As the fourth International Dark Sky Community, the report to the International Dark Sky Association includes support for the goals set forth in the Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, support for goals of the International Dark Sky Association, describes Street Light Retrofit, two outreach Stargazing programs involving public participation, building project, signage, and creation of a lighting brochure during 2016.

Replacement of Lumec Renaissance Fixtures - Street Light Retrofit
Since the “five year street light retrofit” was completed and resulted in changing to 70W HPS flat lens cobra street lights from drop lenses and also changing to 70W HPS full cut off post top fixtures from those producing glare from unshielded bulbs, it resulted in 318 improved light fixtures. After completing its promise of the five year program, the Village continues to move forward to include replacing other street lights which do not meet the standards of Homer Glen’s Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

For the 2016/2017 budget year, Homer Glen has allotted $100,000 to retrofit the 14 inch drop lens Lumec Renaissance light fixtures with flat lens. Approximately, 120 fixtures are to be replaced with 70W HPS Salem fixtures with flat lenses within subdivisions. The Village is researching the most economical way to retrofit the fixtures.

Outreach Programs – Stargazing – Star Parties
The fall Stargazing event for October 23, 2015 at Homer Township’s historic Trantina Farm was cancelled due to inclement weather. This was disappointing to the public, the three astronomer organizations as well as the Homer Glen Environment Committee which is responsible for organizing the event along with the assistance of Homer Township government, the Homer Glen Emergency Management Commission, and Will County School District 92. The astronomers represented are from the Kankakee Area Stargazers, Naperville Astronomical Association, and South West Astronomy Observers Group.

The spring Stargazing event held on June 10, 2016 was very well attended by the public as far away as Peoria, Illinois. The Environment Committee received an inquiry from Rica Cuff, Program Manager for the “Fifty Plus Club” of the Hoffman Estates Park District. The park district arranged bus transportation to bring about 50 people by bus for viewing. (Homer Glen website Stargazing announcement and Rica Cuff’s thank you letter included at the end of this report.) (See attachments for 2 photos and news release – 2 pages.)

The fall Stargazing event will take place on Friday, October 7, between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at the Trantina Farm, weather permitting.

Signage
The Homer Glen Environment Committee plans to have signs installed at entrances to the Village to bring attention to Homer Glen status as a Dark Sky Community. Several designs have been presented for evaluation and a decision will be made by the end of the year.
The building project for The Glen Oaks Center on 159th Street near South Bell Road involves two office buildings. The development was approved prior to the adoption of the Lighting Ordinance in 2007. The owner has agreed to comply with the ordinance and the building is dark sky compliant. To date, only one of two buildings has been completed.

Creation of a Lighting Brochure
The Lighting Brochure created by the Environment Committee includes such topics as the goals of the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, the negative consequences of glare, guidelines for outdoor lighting, examples of good lighting fixtures that reduce light pollution and those that do not, examples of lighting flags, lighting definitions, and references sources and credits. (See attachment for brochure.)

Dark Sky Contacts
Since the inception of the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance in 2007, the Village has continued to receive many inquiries about the ordinance, reducing light pollution, stargazing in Homer Glen and about other locations sought by the general public, high school and college students, municipalities, and photographers. From the beginning, the intention was for the ordinance to serve as an example to follow, adopt, amend or use according to the requirements or purposes of individuals, organizations or municipalities.

The Importance of Being Night
The night and the night sky must be recognized as an important natural resource. There are generations who have never witnessed the wonders of the night sky without the cover of sky glow or pollution. Community efforts and determination are worth the price to protect and preserve this valuable resource and culture for future generations. Chicago is a city of perpetual twilight and Homer Glen, approximately 40 miles away, is in the halo of this large municipality. Fortunately, Homer Glen still has a dark enough and convenient enough location to attract people.

Sincerely,

Margaret Sabo,
Environment Committee
IDA Contact for the
Village of Homer Glen
815-735-5590

Debra Briggs Luginbuhl
Environment Committee Advisor
928-526-8538
Stargazing Information from the Homer Glen Web Site for Event October 7, 2016

Stargazing

Stargazing at Trantina Farm - October 7, 2016
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 an autumn stargazing event on Friday, October 7 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 10th biannual stargazing event at the Trantina Farm. To date over 2,500 people have come to the Farm to experience the beauty of the stars at night. During this fall 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 Casscpedia, 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 – Resident Homer Glen, IL

- Naperville Astronomical Association
- South West Astronomy Observers Group
- Kankakee Area Star Gazers
Hoffman Estates Park District 50+ Club

From: Rica Cuff [mailto:rcuff@heparks.org]
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 3:25 PM
Subject: FW: Rica's photos at Stargazing Party June 2016

What a thrill it was for all of us from the Hoffman Estates Park District 50+ Club to experience a Stargazing Party with you, last Friday evening. So many of our participants expressed great pleasure with everything from our dining experience at Homer Café to the gracious welcome and introduction to the stargazing party concept by members of your group.

The astronomers were eager to engage us in their work. And, we were delightfully engaged. As some shared with me, and I agreed, this is an experience they would have never had had it not been for this scheduled outing. Margaret, I thank you for seeing that I received the information I needed when you and I followed up from my initial inquiry in late 2015!

I will be checking in again with our participants to obtain additional photos taken that night and will then forward them to you. I look forward to receiving a copy of the write up in your local newspaper.

Bravo to all of you for the great work you have done, and continue to do, toward helping to save our environment!

Sincerely,

Rica Cuff
50+ Program Manager
Hoffman Estates Park District
t 847-885-7500 x626 | f 847-884-1475 | e rcuff@heparks.org
Astronomers, stargazers can see the heavens at Tramline Farm.

THE HOME HORIZON | June 16, 2016 | NEWS
by escalating outdoor lighting levels in order to preserve the Night Sky as a Natural Resource. Prevent trespass from other towns, which creates a perpetual twilight at night.

• Prevent light trespass by escalating outdoor lighting levels in order to preserve the Night Sky as a Natural Resource.

• Do not light up the sky! When you need light, turn it on. Shine down where you need it. Prevent excessive artificial lighting and in recognition for excellence in architectural and aesthetic design, the International Dark Sky Association has acknowledged the Village of Homer Glen as a "Model Community in the World" (IDSA). In 2011, the International Dark Sky Association recognized the Village of Homer Glen for its outdoor lighting policies in recognition for excellence in architectural and aesthetic design, the International Dark Sky Association has acknowledged the Village of Homer Glen as a "Model Community in the World" (IDSA). In 2011, the International Dark Sky Association recognized the Village of Homer Glen for its outdoor lighting policies.

• Prevent excessive artificial lighting and in recognition for excellence in architectural and aesthetic design, the International Dark Sky Association has acknowledged the Village of Homer Glen as a "Model Community in the World" (IDSA). In 2011, the International Dark Sky Association recognized the Village of Homer Glen for its outdoor lighting policies.
Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) is a way of describing color such as the color of paint, a flow, and the light from a lamp (light bulb). CCT is described in degrees Kelvin rather than Fahrenheit. CCT is not about brightness. A warm (low) CCT lamp color produces less glare. A cold (high) CCT lamp color produces more glare. A warm CCT color improves safety and security, is easier on the aging human eye, and reduces sky glow.

Glare is a visual disturbance and negatively affects the eyes. Glare reduces the ability to see signs, people, and other safety cues. The human eye requires time to adapt from light to dark conditions. The safety and welfare of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists depends upon the reduction of glare.

Promote Public Safety and Security
Take the “Glare” Out. Unshielded Fixture Prevents Visibility. Shielded Light Fixture Reveals the Person at the Gate.

Outdoor lighting is intended to enhance safety and security at night. Too much lighting can have the opposite effect. Visibility should always be the goal. Glare from bright unshielded lamps decreases safety. It shines into our eyes and diminishes the ability of our eyes to adapt.

Lighting Facts
Per Bulb
Brightness 820 Lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost $7.23 Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh
Cost depends on rates and use
Life Based on 3 hrs/day 1.4 years
Light Appearance 300 Cool 1/3 Years
Energy Used 60 watts
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh
Cost of Lighting the Flag at Night

What Light Fixtures Should be Used? “Fully Shielded” Fixtures Direct the Light Down! Put the light where you need it!