



Deephaven Historical Society Newsletter
Winter 2011

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

**MAJOR
EVENT**

**Sign up for the
DHS field trip
to the
Minneapolis
Institute of
Art...Departs
from Village
Hall February
19th @10:30
AM**

Inside: page #3



**Bob Williams talks about the Great Depression and
the impact around Lake Minnetonka**

A crowd of over 40 people gathered at Deephaven Village Hall to hear noted local historian speak about the development of Lake Minnetonka and its impact on the South Lake communities. Bob began with a chronological history of the evolution of the Lake Minnetonka area. Lake Minnetonka was discovered by an exploratory force of soldiers from a military outpost located on the Minnesota River in 1822. As the word got out, homesteaders began to migrate to the region. The community of Excelsior was founded in 1853 and quickly became the business hub of the southern part of the lake. By 1880, Lake Minnetonka was in its hay day. Wealthy visitors descended upon the Lake to experience the lakes rumored medicinal qualities. Important cities from which tourists came were St Louis, Chicago and New York. As the number of visitors grew, the area responded by building hotels and recreation facilities. Most popular was the Excelsior Amusement Park which began on "Big Island" in 1925. It finally met its demise in 1973 when the transportation capabilities enabled tourists to venture further out into the rural lake areas of Minnesota and points West. After the decline of the tourist trade, what remained were the churches and schools that became the cornerstone of what we now all enjoy.

Cottagewood Bridge: "Deephaven Argus", October 20th 1939

The Cottagewood bridge is nearly finished. The bridge has the distinction of being the longest bridge built by the WPA labor in the State of Minnesota. The bridge is forty feet long and the pilings were driven sixty feet into the lake. Nine separate piers and two large end piers support the bridge. Here are some interesting statistics: 204646 pounds of structural steel was used. 22177 pounds of pipe railing, 82633 pounds of reinforcement bars, 1470 barrels of

Continued on pg. #3.

Bridge Continued from page #1

Cement, 918 cubic yards of concrete, 921 pounds of wrought bronze, and 114 pounds of drain pipe was used on a bridge that was made to last a thousand years.

P.S. The bridge was condemned and replaced in 2000.

(Reproduction of articles are literal and are not changed)

New Dial up Phones are installed in Deephaven

February 16th, 1940, Deephaven Argus

In Deephaven, work of installing new dial up telephone service is almost complete according to Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. Work next week will start the process of the transfer from manual to dial operations, one telephone at a time. The cost of the entire project will cost around \$30,000. On February 1st, installers started visiting each customer's home to change the present manual telephone to the dial type and thus replacing wiring inside and outside of each home. Customers will be given instruction regarding how to use the new type phones and a new directory of Deephaven subscribers and new phone numbers. The location of the new central office is just west of Northome Avenue on Park Avenue.

World War Two Slows Traffic

April 10th, 1942, "Deephaven Argus"

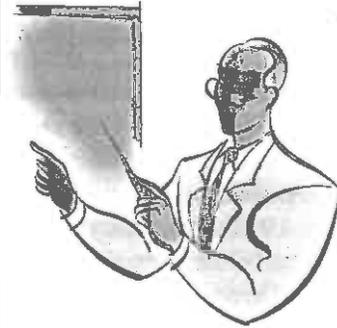
Governor Stassen office announced that the top speed on Minnesota highways will be 40 miles per hour. This decree here in Minnesota was conforming to the request of President Roosevelt in helping conserve tires.

Deephaven Historical Society Board Appoints New Board Members.

Vacancies caused by resignations or relocations have been filled via appointment by the Deephaven Historical Society Board. Appointed to serve the three year terms are Barb Sykora of Azure Rd. and Drue Gisvold of Hooper Lake Rd.

Barb has been very active in the DHS for the past four years. She has single handedly research and wrote many of the articles written in the newsletter. Her research of the "Deephaven Argus" and the "Deephaven Post" have provide a plethora of historical accounts from the Deephaven community.

Drue joined the DHS a little over a year ago. She brings a depth of knowledge about historical



societies from her past experience .serving with the Excelsior Historical Society.. The addition of these two women will add new perspectives to the DHS and will enable DHS to continue to serve to community of

Deephaven.

Both will serve the DHS well.

Please join me in welcoming Barb and Drue to their new positions.

1965 Tornado DVD's Available

1965 Tornado DVD's are now available for purchase. The recorded 2010 February meeting featured hundreds of photos and articles about the 1965 big Tornado that hit Deephaven and surrounding communities. They are available at Village Hall for the price of \$20 each.

Join the **Deephaven Historical Society** on another fun field trip. Kinda reminds me of my days in grade school when we would all load up a school bus and head out to seek a new adventure. Back then we didn't really care where we went, we were just glad that we didn't have to be in school.

In the case of the DHS trip, we won't be missing school, but like those old grade school trips, we may just be surprised by the incredible material that we will see.

On **Saturday February 19th**, we will have a docent-led tour of the **Minneapolis Institute of Arts**. Focus will be on art from the great state of Minnesota, including the Frank Lloyd Wright room from the Little home in Northome, beautiful paintings by notable Minnesota artists and Native American art from the Woodlands region.

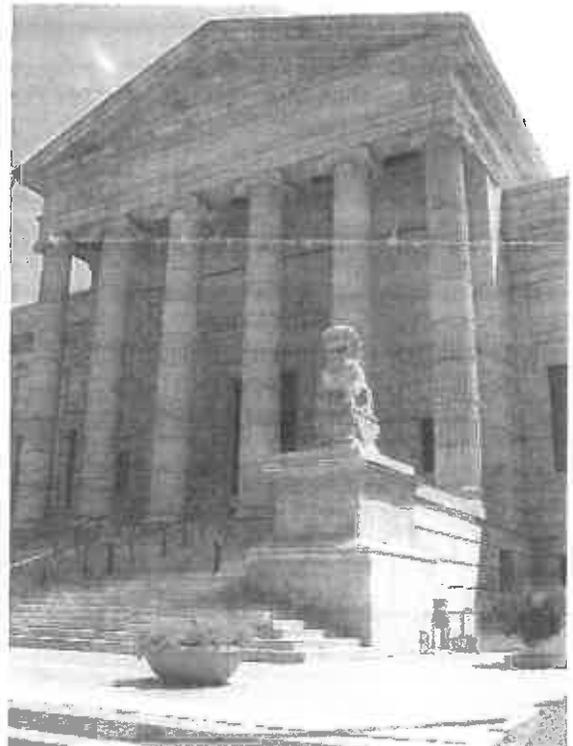
Transportation will be by coach bus from **Deephaven Village Hall**. Bus leaves promptly at **10:30 AM** on Saturday, the 19th of February. Our trip includes lunch at D'Amico and Son's restaurant on the mezzanine level. Lunch will be from 11:00 until 12:15. Meet on the first floor by the gift shop entrance at 12:25 for the one hour guided tour. After the tour you may wander the galleries on your own or visit the special exhibition of Titian and The Golden Age of Venetian Painting (see details at right). The bus will **depart** the MIA at **3:00PM sharp**.

To reserve your seat on the bus, contact Nan Nicolle @ 952-473-3682. If there is no answer, please leave your name, the number of people in your party, and a contact number.

The cost of the trip will be \$20 per person which includes transportation and lunch. Please Pay as you board the bus.

Interested in also visiting the special exhibit "Titian and the Golden Age of Venetian Painting; Masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland"? Tickets are \$6 for MIA members and \$8 for non-members. Audio guides are an additional \$3 for MIA members and \$4 for non-members. Purchase tickets at the MIA Visitors desk, or call 612-870-3000. Reserve a ticket for the 1:30 entry time. Visit www.artsmia.org

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS



DHS

**Acknowledgements –
Current members**

Thank You!

John Ahern
 Harry Allen
 Tim & Pat Alt
 Tom & Nancy Anderson
 Steven & Leah Barnacle

 John & Nan Beard
 Mary Lou Bennis
 David & Marion Bickford
 Don & Moonyeen
 Bongaards
 Dianne H. Brackett
 Sue Brakke
 Dianne Brackett
 Richard & Jean Brown
 Barbara Burgum
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 Bob Gerlicher
 Paul & Ann Gesme
 Marty Gilbert
 Drue Gisvold
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 Barbara & Leslie Hexum
 Gordon & Betty Huber
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 Lewis Sopko
 Peggy Stefan
 Tom Sween
 Bryan & Barbara Sykora
 Robert & Nancy Woodburn
 Dr. Gary & Vicki Wyard
 George & Cynthia Yared

**Take advantage of the books that are available for sale at
City Hall!**

The Excelsior Amusement Park	\$11.95
Life in the Early Days of Cottagewood	\$ 6.25
A Post Card History	\$25.00
Lake Minnetonka 1850 - 2000	\$32.00
Lake Minnetonka 1905	\$20.00
The 1893 Handbook & Souvenir	\$10.00
Tales of the Steamboat Minnehaha 1906—2006	\$20.00
Minnesota Vacation Days	\$34.95
55,000 Sunsets	\$50.00
Minnetonka Yacht Club Centennial 1882-1982	\$15.95
Tornado DVD's	\$20.00

DHS Committee

Finance

Tom Anderson 952-474-3515

Publicity / Publ.

Bob Gerlicher 952-474-7248

Museum Development

Tim Alt 952-470-8889

Mark Read 952-474-4091

Newsletter

Bill Robinson 952-473-3130

Meetings held the last Saturday of each month at 9:00AM in the Deephaven City Council Chambers*.

* Call board member prior to attending.

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MINNEAPOLIS MN 554

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