



Executive Director's Report February 2026

Digital Equity Grant

Thanks to the hard work of the Adult Services Department, we have been awarded a pilot program mini-grant from the Cook County Digital Network. We will use the \$2,600 for helping close the digital divide.

Winter Reading

Adult services staff were the leads on the winter reading program this year for the first time. This year's program was very successful, and they will be reporting on that success at this month's meeting.

RFID

Our RFID project is still moving forward. Tagging is complete, and staff are using RFID for all of the processes behind the scenes. The public is now getting a sampling as we deploy the new self-checks.

Strategic Facilities Plan

At this board meeting, we will be discussing the strategic plan proposal from Engberg Anderson. This thorough review will span two fiscal years and will help us better understand the needs of our branches.

Property Tax Delay

We have joined a coalition of Schools and Libraries in Cook County that were affected by the Cook County tax delays. This group is working to get the funds released and hold the county accountable. The board can help advocate for this group by adopting the resolution included in your board packet.

Renovation

The first-floor renovation project began on January 19. Phase 1 is underway, and most of the demo is complete. Crews are currently roughing in electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. They have also begun framing walls.

Staff have taken everything in stride like the pros that they are. Meanwhile, we are preparing for furniture installation, and you will see the first phase deposit in this month's financials.

The Board Buildings and Grounds committee will be joining us on walk-throughs soon. Jeffrey is working to set up monthly meetings.



First
Construction
Walk Thru



Demo



Framing



New Employees/Promotions

- Cynthia has been promoted to Bilingual Branches Manager from Bilingual Assistant Branches Manager
- Marisol was promoted to Bilingual (Spanish)
- Justyna was promoted to Bilingual (Polish)
- Ethel was promoted to bilingual (Spanish) Assistant Workshop Manager



Beautiful Bats

Adult Services first intergenerational program had 84 attendees.



Calendar

- Reed Construction Meeting 1/20, 2/3
- POC Executive Committee 1/20
- Office Park of Palatine 1/21
- Rotary 1/27, 2/3
- NS Library Directors 1/27
- PMA 1/27
- Path to Leadership Training 1/28
- Winston School Literacy night 1/28
- POC Board 1/29
- Keys to Success Dinner 1/29
- Cook County Tax Coalition 2/2
- Local Directors Cohort 2/3
- Media Training 2/4
- Bibliotheca Link Connect training 2/5
- ALA Recharging in Challenging Times 2/10



Milestone Anniversaries

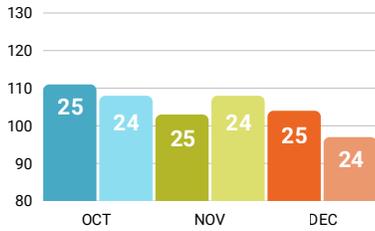
- Susan Conner celebrated her 20th Anniversary.

Quarter 2: Statistics Report

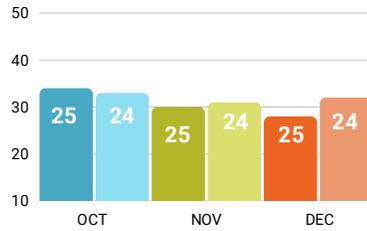


October-December 2025

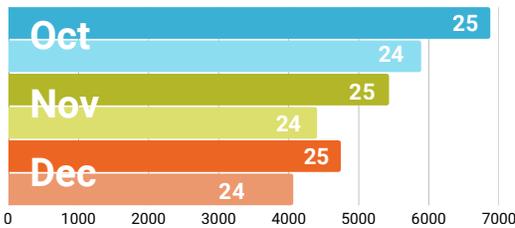
Total Circulation in Thousands



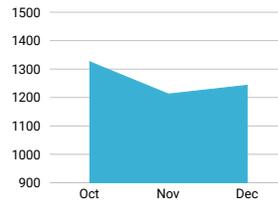
Door Count in Thousands



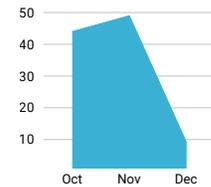
Program Attendance



Study Room Use



Meeting Room Use



Bluey Boo Bash, 2 sessions with 227 attendees total

October is still a busy outreach month, but it drastically slows down during the cold weather months.

November statistics for both door count and circulation were below the previous year, but programming and meeting room use were both up.

In December, we shifted our programming to accommodate fewer meeting room spaces.

Adult Services began experimenting with take-home craft kits. The first month was successful with 100 kits picked up and 70 cards returned for Elderwerks' seniors. They also held their first intergenerational program, Beautiful Bats, with 85 participants.

RAILS produced new advocacy tools for e-content. I included one of their charts along with some of our own e-content stats.

Outreach

Interactions

3,374 Oct **630** Nov **1,121** Dec

21 Different Organizations Visited

- Aliya of Palatine
- Baldwin Rd. Kindercare
- Brightpoint
- Buehler YMCA
- Harper College
- Hoffman Estates Fire Department
- Hoffman Estates Kindercare
- Hoffman Estates Park District
- Hunting Ridge Elementary
- ICompete at POC
- Jane Addams
- Lake Louise Elementary
- Learning Loft
- Lincoln Elementary
- Little Saints Preschool
- North Schaumburg Kindercare
- Palatine Fire Department
- Palatine High School
- Pleasant Hill Elementary
- Sanborn Elementary
- Virginia Lake Elementary
- Whiteley Elementary

393 Volunteer Hours
\$11,174 Friends Money Raised
\$1,081 Foundation Money Raised

Palatine e-content

15%

increase in circulation

23%

increase in \$ spent

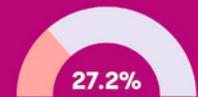
6-month comparison between FY 24-25 and FY25-26

e-content usage is increasing

In 2024, a mid-size, suburban public library saw:

25%
increase in e-book circulation

15%
increase in audiobook circulation



Libraries spend nearly **one-third of their budget** on digital content so their patrons can enjoy these popular titles.



RAILS e-content advocacy statistics

Strategic Plan Highlights

Jul 25-Jan 26

Headcount 116 <small>As of Feb 2025</small>	Hired 18	Termed 12	Growth Rate 5.5%	Turnover Rate 10.6%	Average Tenure 7.1 <small>(Years)</small>
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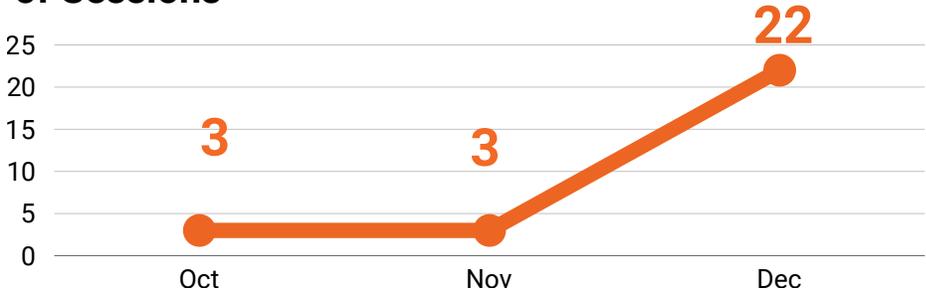
Jul 24-Jan 25

Headcount 107 <small>As of Feb 2025</small>	Hired 11	Termed 12	Growth Rate -0.9%	Turnover Rate 11.1%	Average Tenure 8.0 <small>(Years)</small>
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Goal #1
Increase Staff

Goal #2
1:1 Tech Help at
Branches

of Sessions



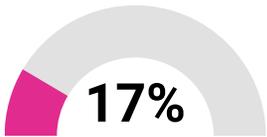
Workshop Avg. Attendance Oct-Dec

Drop In Hours
Tue-Thur 12-6
Sat-Sun 12-4

	9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p
Su	0	0	3	13	14	19	16	5	0	0
Mo	5	11	11	6	9	8	7	9	8	4
Tu	7	7	7	19	16	17	15	14	15	4
We	5	7	5	17	11	11	14	13	10	6
Th	3	3	5	10	13	9	9	11	10	8
Fr	6	6	4	5	6	5	6	6	4	0
Sa	2	3	5	21	15	18	20	5	0	0

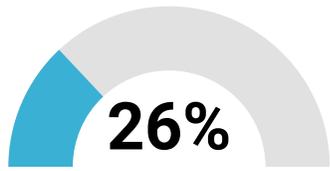
Goal #3
Study Workshop
Hours

Goal #4
Capitol Needs Plan
Projects



OF BUDGET SPENT

Workshop Breakout



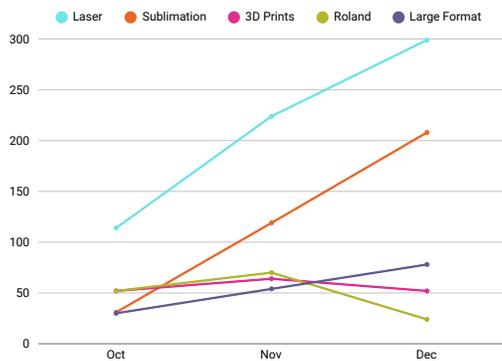
**MEMBER VISITS
DURING HOLIDAYS
(+1,762)**



**OFFERED 34 PROGRAMS
RECEIVED 359 ATTENDEES**



Equipment Use



Painted Pumpkin Pottery in October was our biggest adult craft. It was hosted by Clay Monet, 72 participants. They will be back this Spring doing a floral vase.

Door Counter:

Oct - Dec 2024: 6,722
Oct - Dec 2025: 8,484
26% increase

Programs

Oct - Dec 2024: 12 programs, 119 attendees
Oct - Dec 2025: 34 programs, 359 attendees
Bluey Boo Bash - 146 attend passive craft
Monthly Clubs - 39 attendees

One on Ones - (Oct 26, Nov 12, Dec 23)



Sewing Club



Photo Club

These are results from our program reviews:

Software and Equipment Top 5 Requests: Cricut, Sewing, Laser Cutter, 3D Printing, and Quilting.

Hands-On Art Class Top 5 Requests: Jewelry, Clay/Painted Pottery, Painting, Crochet, and Home Decor.

All have been addressed by clubs, upcoming programs, and we've revamped the outline of our classes to make them easier to follow. We're looking forward to seeing how these changes enhance the lead-up to the 5th Anniversary.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Palatine
LIBRARY District

Celebrate all month long
with these book suggestions.
Scan to see the full curated list.



847-907-3600 • palatinelibrary.org

Features kids' and teen fiction, nonfiction books, EZ readers, board books, DVD movies, audiobooks, music CDs, games and puzzles. Teacher discount with a valid ID on Friday and Saturday.

Also at the library:

First-Time Parents' Meetup
Lindsey Room

10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13

Network with other new parents at this support group. Community Health Nurse Lindsay Dohse will lead conversations and share resources. Drop in. For parents of newborns to 6 months old.

Elk Grove Village

Elk Grove Village Park District

Get Fit Fair

Pavilion

1000 Wellington Ave.

4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 18

Members and guests will learn how to enhance their fitness experience and speak with health and wellness professionals about improving their lifestyle. Sponsor representatives will be available.

Palatine

Palatine Public Library District
Virtual - African Art and Folktales

7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12

Celebrate Black History

Month with Elizabeth Kahura as she discusses Africa's rich heritage through storytelling, poetry, proverbs and riddles. Presented through Zoom. Registration is required.

Wheeling

Indian Trails Public Library District

Virtual - What's Happening with your Property - Property Transfer After Death

7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12

Eva Adams, Staff Attorney for the Center of Disability & Elder Law (CDEL), will discuss the Housing Preservation Project, which focuses on a family's home as a source of generational wealth. Registration is required.

Prospect Heights

Prospect Heights Park District
Family Puzzlepalooza
Gary Morava Recreation Center

Recreation Building

110 W. Camp McDonald Rd.

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27

Race against other family and friend teams to complete the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle. Register online. There is a fee.