

# Changes underway at Gov. Warner Mansion

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It's been a busy few months for new Governor Warner Mansion curator Linda Horvath and her team of active volunteers.

Horvath, who has an extensive experience working with museums in Michigan, was appointed to the newly created position last year. Her initial goals were to better organize and preserve the collection and pare it down to the specific time frame tied with the Michigan governor's mansion - 1867-1911.

After four months, she told Farmington City Council members Monday, "The skeleton is in place."

Volunteers have received training and have been asked to read books on caring and storage of museum collections, as well as books on Victorian times in order to enhance their presentations to visitors. Horvath has developed a policy manual and has set up a formal corner, where volunteers who visit the mansion more infrequently can pick up an activities newsletter.

"A lot of volunteers only come in once a month," she said.

More daunting a task has been going through the collection of items that have been donated over the years. More than half

are from the 1930's, 1940s and 1950s.

A collections team of half a dozen women has about half the basement cleaned out, she said.

"We need to get it organized so the exhibit ladies can come in and look at what they've got to work with," Horvath said. "It might take a year or two to get the collections all in proper storage."

One of the most interesting items, a printing press circa 1909, has been adopted by a volunteer who was in the printing business for more than 70 years. The machine has been moved to a permanent location, and beginning in the spring, will be restored.

Most recently, ultra-violet light filters have been installed on all the windows, to cut down on damage from the sun. Future projects include developing a garden tour, a task undertaken by two volunteers who are master gardeners.

Horvath said docents have continued tours for school children and Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. Once the basement is organized and the steps are repaired, that area will be used for classroom space.

The museum is still open to the public Wednesday afternoons, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

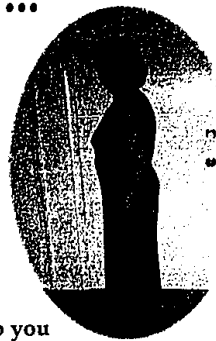
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### OBITUARIES

#### ANTHONY DEBRINCAT

Services for Anthony DeBrincat, 95, of Farmington, were held Jan. 12 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. DeBrincat was born Nov. 17, 1906 in Malta and died Jan. 7, 2002, in Farmington. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 40 years and was a World War II Army veteran. He enjoyed cooking, fishing and his family.

He is survived by his wife, Caroline; sons, Frank (Sue) and Richard (Pat); daughter, Vera (Allan) Diehl; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

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