

## PRESS RELEASE

[Barrington Hills, IL] The Board of Trustees of the Village of Barrington Hills adopted a proclamation on the eve of the start of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009, proclaiming the benefits of being in a “Dark Sky” community. Beginning in January 2009 and throughout the year, the astronomical communities will identify the wonderment of the planets, stars and even meteor showers. IYA is especially significant as it is the four hundred year anniversary when Galileo Galilei first observed through his telescope the moon and immediate planets. With basic field binoculars the residents of Barrington Hills can observe such astronomical events as they will be identified throughout the year.

[http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/IYA2009/index\\_IYA.html](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/IYA2009/index_IYA.html)

This year-long celebration of astronomy does denote a degradation of the observable night sky. In the time of Galileo the term “Milky Way” was worthy of its label as it could be seen by the unaided eye to be a magnitude of such brilliance as to cast a shadow of any observer. However, today in urban areas with the unshielded disbursement of artificial light, the Milky Way is an object in name only and to some, it is not even visible. The Board of Trustees of Barrington Hills wanted its residents and those who can still appreciate the complexity and wonderment of the night sky, to participate in the events throughout the International Year of Astronomy in 2009.

<http://www.astronomy2009.org>

Proclamation Attached

Details

12/16/2008