

Mansion from page A1

up with five.
"What they're looking for, really, is a living history," Clavattone said.
The Warner Mansion is certainly that. Volunteers have filled every room in the house with memorabilia and antiques, displayed as it may have been when the family lived there. Knollenberg praised the countless hours poured into making the home a showcase, but still a vital part of the community.
"(People) make the difference," he said. "They devote their time, their attention, their blood, sweat and tears."
Mansion committee co-chair Penny Lehto said the Farmington City Council charged the historical commission with bringing the house to the community. Now, they feel it's time to share Farmington's "little hidden treasure" with a wider audience.
"It's a wonderful resource," she said. "It's certainly part of our community's history and our community's roots."
The commission hopes to expand the mansion's outreach by creating the carriage house, remodeling classrooms and meeting rooms. They'd also like to provide a more serviceable kitchen for events held on the grounds.

A program is under way to train third graders as "docents" who will help care for and promote the historic facility.
Its history reflects Farmington's community roots, and the look and feel of the restored mansion harkens back to the 1800s, before telephones and television sets transformed American life.
Built in a Victorian Italianate style by state legislator and local official P. Dean Warner, the mansion stayed in the family for three generations before becoming public property. Warner's adopted son, Fred, became governor of Michigan in 1905 and served six years.
According to a historical account provided by the committee, Gov. Warner most notably furthered the causes of public primary reform, regulation of food products, tax

equality with railroads and the enhancement of public roads.
His popularity led to his becoming the first elected official to serve three successive terms as governor, and memorabilia from his tenure, including an inaugural address, is prominently displayed throughout the home.
As part of the Local Legacy program, the city of Farmington submitted a 45-minute videotaped tour, narrated by local historians Ruth Moehlman and Dick Cervell, as well as a 26-minute videotape of the new sign dedication program.
The mansion will also be featured on the Local Legacy program's Web site.
A link can be found on Knollenberg's Web site: www.house.gov/knollenberg/index2.htm.



Official: Frank Lauhoff, Mary Bush, U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, Penny Lehto and Jim McGlinchy line up to record a video about the historic designation.

Fest from page A1

the highlight of the year for youth services coordinator Sharon Vincent and library director Bev Papai.
The kids have really started to get into it, too.
"It's remarkable," Papai said. "Dunkel Middle School alone is equal to where we were eight or nine years ago for the whole community."
"The competition appeals to them so much," Vincent said of the participants. "They come in costume to represent the name of their team."
The finals will be held at 7 p.m. May 3. While the rules called for 60 top-scoring teams to participate, Vincent had to bump that number to 66, because of a cluster of teams at the cut-off score of 98.
Teams may include four to six members and a team manager, who could be an older brother or sister, parent, teacher or any willing adult. Vincent said managers can get as involved as they would like, whether it's meeting regularly with the kids to quiz them, helping with costume designs or just providing encouragement.

In the final round, Vincent will call out questions and teams will have 20 seconds to answer. Runners pick up the answers and points are tallied by computer.
"I always identify the book, and they get a bonus point for remembering the author's last name," Vincent said. "When they get the right answer, the roof goes off."
Vincent tries to vary the questions, from easy references to relatively obscure details. The team that won last year, a group of sixth grade boys, got a perfect score.
"I have a tie-breaker round of questions, just in case," she said. Papai said it's neat to see the level of "teammanship" for reading that's comparable to what kids experience in sports.
"I think almost anything we can do to encourage a kid to read is worth trying," she said.
All the schools have wholeheartedly embraced the Battle of the Books, and the Friends of the Library helps sponsor the event.
The public is welcome to attend the final round of competition, which will be the same evening that the Ridgewriters will give readings during the Farmington Community Arts Council's festival.

Students get the scoop

Student Council members at Botsford Elementary in Livonia set a very high goal for students to read - 10,000 scoops of ice cream.
Measuring a scoop of ice cream was different based on the ages of the Clarenceville district youngsters. At home, kindergartners through second graders had to read for 16 minutes; third graders for 20 minutes; and fourth and fifth graders for 30 minutes to earn a scoop. Parents guided the scoops to ensure they met the minimum.
The school chose scoops to match the reward - an ice cream party for the school, courtesy of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, delivered by regional manager Bruce Kratt of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream of Vermont.

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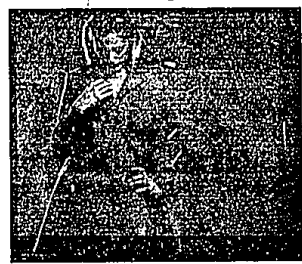
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