelt's son Theodore Jr. helped form the American Legion to serve the needs of those men.

After World War I, the national organization grew quickly and within a year a Palatine Post was formed. According to the Cook County Herald, American Legion Post 690 held its first dance at Seip's Auditorium at 16 North Bothwell Street on December 4, 1920. Doody's Famous Syncopated Orchestra provided music and the Post served sandwiches and coffee. Admission for gentlemen was 75 cents and for ladies 25 cents. In the past, the Post also sponsored picnics, carnivals and baby contests. In 1925 it thrilled attendees with motorcycle races, an aeroplane circus and a game of auto polo at the Cook County Fair Grounds southeast of Hicks and Baldwin Roads. The organization funded its activities and still does by asking people to donate money during Poppy Days.

The Post was officially chartered by the national and state organizations in 1924. By the end of the second world war, the Post realized a need to erect its own building at 122 West Palatine Road on land purchased nearly twenty years earlier. By 1949, the building was complete with two floors and a basement. Today the building has a banquet hall that seats 85 people and a clubroom that has become very popular in the community.

The American Legion Post 690 is comprised of three groups called the Legion Family...The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. Together and separately these groups conduct projects throughout the year for the enjoyment of the community and to raise funds for Legion Charities. For further information on the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, any of their sponsored events or for membership write to their respective organizations at 122 West Palatine Road, Palatine, IL 60067, call 847-359-1606 or visit [Alpost690.us](http://Alpost690.us).