

IDSP Annual Report 2016 from Village of Homer Glen 4th International Dark Sky Community

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 Glen Oaks Center

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 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 – 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



FIGURING OUT THE FESTIVAL
Homer Community Fest to arrive next weekend
with variety of attractions, Page 4



PICKING A NAME Village Board settles
on what to call park property outside future
Village Hall, Page 5

GONE FISHIN' Youngsters catch
fish at derby that has become church
tradition, Page 14



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EYES TO THE SKY

Stargazing returns to Trantina Farm for a night of celestial viewings, Page 3
Diana Mendez glances in a telescope at the stargazing event held at Trantina Farm Friday, June 10, in Homer Glen. PAUL BERGSTROM/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

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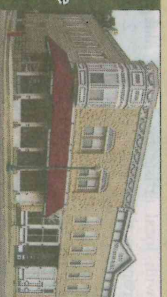
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COVER STORY

Astronomers, stargazers scan the heavens at Trantina Farm

Stargazing event continues to be an educational draw

TIM HADAC, Freelance Reporter

Astronomer Jim Hopkins looked skyward at 9 p.m. and made a few predictions about the Friday, June 10 stargazing to a group of senior citizens who had come all the way from Hoffman Estates to historic Trantina Farm on 151st Street.

"I'm a bit concerned about that one cloud there," he said as he scanned the nighttime sky. "But if it drifts away, and the weather cooperates — and that's a big 'if' — we'll get a good view of three planets tonight: Jupiter, Mars and Saturn."

"No, wait, make that four. Anyone know the fourth planet we'll see tonight?" he asked, as his audience shrugged their shoulders. "Look down between your toes. It's Earth."

The seniors smiled and chuckled at the old astronomy joke. In total, several hundred men, women and children came to witness celestial bodies at the two-hour event.

The stargazing celebration was hosted by the Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township. It was coordinated by the Homer Glen Environment Committee, with assistance from the Homer Glen Emergency Management Agency and Will County School District 92. Since 2008, the twice-a-year events have attracted more than 2,500 visits.

At the center of the event were about a dozen astronomers from three groups: the Kankakee Area Stargazers, the Naperville Astronomical Association and the South

West Astronomy Observers Group. They brought telescopes of various sizes and abilities, and people stood in line to get a glimpse of the heavens through their viewfinders.

"This is fun, but it's also educational, especially for kids who read about the stars and planets in school but usually don't get to actually see the planets," said Lockport resident Jim Gandurski, there with his wife, Treca, and children, Jaycie, 11, and Kalina, 8, all looking at the moon through a viewfinder. "In a way, you could say it's an outdoor classroom."

Some of the youngest children seemed convinced they could see the sights without telescopes.

"Mommy, is that Mars?" asked Homer Township resident Chase Hansen, 6, as he pointed west. "It's red, and it's bright."

His mom, Tracy, broke it to him gently.

"No, honey, that's not

Mars," she said with a smile as she looked at the red light flashing high atop a Lockport water tower a mile or so away.

Tracy also said she felt a certain wonderment when using the telescopes.

"What I find interesting about this event is how it's like a time machine," she said. "You look through a telescope and see a galaxy that's several million light years away. Then you realize you're looking at a galaxy as it existed when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. That's amazing when you ponder it."

The astronomers in attendance appeared to enjoy the event as much as anyone else.

"Astronomy is something you love to do and something you love to share with others," said Chris Trzeziak, an information technology, disaster recovery specialist who grew up in Evergreen

Park and recently moved to Homer Glen. "There's a lot of 'wow,' a lot of 'Hey, come here, you've got to see this.'"

One reason he said he moved to Homer Glen is darkness, which is something treasured by the community. The Village has taken actions to minimize light pollution and is the first community east of the Mississippi River to earn a "Dark Sky Community" designation from the International Dark Sky Association.

Its 2007 outdoor lighting ordinance has served as a model for other communities.

"That's a real feather in Homer Glen's cap," added Hopkins, a retired teacher from Plainfield. "If you want a view of the skies as clear as you'll get here, you'd have to drive about 75 miles away, down I-55. For a community so close to Chicago to achieve that designation is

impressive."

But the feather is not something Homer Glen takes for granted, added Joe Turinse and Gary White, both members of the Village's Environment Committee.

"This is an issue we address almost continuously, in one way or another," Turinse said. "We're going back and forth with the State right now over how much lighting will be needed at intersections after 159th Street is widened. We're also concerned about the light coming from the new warehouses in Lockport, right over there on Gougar Road. In Homer Glen, we don't want dress almost continuously, and won't accept the kind of light pollution you see in Chicago and some of these other towns."



Mike Giannoni looks through a telescope during the stargazing event hosted at Trantina Farm on Friday, June 10, in Homer Glen. PAUL BERGSTRÖM/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

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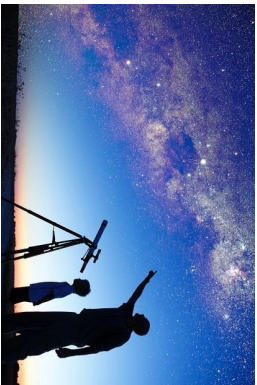


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Stargazing

Stargazing has been established as an educational outreach program which is held twice a year that increases public involvement, education, awareness, and appreciation of the night sky.

References

Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting www.illinoislighting.org/
 Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition www.flagstaffdarkskies.org
 International Dark Sky Association www.darksky.org
 Homer Glen Outdoor Lighting Ordinance www.homerglenil.org
 U.S. News and World Report, "Turning Out the Lights," <http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/2008/03/14/turning-out-the-lights>
 Chicago Wilderness Magazine, Spring 2008, Page 10 <http://c.wilderness.org/sites/www.chicagowilderness.org/resource/collection/0625B160-07C5-482A-8BDF-D86381B9FC77/2008-Spring.pdf>



MINIMIZE LIGHT POLLUTION

Homer Glen contends with sky glow from other towns, which creates a perpetual twilight at night.

Light pollution can be reversed without sacrificing safety or security and is cost effective.

Village of Homer Glen

4th International Dark Sky Community in the World

In 2011, the International Dark Sky Association declared the Village of Homer Glen as the 4th International Dark Sky Community (IDSC) in the world. The Village is the third community in the United States and the first community to do so east of the Mississippi River. *IDA acknowledges that the Village has shown "exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through implementation of quality lighting codes, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies"* - and in recognition for excellence in regulating excessive artificial lighting.

Commercial and Industrial Properties

New commercial and industrial lighting projects are submitted to the Village as well as any lighting changes and improvements on existing property in commercial and industrial zones. The Village of Homer Glen adopted an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance in December 2007.

The Ordinance Provides Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting

Lighting

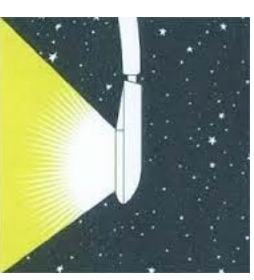
Homer Glen Recognizes the Night Sky as a Natural Resource

- Eliminates the need for commercial and industrial properties to compete for visual attention by escalating outdoor lighting levels in order to prevent "Light Wars"
- Protects residents and business owners from the trespass of excessive and misdirected light from adjacent property owners known as "light trespass"
- Promotes the safety and welfare of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists who benefit from the reduction of glare
- Reduces the detrimental effects to wildlife that depend on the natural cycle of day and night for survival
- Protects neighbors from unwanted light spilling onto their property
- Promotes sound environmental policies that serve as an example for reducing the amount of energy consumed and money spent on over-lighting and natural resources used
- Reduces light projected into the night sky where light is not needed
- Policies benefit residents and businesses
- Serves as a positive model for municipalities in the United State to follow Homer Glen's lead and "Reach for the Stars"

Village of Homer Glen

SHINE DOWN

WHEN YOU LIGHT UP!



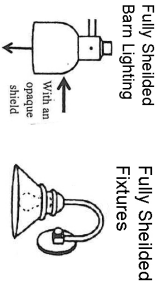
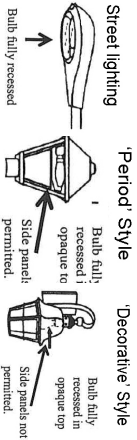
Put Light Where You Need It
 When You Need It
 Do Not Light Up the Sky!

- Conserve Energy, Save Money
 - Wasted Energy = Wasted Money
 - Minimize Glare
 - Minimize Light Pollution
 - Promote Public Safety
 - Light Your Property, Not Your Neighbors
 - Prevent Light Wars
 - Beautify Commercial Areas
 - Preserve the Night Sky as a Natural Resource
 - Prevent Negative Effects on Wildlife
- "Down Lighting" is consistent with established professional standards and recommendations.*

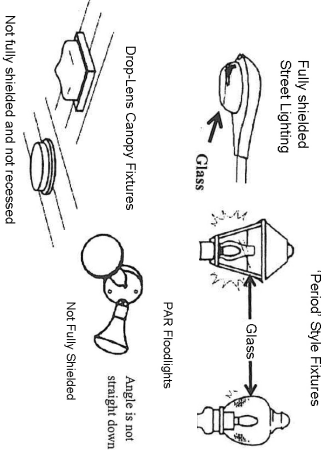
What Light Fixtures Should be Used? “Fully Shielded” Fixtures Direct the Light Down!

Put the light where you need it!
Direct the light down—not up or sideways

Examples of Fully Shielded Fixtures



Examples of NON Fully Shielded Fixtures



Be kind to your neighbors.
Shine on your property.
Don't trespass with your light.

What Are Watts?
Watts are a measurement of energy use.

What Are Lumens?
A lumen is a unit of measurement of visible light from a light bulb. Think lumens not watts.

Where Do I Find Them?
Lumens and watts are typically specified by the manufacturer on the package of the bulb.

Typical values for incandescent bulbs are “approximate”.
60 Watts equals 800 Lumens
75 Watts equals 1100 Lumens
100 Watts equals 1600 Lumens
Example of a light bulb package

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	<div> <div>Warm</div> <div>2700 K</div> <div>Cool</div> </div>	
Energy Used	60 watts	

To save energy costs, find the bulbs with the light output you need, then choose the one with the lowest watts.

Lighting the Flag at Night



Direct the lighting only on the flag .

A solar or electric light can be mounted on the top of the flag pole to aim the light down on the flag.

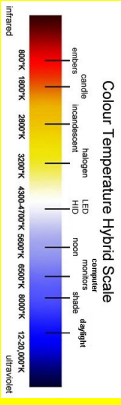


Glare and Visibility

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 lights decreases safety
- It shines into our eyes and diminishes the ability of our eyes to adapt

What is Correlated Color Temperature “CCT”
Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) is a way of describing color such as the color of paint, a flower, 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

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