



There's a lot of new things happening at the Aurora Public Library from individual programs to library wide initiatives and more importantly the deputy director joining our team. Tom Spicer, our new Deputy Director, started with us on May 28, 2019, and we're so excited to have him be part of APL!

Tom received his master's degree in library science from Indiana University where he focused his studies on public libraries and youth programming. Tom started his career working for Hinsdale Public Library as a teen librarian. He mentions how he's so thankful his first role helped him hone in his public speaking skills and said, "I had to do outreach for about 300 students, and I learned how to hold an audience's attention and work with teens."

Tom continued his career as a teen librarian for the Barrington Area Library. After a year, he decided to move to Arlington Heights Memorial Library where he spent 10 years. He started as a teen librarian and worked his way to the Information Services manager position. In this role, he focused on work with genealogy, references and English as a second language.

"I was doing a lot of community engagement in this role," he said. "I had to be intentional about connecting with all audiences and that's what I'm hoping to do in Aurora. This role comes with amazing opportunities."

When asked what excites him most about being at APL, he enthusiastically shared, "The library and the community — it's just bigger! Having four branches means there is more resources, and I'm dedicated to giving back, especially to those who have not had those opportunities. The library can be an equalizer to everyone that walks in the door. People have struggled and I feel compelled to not only make sure people know the library is there for them, but also let it be an important part of their lives."

It is no surprise that Tom is committed to changing people's lives. He initially became interested in libraries when seeing a poster marketing a master's in library science while completing his bachelor's degree. He reflected on his love for reading fiction and the way reading helps us understand what it's like to be in other people's shoes.

"I just hoped to be able to inspire change in people's lives using reading," he said.

What does Tom do when he's not busy being a change agent at the library? He said he's a home brewer and loves to listen to music. He laughed and said, "But no streaming, I love buying CDs and vinyl."

So, make sure to stop by the Aurora Public Library and give Tom a warm welcome or ask him about his favorite read "Everything Matters" by Ron Currie, Jr. Welcome aboard, Tom!