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Subject: International Dark Sky Annual Report 2015 - Homer Glen, Illinois
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IDSP Annual Report 2015 from Village of Homer Glen - 4th International Dark Sky Community

Dr. John Barentine
 International Dark Sky Association

The Village of Homer Glen in the state of Illinois was recognized as an International Dark Sky Community in the year 2011 as the fourth (4th) community in the world and the first municipality in the State of Illinois to be awarded this honorable designation. In the year 2011, it was the first community east of the Mississippi River to have this honor. Homer Glen received this award because of its "exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting codes, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies.

The Village of Homer Glen is pleased to report the following accomplishments in 2015 as it continues to support the goals of its Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and the goals of the International Dark Sky Association.

Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Amendments

Here is a summary of the important amendments made to the Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance in April and May of 2015 as approved by the Village Board.

The Village has taken the recommendation of IDA by reducing the Kelvin to 3000K or less. The term "full cut off" was changed to "fully shielded" and other vocabulary related to these terms was revised accordingly. The definition of "net acreage" was changed to agree with the Village's definition of net acreage. The term "outdoor dynamic display" was changed to "digital outdoor display". Charts for "Light Calculations" were added to include examples if unbuildable land is involved.

Street Light Replacement Program

Included in the application to become an International Dark Sky Community, a five (5) year street light change out was pledged to be completed and began in the year 2010. Since then 180 drop lens cobra street lights that had varying lamp wattages and CCT's were replaced with 70W HPS flat lens cobra street lights. In the budget year of 2013 to 2014, one hundred thirty-eight (138) post top fixtures were replaced with 70 Watt High Pressure Sodium (HPS) full cut off street light fixtures.

The program as outlined in the application was completed in less than five years. Although the Village has met its promise, the program continues beyond the commitment to correct street lights owned by the Village that do not meet the standards of the Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

In 2015 to complete the post top replacements, the Village continued implementing its street light retrofit program and initiated the fourth (4th) phase of replacing inadequate and inefficient street lights throughout Homer Glen.

Therefore, an additional ninety-six (96) semi-cutoff 100 watt street light fixtures are to be replaced with 70 Watt High pressure Sodium (HPS) Salem fixtures with flat lens and without side panels. The Ordering Number Logic is: SEMT7S0A5FGMC3BL. Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) money by the Illinois Department of Transportation was used to fund the expenditure. This total of 96 is the amount representing post top fixtures to be replaced on the roads that have been accepted in the Village as of this date.

The ninety-six fixtures were ordered in August when the Village accepted the contract with HH Electric Company of Franklin Park, Illinois. The lights are scheduled to be delivered within 9 weeks. *When the installation takes place, photographs will be taken and submitted as part of this report.*

Replacement of Lumec Renaissance Fixtures

Another example of continuing street light replacement and its commitment to IDA is planned for the budget year of April 2015 to 2016 as the Village expands the street light replacement program in its preservation efforts to reduce light pollution. Another type of street light replaced will be the Lumec Renaissance fixtures that have a 14" drop lens. The change will be to a flat lens with 70W High Pressure Sodium (HPS) bulbs. The numbers of fixtures are to be determined in the near future.

Street Light Replacement in Cedar Brooke Subdivision

In the Cedar Brooke Subdivision, approximately seventeen (17) Lumec Renaissance fixtures with 14 inch drop lens will be replaced with fully shielded 70 Watt High Pressure Sodium fixtures. Letter of Credit (LOC) funds will be used as the funding source when changing to more efficient lighting and to comply with the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Outreach Programs – Stargazing – Star Parties

The Village continues the very successful biannual community outreach stargazing program or star parties which began in 2008 to provide education to the public about amazing opportunities that the night sky provides. Approximately, 300 visitors attended the stargazing on July 24. To date more than 2,450 people have come to the Trantina Farm owned by Homer Township to view the stars through telescopes graciously provided at no charge by these amateur astronomy groups: Kankakee Area Stargazers, Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group. *(Attached is a newspaper article highlighting the June, 2015 event.)* The events are organized by the Homer Glen Environment Committee with the assistance of Homer Township, Homer Glen Emergency Management Association, and the Will County Public School District 92. The next Homer Glen stargazing event will take place on October 23, 2015 from 8 pm to 10 pm. *(The article from the Homer Glen Web Site follows this report.)*

Stargazing photographs for July 2015 and publicity are included as attachments.

Since the initial Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was created in 2007, the Village of Homer Glen has received many inquiries about its ordinance and stargazing events and also from those who wish to know more about the night sky and reducing light pollution.

The Village of Homer Glen is very pleased to share its lighting ordinance with other individuals, organizations, and municipalities. This document serves as an example for other municipalities to follow, adopt, amend or use according to their needs and purposes. Homer Glen is about 40 miles from Chicago and in the halo of this large municipality which is a city of perpetual twilight. Nonetheless, the night and the night sky can still be recognized as an important natural resource. Community efforts and determination are worth the price to protect and preserve this valuable resource and culture for generations to come.

If you need any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sabo,
Environment Committee
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Village of Homer Glen
815-735-5590

Debra Briggs Luginbuhl
Environment Committee Advisor
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Stargazing Information from the Homer Glen Web Site – Event October 23,

2015

Stargazing

Stargazing at Trantina Farm - October 23, 2015

Experience Stargazing at the Trantina Farm and celebrate the International Dark Sky recognition of the Village of Homer Glen by spending an autumn evening with the stars!

Hosting

The Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township will host a fall stargazing event on Friday, October 23 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Homer Township's historic Trantina Farm in Homer Township. The Trantina Farm is located at 15744 West 151st Street in Homer Township East of the intersection of Gougar Road and 151st Street. The event is coordinated by the Homer Glen [Environment Committee](#) with the assistance of the Homer Glen [Emergency Management Agency](#), Homer Township and Will County School District 92.

8th Biannual Stargazing

This is the 8th year for the biannual stargazing event at the Trantina Farm. To date over 2,450 people have come to the Farm to experience the beauty of the stars at night. During this fall's stargazing event, constellations and celestial views will be highlighted thanks to amateur astronomers from the Kankakee Area StarGazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group. These groups will have their large telescopes available for free viewing. They will feature astronomical beauties such as Casseopia, the Andromeda Galaxy M31, The Great Square of Pegasus, and the Milky Way.

Dark Sky Community in Illinois

As the 4th International Dark Sky Community, the fall stargazing event is a way for the Village to bring the wonders of the night sky to the public. The Village is the first to be designated as a Dark Sky Community in Illinois and also the first community East of the Mississippi River. The Village received this award from the International Dark Sky association because of its "exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting codes, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies".

Contact Us

For more information call the Village of Homer Glen at 708-301-0632.

Praise Regarding the Village's Night Sky Protection from a Homer Glen Resident

"For the second year in a row I attended the Stargazing event held at Trantina Farm with my grandson, Liam, who is 8 years old. Thanks to this event, he has become an astronomy buff and is saving his money for his own telescope. The number of people that attended this year was impressive (and included a number of neighbors), well overflowing the regular parking lot. The astronomy members from the Kankakee Area Stargazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association, and the South West Astronomy Observers Group, came from some distance to share their knowledge and enthusiasm and are an impressive group. They provide a great variety of sights from the Moon to Venus and Saturn and the Ring Nebula. Every one of these astronomy volunteers commented on how great the sky was in Homer Glen. A few of them talked about how difficult it is anymore to find any dark sky in the metropolitan area.

Our commitment to minimizing light pollution in our community is a great asset and one that contributes to our quality of life. Once lost, we can never get it back, so thank you for your continuing efforts in protecting our environment." Ken Lomasney
Homer Glen, IL

[Naperville Astronomical Association](#)

[South West Astronomy Observers Group](#)

[Kankakee Area Star Gazers](#)

Gazing at the stars

THOMAS CZAJA, Editor

The stargazing event held last month at Trantina Farm at 15744 W. 151st St. in Homer Township had nearly 300 people attend to check out the stars and their constellations, according to Sharon Sweas, Village trustee who has served as chairman of the Environment Committee that helped lead the event.

The night was put together and hosted by the Village of Homer Glen Environment Committee, along with volunteers from the Village's Emergency Management Agency, who helped attendees park in the darkened conditions. District 92 also shut off the lights at its nearby school building.

"We had three astronomy groups and almost 15 telescope stations set up to view various planets and stars," Sweas said. "People were able to see Saturn pretty well along with other various planets and stars."

Sweas said that some of the telescopes were so large

that people had to bring stepladders to take a peak through them.

"We've had 2,000 people attend since we began [the stargazing]," Sweas said of the event that is run twice a year, weather permitting. "[Humanity] has viewed the skies and heavens since the beginning of time. Because of light pollution diminishing our ability to see the stars, this is something amazing to see, with kids and adults amazed to see the stars."

According to Sweas, people like being able to individually speak with an astronomer about what they are seeing. She said people's reactions to seeing Saturn's rings are always memorable.

The event was co-hosted by the Kankakee Area Stargazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association and the Southwest Astronomy Observers Group. The next stargazing will take place at 8 p.m. on Oct. 23 at Trantina Farm.





