GROSSE POINT

LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION FUND

March 2015

Dear Neighbor

On the April 7 election ballot, you will find a request that Evanston's Lighthouse Park District be allowed to increase its tax rate by 13%. Although this percentage may seem high, it would only amount to a modest average of \$14.56 for each household beginning in 2016. Why is such a request necessary?

Under state legislation, districts such as ours are limited to tax increases of 5% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. Over the years, the District's requests for tax levies have been well within these limits. However, tax collections have been much lower, and the District has received far less in tax revenue than required to offset expenses. In fact, during the last five years our tax revenues have fallen by 15.7%. While we have been successful in making up some of this shortfall by securing grants and private donations, the amount is not enough to keep up with the increasing costs of maintaining our parks, programs and facilities of Evanston's iconic Grosse Point Lighthouse, one of only 12 in the nation that have been designated as National Historic Landmarks.

We urge you to support this request by voting "Yes" in favor of the referendum to help insure that we can continue to responsibly preserve and maintain the public properties under our stewardship on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Joe Behles, Lighthouse Park Commissioner
Craig Fochler, Lighthouse Park Commissioner
Bob Janes, Lighthouse Park Commissioner
Rich Katz, Lighthouse Park Commissioner
Janelle Walker, Lighthouse Park Commissioner
Marti Lannert, Lighthouse Park Commissioner