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Part of the problem was that the lock up at the police station is in the front of the building, which would mean prisoners would still have to walk through work areas to get to a tunnel that started in the back of the police station. Wrapping a longer tunnel around police station would likely cause the foundation at the station to weaken, Walsh said. Soil samples showed there was not enough natural earth support to build a tunnel, he said.

"We decided a sally port was best," he said.

Hills Police Chief William Dwyer said the sally port solution is fine with the department.

He noted in the near future, the court will likely have video arraignment procedures that will allow court proceedings to take place without the person being charged in the courtroom with the judge.

Construction of the courthouse, behind Fire Station No. 5 off Orchard Lake Road, is moving along nicely thanks much in part to a mild winter, said Walsh.

"All the nuts and bolts have been put in thanks to the weather," Walsh said.

"We're shooting for Nov. 15," he said of the building's debut.

All wall studs have been put in place and drywall work for the interior is expected soon.

Brick and cinderblock work has also already begun on the outside of the building.

The \$12.8 million courthouse will finally allow judges, staff, and the public some decent accommodations as well as making sure prisoners are secured at all times, said Walsh.

Currently, some prisoners have to walk through the public hallways of the current courthouse, a renovated elementary school on 10 Mile.

The new building will have four courtrooms, three for judges and the last for the magistrate.

While the 47th District only has two judges, a third will likely be granted in the future based on the volume of cases already handled, the court administrator said.

"We're building for the future," he said.

The size of the building will eliminate the crowded conditions of the current courthouse and give some dignity and respect for the judges and public, Walsh said.

There will be a jury lounge that will also serve as a conference area and a private room for the public to view court records. Natural light will flow in the front of the building with large floor-to-ceiling windows that will face 11 Mile Road.

Graduation from page A1

emphasis on diversity, technology and are expected to participate in a senior project. Less than a handful of school districts in metro-Detroit require a senior project.

"New staff won't be added but we will have to gear some staff time," Fouchey said.

Some parents plan early and thoughtfully for their children's high school program, and that means encouraging them to take more credits than required for high school graduation but what is necessary to get into highly-regarded colleges. "The changes in requirements is strengthening the program for some students who haven't been overly academically oriented. We have not generally asked kids where they are going, about their interests and talents and what they are going to do with it. We need to create thoughtful, contributing citizens."

Proposed changes are:

- New requirements of .5 credit in the fine arts and .5 credit in applied arts/technology

- A significant increase, from 13.5 to 17.5, in the proportion of required courses over elective courses

- An increase from three to four credits in English/Language Arts

- An increase from two to three credits in mathematics

- An increase from two to

three credits in science
■ Reallocation of the existing three credit social studies requirement

The balance of the current credit requirements, those in the areas of health/physical education and SMART, SET, Seminar is unchanged.

There's new specification for the recommendations. They are:

- Completing .5 credit in a course that addresses issues of diversity, to be selected from a menu of courses that meet the requirements

- Mastery of the technology benchmarks currently being established by the district

- Students earning a maximum of four credits (eight semesters) via extended learning opportunities (on-line learning, correspondence courses, and others from approved institutions) to satisfy their graduation requirements

- Maintaining an Educational Career Development Plan
- Participating in a work-based learning experience

- Completing a senior project for graduation

For more information on graduation requirements, call Jan Colliton, assistant superintendent for instruction at (248) 489-3327, Fouchey at 489-3406 or Laura Sparrow, who headed up the committee, at Harrison High School, 489-3499.

Road from page A1

River, which sells imported Celtic-themed gift items has been hit with the construction shillelagh, too. The owner said many of her customers come from out of town and don't know the area as well as the locals.

"Every town around us has construction right now — I think there could have been a little more signage," owner Barb Gouins said.

There are "Farmington Businesses" signs directing Grand River and Farmington motorists into parking lots, but motorists don't see them until they're right in the middle of the construction zone, Gouins said.

A detour route runs from Grand River east from Farmington to Drake and south to Nine Mile.

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Farmington Road from Nine Mile to Sloum will be widened, and Farmington north of Sloum will be reconstructed and not widened.

The \$7.5 million project included reconstructing Farmington from Eight to Nine Mile in 2001.

One business owner, Anna

Mariani of Anna's Cafe and Baskets, on Farmington south of Grand River, said she's not sure whether her business is hurting or not.

"I just opened in November so it's hard to compare it to anything," Mariani said. Her shop sells espresso, pastries and gift baskets.

She had nearly a full house on a recent afternoon, but said it was a lucky fluke — a group of women stopped in for drinks after having lunch.

"I wish I could pay them to sit here all day," Mariani said, adding that before they arrived, business was so slow that she sat and watched the news.

Kevin Gushman, Farmington

director of public services, said he talked to one business owner who said he didn't notice any drop off in business. Gushman said he has not fielded many complaints from citizens or business owners.

"Unfortunately, no matter how many signs you put up, if there's construction, people will avoid it," Gushman said, adding that the signs guiding motorists to parking areas have been effective.

"My advice is to be patient — you see people get frustrated from time to time, but it really doesn't take that long to get through on Farmington Road."

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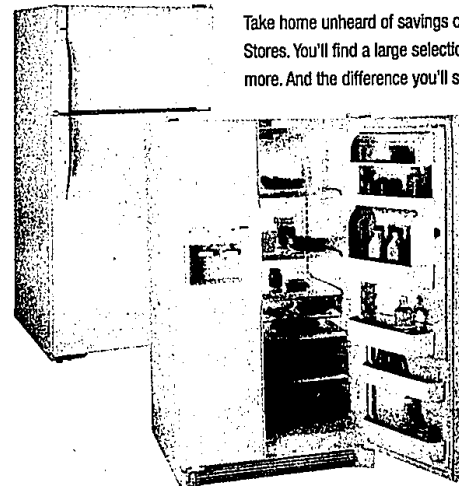
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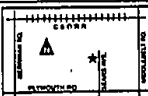
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