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LOCAL

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Court construction on schedule

□ Major roof work next for Holland District Court building on Eighth Street

By **RICHARD HARROLD**
Staff writer

Construction is on schedule for the new Holland District Court building on West Eighth Street with most of the concrete second floor poured this past week, said the project's construction manager.

Beginning in about 2 1/2 weeks, the major roof structure work will begin as the building gets closer to when it can be fully enclosed for interior work to begin, said Stan Elenbaas of Erhardt Construction of Grand Rapids, the project's construction manager.

"It's been going pretty good," Elenbaas said. "For the most part, everything has been on schedule."

Ottawa County Administrative Services Director Mark Scheerhorn echoed that assessment.

The project's goal is to have the 58th District Court division in Holland move from its current building into the new \$8 million structure in April.

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Short term, Elenbaas said the goal is to have the structure's roof completed by late summer so that the heating and cooling units can be placed on the roof.

"We're looking to use a crane to drop the heating and cooling roof units sometime in August," Elenbaas said. "We're not using really large units. We'll have 10 or 12 smaller ones."

By the end of September or early October, the goal is to have the building fully enclosed with windows in place so the bulk of the interior work can begin, he said.

On the building's northern exterior, as much work as can be completed by winter will be done on a parking lot there, while much of the site work on the south side will wait until after the old structure is razed.

The project has presented some challenges, particularly in the early phases when the soil on the site needed to be stabilized to support the structure.

"It's been a difficult structure to erect," Elenbaas said. Besides the site stabilization, another challenge was to find locations for the cranes

that would be used to lift the steel into place.

Schedule adjustments were made so work crews were able to stay out of each other's way, which made the work flow more smoothly, he said.

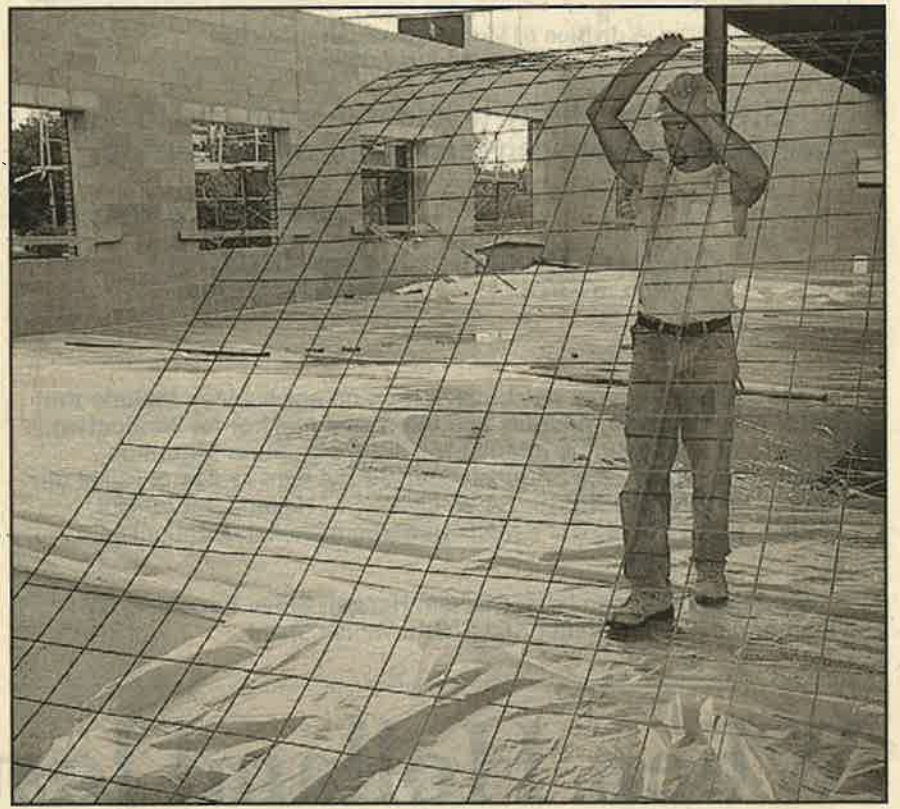
"That's allowed us to maintain the schedule and maybe even get a little ahead of schedule," Elenbaas said.

The new facility will more than double the available space from the old building. The current court facility is 14,000 square feet and the new building will be between 38,000 and 39,000 square feet, plus it will have a partial basement.

In addition to new courtroom for the two district judges there, the new building will have expanded office space for the Ottawa County prosecutor's Holland branch and the district court probation, as well as more numerous and private meeting rooms for attorneys to meet with their clients.

It will also be designed so that jail inmates can be transferred for court hearings without coming in contact with the public.

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Sentinel/J.R. Valderas

AT WORK: John Rogers of Burgess Concrete Construction places wire mesh on the second floor of the new Holland District Court in Holland Friday.

Court work on schedule

Construction at the Holland District Court building on West Eighth Street is on schedule.