Lighthouse Area Committee
Lighthouse Park District Report

Submitted by Donald J. Terras, Director
Lighthouse Park District
Grosse Point Lighthouse National Landmark

Lighthouse Restoration/Preservation
Processing paperwork continues to go slowly but, after meeting with state officials in May, our tentative schedule for grant-supported restoration work calls for a public local letting in late July or early August with construction in September, October, and November. This schedule will minimize the impact on public programming in the lighthouse area—Beaches, Evanston day camps, Art Center programming, lighthouse tours—and will start at a time when the wildflower gardens will be going dormant. There is a good chance these projects will not be completed this fall. If that happens, whatever work remains will be completed in 2012 as soon as weather permits. The estimated price tag for completion of all planned work is $250,000.

Lighthouse Interpretation
Group tours of the Lighthouse started mid-May this year, and will continue into October—weather and construction permitting. Our weekend tour program started Saturday, June 4 and will continue through September—again, construction permitting. Community outreach lectures include, to date, a presentation at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center’s Claudia Cassidy Theater scheduled for Friday, June 17.

Parks Maintenance
The recently installed sidewalk in North East Park, while a benefit to all, has brought some abuse to the park in the form of unauthorized vehicle (car/truck) traffic that follows the sidewalk from the east park entry in the parking lot to the west entry at Sheridan Road. From there, vehicles cross the parkway and exit onto the street. With all of the wet weather we have had, this traffic has damaged turf in the park. I will get together with Paul D’Agostino to try and find a way to minimize, if not stop, this unauthorized entry of traffic.

Parking
Parking in the cul-de-sac of the Art Center continues to be a problem with seemingly no solution. Without further study, for the time being, I would simply request that consideration be given to installing a “Parking by Permit Only” sign in a visible location before, or at, the fork leading into the cul-de-sac. This, I’m sure, will not be effective with all non-permit traffic. It might, however, deter some non-authorized cars from entering the area and any letup from the current problem is a welcome one.