

SUPERIOR PUBLIC MUSEUMS

Volume 25, Issue 1 March 2025

New Exhibits and New Stories | Jordan Stish, Museum Manager

The Old Firehouse & Police Museum has always had a special place in my heart. When I first worked at Superior Public Museums as an intern, I spent an entire summer cataloging the Firehall collection--by hand. That summer, I learned just how important collections work is to creating successful exhibits. Fast forward five years, the lessons I learned as an intern are just as important now. After the holidays, I began designing some new exhibits to be installed at the Old Firehouse & Police Museum for the Spring 2025 opening. The existing collections, photos, and exhibits are amazing! The volunteers, curators, and directors who came before me did an incredible job laying the foundation for storytelling at the historic firehouse, and I'm so excited and grateful to be able to add to their progress.

I have been able to do some incredible research on our community's history in preparation for these new exhibits. While I was not born in the Twin Ports, I consider Superior to be my home. Getting to research Superior's history has been such a pleasure, and I feel even more connected to my community. I hope these new exhibits at the Old Firehouse & Police Museum

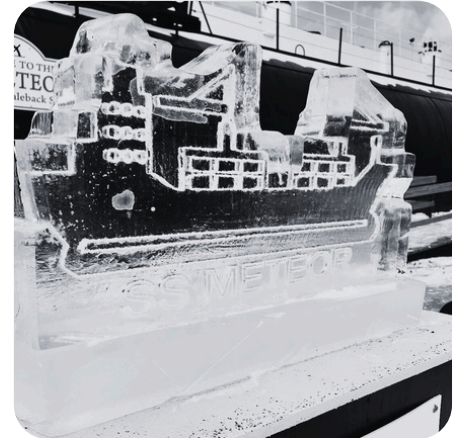


help you feel even more connected to Superior too. I have had the pleasure to work with some of the city's current emergency response officers to create three new exhibits for this upcoming year. Without giving too much away, we will be expanding our stories at the Old Firehouse & Police Museum in a few different ways. New exhibits will feature UW-Superior Campus Safety Officers, K-9 Units, and the experiences of women in the emergency response fields in our community. We will also have new collection items and updated displays, packed with more kid-friendly, hands-on activities. Each of these new exhibits will share more about our city's history and make sure more stories are told and voices are heard. Big things are coming to the Old Firehouse & Police Museum, and I'm so excited to share these new exhibits and stories with you this year.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

SPM at the Lake Superior Ice Festival

This past January, Superior Public Museums participated in the 2025 Lake Superior Ice Festival! We featured half-priced tours all weekend, and we offered two community events on January 25th: a Princess Meet-and-Greet with Sterling Silver Studio and the Humane Society of Douglas County Pet Coronation Ceremony! This year we also sponsored ice sculptures at all three museums.



FAIRLAWN: SUPERIOR'S BEST MUSEUM OF 2024

In 2024, Fairlawn Mansion was selected as the Superior recipient of BusinessRate's Best Museum of 2024 Award! This award is based on customer feedback and positive reviews. To everyone who took the time to leave us a review in 2024, thank you!

WELCOME SPM MEMBERS

OUR FRIENDS WHO RENEWED OR BEGAN
THEIR MEMBERSHIPS FROM
NOVEMBER 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

SPM Benefactor

Terry Lundberg, Poplar, WI

SPM Supporter

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Mary Metzinger, Superior, WI
Jeff Monaghan, Superior, WI
Rose & Al Rentschler, Lake
Geneva, WI
Margaret & Paul Rock, Brooten,
MN

SPM Friendship

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WI
Sue Slattery, Duluth, MN
Bob & Cathy Swanson, Bennett,
WI
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Hudson, WI
Carolyn Sundquist, Duluth, MN

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Fairlawn Supporter

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Superior, WI
HACIL, Hayward, WI

Fairlawn Friendship

Emily & Joshua Steward &
Jeremiah Klotz, Duluth, MN
Kelby & Whitney Sundquist,
Duluth, MN
Ken & Karen Thimm,
Superior, WI

Fairlawn Patron

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Lila Stevens, Two Harbors, MN

Fairlawn Benefactor

Mary Jo & John Manion,
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Meteor Friendship

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Vern Storm, Superior, WI



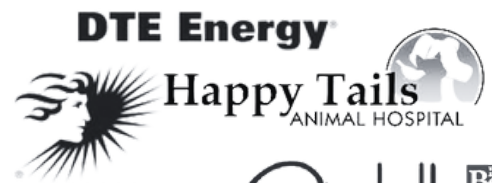
**All of our sites offer
unique items &
museum merchandise.**

Thank you Corporate Members!

Contact us today to learn more about our
Corporate Membership program!



**PERFORMANCE
DRIVEN DESIGN.**



GRAYMONT



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Superior Public Museums

Fairlawn Mansion

SS Meteor Whaleback Ship

Old Firehouse & Police Museum

Nonprofit Organization
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Offices located at:
906 East Second Street
Superior, Wisconsin 54880

Phone: 715-394-5712
Email: info@superiorpublicmuseums.org

The SPM newsletter is published by
Superior Public Museums, Inc.
www.superiorpublicmuseums.org
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TAKE A TOUR

Fairlawn Mansion
906 E. 2nd Street

Tour Schedule:

June 1-September 1

Monday - Saturday:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(last tour at 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(last tour at 4:00 p.m.)

Rates:

Adult: \$12.00

Senior (62+)/College: \$10.00

Active Military w/ ID: \$10.00

Youth (6-17): \$6.00

Children 5 & Under: Free

SS Meteor Whaleback Ship
200 Marina Drive - Barker's Island

Tour Schedule:

Daytime: June 1 thru September 1

Monday - Saturday:

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(last tour at 1:30 p.m.)

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(last tour at 1:30 p.m.)

Evening: June 20 thru August 9

Friday & Saturday:

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

(last tour at 7:30 p.m.)

Rates:

Adult: \$12.00

Senior (62+)/College: \$10.00

Active Military w/ ID: \$10.00

Youth (6-17): \$6.00

Children 5 & Under: Free

Old Firehouse & Police Museum
402 23rd Avenue E.

Tour Schedule:

June 12 thru September 2

Thursday - Sunday:

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(last admission at 3:00 p.m.)

Rates:

13 & up: \$6.00

12 & under: Free

For complete/updated/future schedules & to book your tour in advance, visit:

www.superiorpublicmuseums.org/tours

715-394-5712

info@superiorpublicmuseums.org

Administrative Office is located at
Fairlawn Mansion

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

****Buy a 3 Site Pass at any museum & SAVE!**

COMING UP NEXT...

JOIN SUPERIOR PUBLIC MUSEUMS FOR

Easter Fun at Fairlawn Mansion

GAMES, CRAFTS, FACE PAINT, EGG HUNT, AND MORE!

VIEW AND VOTE ON THE WINNERS OF THE NORTHLAND PEEPS ART CONTEST!

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 | 12:00-3:00
\$5 FOR ADULTS, KIDS FREE!
FAIRLAWN MANSION | 906 E 2ND ST, SUPERIOR, WI 54880

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Scan here for tickets!



Easter Fun at Fairlawn Mansion, Saturday,
April 12th, 12PM-3PM


SUPERIOR PUBLIC MUSEUMS PRESENTS:

HISTORY TALKS AT FAIRLAWN MANSION

Join Superior Public Museums for three special history events at Fairlawn Mansion! History talks will provide a deep dive into special topics regarding the Pattison Family, Victorian Era, and Superior Community History. Refreshments will be provided. If you attend all three talks, you will be entered into a drawing for two free Murder Mystery Event Tickets!

Sunday, February 23rd 2PM: Pattison Family Deep Dive
Sunday, March 23rd 2PM: Women's History Month: Fashion Week at Fairlawn Mansion
Sunday, April 27th 2PM: Victorian Era Death Traps

Book Your Tickets Here!



History Talks at Fairlawn Mansion session 2 and 3

2025: THE YEAR OF THE "FITZ"

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the tragic sinking of the ship, the *SS Edmund Fitzgerald*, also known as "the Fitz." Many people don't know that the *Edmund Fitzgerald's* final journey departed from right here in Superior. To honor those lost that day, including several crew members from the Twin Ports region, the *SS Meteor* will host a temporary *SS Edmund Fitzgerald* exhibit this year, created by Museum Manager, Jordan Stish. We will also be supporting the "Friends of the Fitz" group who is raising money to place a historical marker on Barker's Island in memory of the *SS Edmund Fitzgerald's* crew.



Photography credit: Robert Campbell, Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

EXTRAS



Sold out crowd for the first installment of History Talks.



Set for "A Play that Goes Wrong" modeled after Fairlawn.



The Leprechaun visited us during Feeling Lucky at Fairlawn!



Baking Fairlawn Mansion cookies for History Talks.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE METEOR'S ROUTES: 1961

SPM Tour Guide Dara Fillmore went through the Meteor's log books to learn more about where the ship went on her many voyages. Dara found a cool story about Trip #58 in 1961:



Trip #58- On July 6, 1961, the *Meteor's* route went from East Chicago, IL, to Green Bay, WI with a cargo of gas and oil. At 12:50 pm, near Green Bay, the crew was given a fire drill, a semi-common safety occurrence on board. During the drill, the crew manned their stations while wearing their life belts. The foam system (a fire extinguishing system using foam, similar to thick soap bubbles) was tested during the drill, but no foam was used due to the 'fresh breeze.' By 12:53 pm, the crew was dismissed from the drill, but they weren't quite done with the fun. From 12:53 pm to 12:57 pm, they ran a standby boat drill. The crew gathered near the #7 cargo tank at the aft (back) end of the main deck and instructions were given. Whistles, bells, and phones were all tested before being given the 'all clear.' These events were written into the deck log and signed by the captain, Fred Bollin.

Fred Bollin captained the *Meteor* for a majority of the time between 1946 and 1961, with a few stints captaining some of her astronomically named fleet mates as well, including the *Rocket* and the *Comet* running under the same Cleveland Tankers flag. He spent more time on the *Meteor* between 1965 and her final year of service in 1969.

These logbooks do well in sharing the monotony of short haul trips moving various cargoes and, taking emergency drills in preparation for any potentialities. The captains and crews were dedicated to their work and were detailed in their note taking, and their notes from the log books help us to share their stories today!