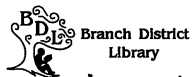


October 15, 2025

Comments



Tell us how the library is doing.

Turn this card in at the library or by mail.

Date: 10-15-25

Time of Event: 9:45

Library Branch or Department: Coldwater Michigan

I use the library from time to time
and I am consistently met with
high standard service. Thank you for
maintaining employees who go the extra
mile to make my visit a moment worth
remembering. Whether it's forgetting my
library card, needing to find a book or just
info. Today Alex was a reminder of how much I
value

☐ Check here if you wish to have the library respond to your comment.

Name: [REDACTED] Contact: _____

appreciate all of you -
Thanks and God Bless
you All.



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Publicity

The *Coldwater Daily Reporter*, September 13, 2025, p.A1 & A3

Work underway to relocate Algansee Twp. library to 1877 township hall

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

ALGANSEE TWP., MI — Plans are underway to move the Algansee Branch of the Branch County District Library from

the 1880 Safford General Store building to an older building, the former 1877 township hall two miles north on Ray-Quincy Road.

Library Branch Manager Teresa Shilling stated that the library requires additional space.

"We have kids coming to programs after school and throughout the summer. It's kind of hard to put 20 or 30 squiggling kids in this space and do things," she said, pointing to the small

See LIBRARY, Page 3A

Library

Continued from Page 1A

space converted to the library in 1938.

This summer, 150 children started and completed the summer reading program, and many more participated.

District Library Director John Rucker said the Algansee branch is the first of six in the system to return to pre-pandemic activity levels.

The Algansee Township board decided to relocate the library from the rented store to the township hall when it built a new hall using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The township offices relocated in August, and renovation of the old building commenced.

The main space is only about 100 square feet larger. Still, Shilling said there is a room in the back to accommodate meetings and programs without disrupting and rearranging the furniture, as is currently done in the library.

The new space features modern heating, air conditioning, and restrooms. The township replaced the old wooden floor with stronger beams to hold the books and materials.

In the current space, Shilling said the children's books are on just two sets of shelves near the door. Every inch of the three rooms in a former home is crammed with materials.

Rucker said the District Library Board had committed, and the township had received \$60,000 toward the renovation. The township contributed \$30,000.

Rucker said there was no requirement for the library to pay for the project.

"We had the funds available. The township has been so excellent to us, we're happy to partner, and it just seemed like the right thing to do," she said.

The library director stated that an additional \$30,000 in private donations will cover the cost of interior fixtures and complete the final stages of the renovation.



The old Algansee Township Hall at 378 S. Ray-Quincy Road was gutted ready for renovation into the new branch library. DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

Shilling, who grew up using the current library, said in the new space, "We'll almost double the juvenile section."

Rucker said that, despite being the smallest branch in the Branch District Library system, the Algansee Library plays a vital role in the community, offering books, magazines, videos, internet access, and programs for residents from the very young to the older.

Shilling said the library obtained computers in 2000 from the Bill Gates Foundation. The move allows them to connect to high-speed internet.

There is a picture on the wall of Gwen Safford Dove, the long-time librarian. Dove, the former teacher at the one-room school at the corner of Campbell and Ray-Quincy roads, became the librarian at the store in 1938 when the school closed. She served for decades.

Dove died at age 87 in 1998.

Dove taught Shilling's grandfather, former township supervisor John Shilling. After the school closed, John Shilling relocated the one-room school to his farm to prevent it from being torn down.

Her picture and other memorabilia will have a place in the new old library building.

Contact dReid@Gannett.com

Michigan Department of Education, Statewide Spotlight Email, September 18, 2025

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Issued: Sept 18, 2025



SPOTLIGHT

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Waldron Learning Center student Miguel Flores enjoys boarding the Branch County Library Bookmobile. With help from his Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device, he selects the books he wants to read. Photo credit: Hillary Raymond, Waldron Learning Center, Branch ISD



Enjoying this newsletter?

Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Spotlight.**Show Off Your Fall Festivities!**

Homecoming, spirit week, pumpkin decorating—fall is full of moments worth celebrating, and we want to feature yours in the Spotlight newsletter!

To submit your photo(s):

1. Ensure you have permission to share (check your school/district's policy)
2. Add a short caption (max 200 characters)
3. Include a photo credit (or we'll credit your school or district)
4. Email everything to mde-oeaa@michigan.gov

Let's capture the spirit of the season—send us your photo today and help us celebrate the vibrant life of Michigan schools!

DIVISION OF ASSESSMENT, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, AND SYSTEMS SUPPORT

The *Coldwater Daily Reporter*, October 10, 2025, p.B3

Branch District Library
First Notice of the 2026 Budget Hearing
October 20, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Coldwater Branch Library
10 E. Chicago, Coldwater, MI

Take Notice: On October 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. the Branch District Library Board shall conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2026 budget of estimated revenues and expenditures.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Copies of the budget are available for public inspection at each branch location - Algansee, Bronson, Coldwater, Quincy, Sherwood, and Union Twp., or on our website: <https://www.BranchDistrictLibrary.org/budgets>.