



Have you noticed the changes happening at West Branch? Like the large desk in the middle of the living room that was removed, or the new eSports station? How about the new West Branch manager, Scott Grotto?

Scott comes to the Aurora Public Library with great library experience in programming, community engagement and more. He worked at the Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library in Hampshire, Il. where he started as a clerk and worked his way up to Adult Services Manager. In this position he was in charge of buying books, developing programs for adults, restructuring the department and supervising the IT department and cataloguers. What he enjoyed most during his time there: the partnerships built with the community. "I built great partnerships and brought all sorts of programs to the library, from cultural programs to food programs and even concerts. We had all kinds of music genres: classical music, jazz, blues and they were all performers from the surrounding area. It was a great opportunity for people to come hang out in the library after hours and not have to go into Chicago to see a concert", said Scott.

When asked what he wants all readers to know about him as the West Branch manager, he said "I want the library to be a community space. I want people to know they can come and hang out, read something new, connect with friends and with each other. The library is the life line that lives in a community. There are a few places in society that you can go without spending money. They're quickly disappearing and they are valuable. The library is that place."

It's no surprise that Scott intends to build community at West Branch! He's most excited about bringing programs to the branch, such as a cooking event tied to our United We Read coming this fall, music opportunities, reaching out to young families in the area and working more closely with the schools.

Everybody always wants to know what a librarian reads. Scott says, "I loves reading non-fiction, Sci-Fi/horror stories... but more of the ghost stories not the bloody reads." When he's not enjoying his favorite reads he plays bass guitar, which he's been playing for 14 years or practicing martial arts, which he started 3 years ago.

So, don't be shy! Make sure to stop by West Branch and give Scott a warm welcome!