

Before the Move

With all the renovations done, and the new network installed, we were ready to get things going in the days leading up to the move. Mulder's Moving came out to take measurements. On Friday, December 26, Curtis, Teresa, and I all moved many vehicle-loads of small items and boxes to the new location.

Moving Day

The day of the move ended up being Tuesday, December 30. It was originally scheduled for the day before, but heavy snows along the I-94 corridor prevented the Mulder's team from getting here. We were also originally scheduled for two days to move, Monday and Tuesday. With only one day available to work with, Mulder's sent extra people for the job.



It was a flurry of activity, and only a little more snow, with Mulder's crew doing their thing expertly and efficiently. Before we knew it, the old Safford's Store location was empty and they were heading for the new location up the road. While Mulder's was taking their usual care with the job, I accidentally cracked a window on that frigid 19-degree day trying to remove the exterior antenna to our emergency weather radio. Whoops! Thankfully, City Glass came to the rescue and has already repaired the damage.



After a well-deserved lunch hour back in Coldwater, Mulder's returned to fill the new location. They got shelves moved in, mounted, and loaded amazingly fast. From the time their trucks pulled in, to when they left back to Kalamazoo, only **5 1/2 hours** had passed. Amazing! Their

expediency helped keep the bill down to only \$7,645.07, much less than the worst-case estimate of \$16,828.50 that the Board approved at the December meeting.



After the Move

After two days of being off for the new year's holiday, library staff and Friends of the library spent Friday the 2nd and Saturday the 3rd unboxing, straightening, cleaning, and anything else that needed doing before we re-opened to the public. We are so appreciative of the help!

On Monday, January 5, we were open for business at 11am! It was fitting, too, that the first guest through our doors that day was retired former BDL employee, Renee Hardy! And before long, as Teresa noted in her report, the new craft room was full of laughing people enjoying the new space. Throughout the day, and since, it's been one positive comment after another. Teresa has done a great job planning out the new space, organizing the move, and all the other things!



Though built in 1877, the recent renovations make this feel like a brand new home. And the extra space afforded by the generosity of the township also granting us access to the 2008 addition in back makes our new library three times the size of the old and offers us so many possibilities!





Storytime in 1948

In addition to being grateful to our Township partners, we are also grateful to the Woods, whose family and store was intimately involved with the library for **90 years**. Their contributions and support over the years also cannot be overstated. For more on this rich history, please see our ["About the Algansee Branch Library" article](#) on the website. The Woods continue to show support by allowing us to have a sign for a while at the store pointing people to the new location.

In addition to the window repair, BDL has paid a small sum for carpet cleaning and minor repairs after we moved out. We will also be paying Sieverts Tree Service to remove the 80-foot tower that we used for Internet access, which is no longer needed by the Woods. That was supposed to happen this week, but the weather has postponed it.

Similarly, the accessible ramp used by library visitors is no longer needed. Local business RampitUSA is being a fantastic good neighbor to remove the ramp free of charge and donate it to someone in need. This is scheduled to happen on Monday the 19th.

What remains with the old location then is removing the mailbox post from the side of the road, and getting Republic Waste to actually pick up and move our trash bin like they said they would.

We still have a few odds and ends to buy yet, like one always does when moving to a new place. The Morton Trust still has a little over \$12,000 in it, so we are in a good position to finish outfitting the new place.

Moving forward, we're going to give ourselves a couple of months to fully unpack, decorate, and such—and let the weather improve—before we have an official open house. That open house will be during National Library Week in April! So mark your calendars for Friday, April 25! More details and exact time to come later.

Thanks again to Mulder's Moving and Storage, Rampit USA, Sieverts Tree Service, the Wood family, Algansee Township, and **Teresa Shilling**!

Submitted by John Rucker