

FALL / WINTER 2021

Our Mission

To preserve, document and classify the physical history of the Lake Minnetonka area. To provide a means by which everyone can share in the history of the lake area. To stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of the area.

Founded in 1972, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society preserves the history of Lake Minnetonka and the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay.

The Society's Museum and Archives hold a large collection of historical artifacts and documents and the Society regularly presents programs for youth and adults and publishes books on topics of local historical interest.

ELMHS

PO Box 305
Excelsior, MN 55331
952-221-4766
info@elmhs.org
www.elmhs.org

ELMHS

Executive Director:
Rachel Houck

ELMHS

Board of Directors

Acting President: Scott Dake
Vice President:
Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona
Secretary: Scott Dake

Directors: Deanna Bunkelman, Francesca Landon, Andrew Punch, Mark Read, Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens.

Emeritus Board Member:
Betty Peck

The Harborage

Hometown Healer?

Dr. George F. LaPaul *By Scott D. McGinnis*

Dr. LaPaul was not remembered as fondly as the village physicians Dr. Edward R. Perkins or Dr. Hugh C. Arey covered in our earlier Hometown Healer articles; however, his imprint on the Village of Excelsior is undeniable.

George Frederick LaPaul was born February 14, 1861 in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. His family moved to Waseca, Minnesota in March 1865. He entered the Lake Minnetonka scene in 1883 as Captain of the steamboat *Reindeer* and subsequently Captain of the *JYC (Judgment Yet to Come)*, also known as the *Hebe*, 1884-1885.

His occupation took a turn in 1885 when he was accused of recklessness and was

stripped of his license to operate a steamboat. His license was reinstated when the state inspector finally determined that the false allegations were instigated by malice. Nevertheless, he changed his profession because he had graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School that year. The next year, he married an Excelsior woman, Carrie May Hopkins, the daughter and sister of fellow Lake Minnetonka steamboat captains, Alfred Hopkins and George Hopkins.

In November 1890, Dr. LaPaul began advertising treatment for tuberculosis of the joint with what was referred to as "the largest electrical apparatus in the country." This earned him the consternation of the Minnesota Medical Society. The Society's board of censors proffered charges of unprofessional conduct in



Dr. LaPaul's practice was in the gateway district of Minneapolis and he emerged in the forefront of the electro-therapeutic movement.

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The Society Column

From the Executive Director

The summer is over and it seemed just too short! How wonderful it was to get together with many of you on our History Cruises and see your smiling faces for the first time in a year! It was also great to have our museum open to show off our volunteers' hard work from last year and introduce many folks to Lake area history for the first time.

If you didn't get a chance to join us for a program or see the new updates to the museum, you still have time! The museum doesn't close for the season until September 25, and we have programs scheduled through January. See pages 4 and 5 for more details.

One more thing to be excited about is **the Society's 50th Anniversary** next year. Our board of directors and volunteers have some fun events planned to celebrate, but we could always use a few more hands on deck! I would love to talk to you about how to get involved!

Rachel Houck, Executive Director
Director@elmhs.org

Lake Minnetonka Historical Organizations Study Update

The ELMHS continues its partnership with Deephaven Historical Society, Minnetonka Historical Society, The Museum of Lake Minnetonka, Wayzata Historical Society, and Westonka Historical Society to explore ways that our organizations can better collaborate to serve the history of the Lake Minnetonka area now and in the future.

Having completed a benchmarking study, stakeholder interviews, town hall meetings and a survey, our consultant, Arts Consulting Group, is preparing operational models for our boards to evaluate. We're excited to share the results of this exploration with our members later this year.

Stay tuned and feel free to contact us with any questions!

Lisa Stevens, Joint Committee Member
Info@elmhs.org

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY HOLL



Jerry and Justin Holl,
Excelsior
Sesquicentennial, 2003.

The Society was saddened by the news of Emeritus Member Jerry Holl's death in June. Jerry was a longtime member of the Society's board and an irreplaceable volunteer. She was instrumental in the preservation of one of the Society's most renowned - and largest - artifacts, the sailboat *Onawa*, raising funds and orchestrating its restoration. A gifted artist, Jerry lent her skills to

many other Society projects, including editing, designing and illustrating Ellen Wilson Meyers' "Happenings Around..." books. And she could always be counted on to rope her many friends and family members into sharing her shift hosting at our museum, joining the Society as members or attending Society programs - hooking them on local history in the process.

While she is greatly missed by her fellow volunteers, her industriousness and talent lives on in the many projects she undertook for the Society, and we see her handiwork almost everywhere we look. We are richer for her time with us and would not be where we are today without her.

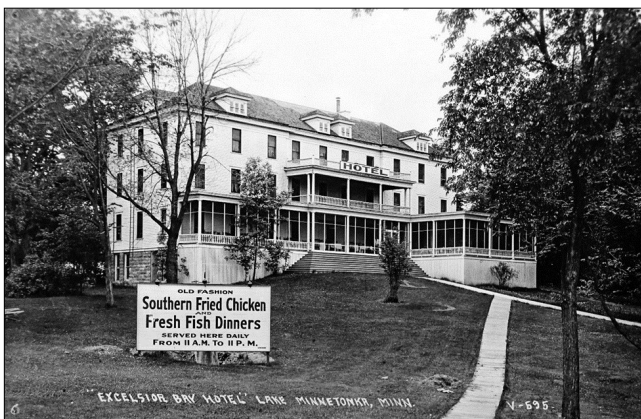
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advertising as a specialist in certain diseases and prevented him from reading his paper, "Hypnotism as a Medical Agent," at their annual convention. By a vote of 63 to 1, Dr. LaPaul was expelled from the Minnesota Medical Society on June 18, 1891.

Speaking on his own behalf, Dr. LaPaul stated that he had done nothing wrong, and that his advertisement did not state he would cure people, only that he would treat their condition. He further stated,

"I use electricity in my treatment, and Dr. ---- and Dr. --- and Dr. ---, [mentioning three prominent physicians] have begun the use of it in the same way that I use it, only they don't make their machines succeed as well as I do mine. I tell you what the trouble is, these doctors don't like it because, I use electricity and hypnotism and use them successfully. Now as to advertising, the thing that stirs them up is this [advertisement for my electric system of treatment.] That's what they say they kick on, but the main trouble is that I am getting the business. Talk about ethics! What do they care about ethics when you get right down to it. The fact of the matter is, it's every man for himself in this business as in all others and I'm going to do business to suit myself."

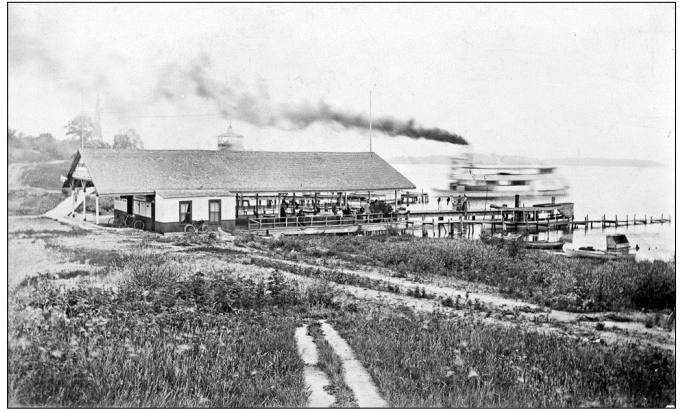
In 1896, Dr. and Mrs. LaPaul left their Minneapolis residence and moved to Excelsior for the grand opening of their new establishment, the LaPaul Hotel.



The LaPaul Hotel was purchased by Richard Golden in 1918 and renamed the Excelsior Bay Hotel. Photograph circa 1920.

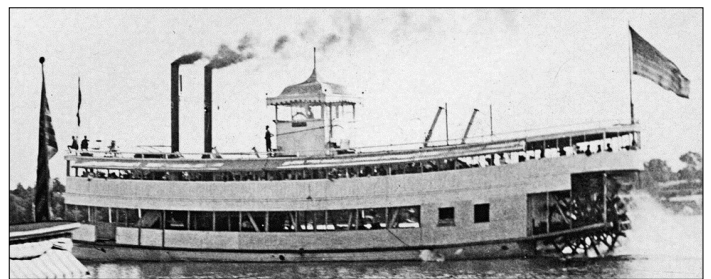
The hotel was located on the hill behind the current Dock Cinema off of Water Street between Lake and Second Streets. In 1912, he converted part of the hotel into a sanatorium and installed his electrical apparatus for the treatment of patients.

Along with the purchase of the hotel property in 1894, the LaPauls also acquired the shoreline in front of the site. This included the Red Line Pavilion that stood just west of the foot of Water Street on Excelsior Bay. The pavilion played a central role in LaPaul's plans to reenter the steamboat business.



The Red Line Pavilion, circa 1895.

The steamboat *George* was built for Dr. George F. LaPaul by George E. Day and George Godfrey and launched on Excelsior Bay May 25, 1901. The *George* was a 125-foot long double-deck sternwheeler with a capacity of 800 passengers. It was then the largest vessel on Lake Minnetonka and made the Red Line Pavilion its home port.



The steamboat *George*, circa 1902.

After a property dispute between LaPaul and the Village of Excelsior, the pavilion property became a point of contention. The Village raised their property tax on the lot and in February 1902, proposed construction of a new dock just ten feet from the

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LaPaul's dock which would render one side of it useless to the 24-foot-wide steamer *George*. The LaPauls finally filed suit against the Village. In settlement discussions, the Village agreed to not build any dock within 70 feet of the west side of the LaPaul's dock.

Part of this vendetta might have been Dr. LaPaul's failed bid to be Village Council President in 1897. He was part of a last-minute slate of candidates that were pro liquor license in the Village election. The prohibition candidates won the election, but lost the liquor fight as Excelsior approved the sale of liquor for the first time. Dr. LaPaul took advantage of the new ordinance and leased the basement of the LaPaul Hotel to Simon Kolodziej, who immediately applied for and received one of Excelsior's first liquor licenses.

Dr. LaPaul died November 12, 1927 at his home in Excelsior and was survived by his wife, brother, and two sisters. Reverend Charles Fox Davis, former minister of the Excelsior Methodist Church and friend of the deceased, gave the eulogy as reported in the *Minnetonka Record*, November 18, 1927.

"Characteristically different, broad-minded and generous, he said Dr. LaPaul's friendship was most helpful to those fortunate to possess it. In closing Mr. Davis said that while humanity is never perfect, neither was Dr. LaPaul perfect, but he said, "Let us remember the many good acts of our brother, forgetting all the mistakes that flesh is heir to."

Get Your History Here!

Visit Our Museum through September!

Saturdays, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Don't miss your chance this year to see the Society's many artifacts and exhibits about the south Lake Minnetonka area including Lake Minnetonka's "glory years," the Excelsior Amusement Park, and the famous Lake Minnetonka sailing vessel the *Onawa*.

Museum Location:

305 Water Street, Excelsior, in the old Excelsior Depot next to Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail and the Excelsior Library. For information:

www.elmhs.org/museum.html.

Visit our Archives by Appointment

Make an appointment to learn more about the people, places, businesses and buildings of the south Lake Minnetonka area. Our enthusiastic volunteers are ready to help you with your research. For more information: www.elmhs.org/archives--research-resources.html.

Archives Location:

Historic Excelsior Public School building, 261 School Avenue, Lower Level, Excelsior

**For an appointment contact us at info@elmhs.org,
952-221-4766.**

Visit our Website Anytime for History at Your Fingertips

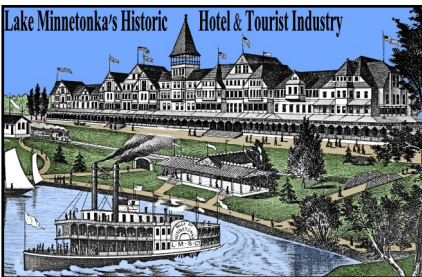
Did you know the ELMHS website has many photos from the Society's collection for viewing? It also has links to property and biographical data, historical newspapers, local cemetery information and much more! See it all here: www.elmhs.org/archives--research-resources.html.

FYI: Past virtual programs are available on demand to our members through elmhs.eduvision.tv. For more information, see the "[ELMHS at Home](#)" page of our website.

Public Presentations and Events

Autumn History Cruise

Sunday, September 12, 3pm
**Lake Minnetonka's Historic
Hotel & Tourist Industry**
with Scott D. McGinnis



Join us for our last History Cruise of the season aboard the *Lady of the Lake*. Scott will discuss the origins of the tourist industry from 1852

-World War I, including the various attractions/amusements, methods of transportation, and some of the more famous and infamous hotels.

Boarding at Port of Excelsior, 379 Lake Street, Excelsior.

Tickets: elmhs1.eventbrite.com, \$22.50 members / \$37.50 non-members.

Monday, October 11, 5:30pm
Oak Hill Cemetery Tour
with Scott D. McGinnis

Join us for a walking tour of historic Oak Hill Cemetery—Excelsior's burial ground since the 1850's. The tour begins at the top of Oak Hill, just east of 810 Excelsior Blvd. in Excelsior. Note: The tour area includes steep and uneven terrain. \$5.00 suggested contribution. For more information: elmhs1.eventbrite.com.



Tapping History is Back!

Join us at Excelsior Brewing Company, 421 Third Street, Excelsior. \$5.00 suggested contribution at the door. Doors open at 6:00pm. **Registration required at elmhs1.eventbrite.com** or call 952-221-4766. Limited seating - first come, first served. *SPECIAL ELMHS MEMBER PERK!* A limited number of free, prime seats are available for ELMHS MEMBERS ONLY. For more information: info@elmhs.org, 952-221-4766, www.elmhs.org.

Monday, November 8, 7pm
**We Have Them Surrounded:
A History of Shorewood**
with Scott Zerby



Minnewashta Gun Club,
Shorewood.

The City of Shorewood celebrates its 65th anniversary this year, but its history is much older than that! Once part of Excelsior Township, Shorewood

surrounds present day Excelsior and Greenwood. Former Shorewood Mayor Scott Zerby will share the history of this city from 1858 to present.

Monday, January 10, 7pm
Dog Sledding In Excelsior
with the Lake Minnetonka Klondike
Dog Derby

Learn about the history of sled dog racing in Excelsior and plans for the February 4-5, 2022 Klondike Derby.



Klondike Day, Excelsior, 1930s.

*** CALLING ALL MEMBERS! ***

ELMHS ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00pm
Shorewood Community and Event Center
5735 Country Club Road, Shorewood

RSVP by Friday, September 10 at <https://elmhs1.eventbrite.com>

The ELMHS Board of Directors invites all members to attend this year's annual meeting *in person*, to learn about the Society's recent accomplishments, plans for the upcoming year and to elect the new board members and officers from the candidates below. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

DOOR PRIZE

Two History Cruise tickets for the 2022 season! More details will be available at the meeting.

HISTORICAL PRESENTATION FOR MEMBERS

Rachel Houck, ELMHS Executive Director, will present "The Woman's Club of Lake Minnetonka: The First Decade" following the business meeting.

Board of Director Candidates

The ELMHS Board of Directors is proud to introduce the following candidates for the FY2022 board of directors election. Each of the candidates has a passion for our area's history and is willing to commit time to make ELMHS successful.

Bill Heyman is a technology startup Chief Technical Officer and software consultant with deep skills in systems development and integration (mobile apps, database, and web). He resides in Shorewood. Bill is interested in getting involved with digitizing ELMHS' collections using digital images to reach a broader audience.

Tom Kolar is a Board member and the Treasurer for the Big Island Legacy organization. He owns land on the island and is passionate about its history. Tom recently retired from a career as a private money mortgage lender.

Kirsten Pardoe has years of volunteer experience in the non-profit sector, including being a member of various boards, historical research/display design (in the Minnetonka School District) and running major events for non-profit organizations. Her work experience includes training design and development, project management, and administrative support. Kirsten is already a valued ELMHS volunteer and serves as our newsletter editor.

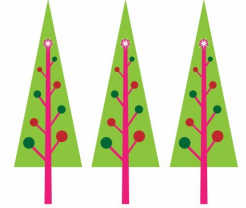
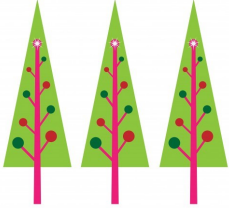
Directors who will continue their terms on the board are: Deanna Bunkelman, Scott Dake, Andrew Punch, Mark Read, Tad Shaw and Lisa Stevens.

Save the Date!

ELMHS Members Only Holiday Party

Monday, December 13 | 6pm to 8pm.

Location TBD



Registration begins November 1, 2021 at

<https://elmhs1.eventbrite.com>

or call (952) 221-4766.

Watch www.elmhs.org for updates!

To purchase or renew a membership visit www.elmhs.org or call (952)221-4766

We've Got Holiday Gift Ideas - Why Procrastinate!

Wondering what to get the history lovers on your list? We're ready to help! We've got books, framed maps, prints of images from our collection, gift memberships and more.

Shipping and free pick-up is available.

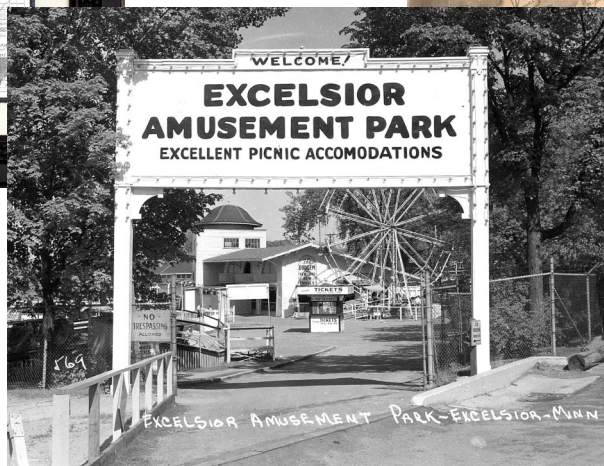
Visit our online store at Elmhs.org/store or contact us at info@elmhs.org, (952) 221-4766.



Framed maps of almost every community on the lake.



Hard to find history books.



Prints of the images from our collection.

Thanks for your support!

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

For the period of May 1 to July 31, 2021

Platinum Level

Michael D. Bussey
Scott & Joey Dake
Bruce & Barbara Jensen
John Strandell

Gold Level

Dean M. Akins
Jennifer & Tim Caron
Anne Obermeyer
Joseph Schwartz

Silver Level

Cheryl Ahlcrona &
Carl Floren
Lorrie Hall
Dan & Allison Kelly
Ruth McLeod
Kirsten Pardoe
Gregory Thomas &
Carol Downie

Bronze Level

Rick & Joan Ahmann
Patrick Dupont
Mr. & Mrs. Darel Leipold
Julia Sherf
Jane Stein
Kevin Wehrmann
LaWayne Yaeger

Household

Sean Carroll
Joan & John Engstrom
Karen Kertzman
Rebecca Koehler
Carol McMullin
Liz Vandam
The Wetzell Family
Nan & Bob Woodburn

Individual

Peter J. Hartwich
Kathleen Jewett
Kim McIntosh
Judith Allen Kim
Greg Lerud
Thea Lopatka
Jennifer Morris
Kelly Nehowig
Bob Nygaard
Nancy Smith
Pat Smith

Senior

Mary A. Ashley
Barbara Barron
Mary Ellen Bennett
Francis Butch Colby
Sharon Dana
Katherine Flom

Nicole Foss
Joanie Holst
Cheryl Jensen
Bruce Johnson
William Kimber
Susan Kimitch
Nicholas Long
Rita Martinez
Leone & Patrick McGlone
Patrick McGlone
Marc Mosiman
Peggy Trager

Life Members

(No longer offered)
Bart Baker
Alec & Marianne Beck
Bob & Diane Bolles
Suellen Douglas
Don & Frannie Douglass
Kristin & Ken Dowell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W.
Fayfield
John Gorecki
John P. & Jan Gray
Phil & Eileen Hallin
Paul Huber
Ron Hughes
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson

Terrance Kellogg
Mark Knowlton
Tom & Carol Knowlton
Michael Kramer
Ann Lundsten
Scott D. McGinnis
Minnesota Streetcar
Museum
Robert L. Naas
Bill & Steph Naegele
Aaron Person
Sharon Provost
Kellie & Gary Ringate
Kathy Knowlton Schmid
Carol Schmidt
Dr. Milton H. Seifert
Tad Shaw
Lisa Stevens &
Jeffrey Hatcher
Rodney Thompson
TSP Architecture, Inc.
Ruth Witrak

Give to the Max Day is November 18!

We are humbled by the support we received during our COVID mandated closure and are excited to be able to bounce back into action in good financial health. We hope you'll continue to help the ELMHS collect, preserve, and share the history of the Excelsior and south-Lake Minnetonka area with your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, or surprise us!

The funds raised from Give to the Max support all aspects of the Society, including programs, archival supplies, staff salary, rent, and more.

Please make a contribution through Give to the Max at

www.givemn.org/organization/Elmhs, via our website elmhs.org/

contributions, or mail your donation to P.O. Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331.



Be a Volunteer!

The Society relies on volunteers of all ages and abilities to fulfill various critical roles. Right now we are in need of dedicated volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **50th Anniversary Committee:** Help ELMHS commemorate this milestone in 2022 by planning the celebration activities in 2021.
- **Museum Host:** Greet visitors and provide tours of the ELMHS museum, sell merchandise from the museum gift shop.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Recruiting, training, and scheduling volunteers for shifts at the ELMHS Museum, Archives, special events and programs.
- **Communications:** Writing press releases, creating marketing materials, contributing to social media, maintaining our website, etc. Must have experience using Microsoft Publisher or similar software.
- **Public Programs and Events:** Plan, publicize, and execute events for ELMHS including Tapping History, History Cruises, fundraisers, member-only events, and virtual programs.
- **Membership/Fundraising:** Recruiting new members, contributors, and volunteers, helping with direct mail and special events.

Training is provided. To learn more visit our website at www.elmhs.org/volunteer or contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766.

Donate Artifacts

Help us share our community's history with future generations by sharing your history with us! Donations of historic artifacts, photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the south Lake Minnetonka area are welcome for preservation in our Archives and display in our Museum. Learn more here: www.elmhs.org/donate-artifacts. (Due to space limitations, the Society is unable to accept all donations.)

Not a Member Yet?

Members shape the Society's policies and programs, continuing our work in preserving the area's history.

Annual member benefits include:

- ◆ Discounts and special member privileges on select opportunities
- ◆ The Society's newsletter and mailings
- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Voting privileges

Membership Levels

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | Household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Senior/Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Bronze | | |

Or, make an individual contribution of any amount!

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Volunteering

- Please contact me about volunteering. (See panel to left for more information.)

Donation of Artifacts

- Please contact me regarding the donation of historical items. (See panel to left for more information about donating.)

Mail form and check made out to ELMHS to PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331. Or, join or contribute online at www.elmhs.org. The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

PastPort “Basket of History” Winner Announced!

Our first *PastPort* “Basket of History” drawing has been held and the lucky winner is **Ike Phelps II** and four year old grandson **Isaac Phelps IV**. The basket was filled with local history books, prints, notecards and even a couple of toys and other goodies from Deephaven, Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka, Minnetonka, Wayzata and Westonka Historical Societies, as well as the Minnesota Streetcar Museum and the Museum of Lake Minnetonka.

Fifteen people had their PastPorts stamped at all five Lake Minnetonka area museums in July in order to be eligible for the prize drawing. The museum visitors were very enthusiastic about the new PastPort initiative, with many surprised at how much they learned about the history of each community and Lake Minnetonka as a whole.

We hope to continue the program next year and are excited to welcome even more history lovers of all ages through our doors! Remember, it’s not too late to experience these museums! Visit <http://lkmtkahist.weebly.com/> to learn more about them.



Basket of History winner Ike Phelps with grandson Isaac Phelps and new friend Theo Coggin at the Garden Railroad next to the Wayzata Depot.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Excelsior MN 55331
PO Box 305

