



Village Hall
Barrington Hills, Illinois

«PROCLAMATION»

BACKGROUND The elimination of concentrated light pollution can conserve energy, reduce glare, maintain desirable community character, safeguard wildlife in their natural environment and restore the view of the starry night sky. To get a sense for the magnitude of modern light pollution, consider: When Galileo Galilei studied the Milky Way 400 years ago, it was so bright that it cast shadows on the ground. Today most Americans no longer live in a place where they can see it with the naked eye, and as the number of people living in dense urban areas continues to rise, more of the world's population will not know what is meant by the term "Milky Way".

WHEREAS, the planets, stars and moon as seen by Galileo Galilei in 1609 is still as much a part of the sky over Barrington Hills as it was in his time; and

WHEREAS, the visual splendor of those celestial bodies while still in the ferment of the Dark Sky are now obscured and obviated by the ever expanding practice of upward artificial lighting of the modern age; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the International Year of Astronomy will return the attention of the world to that splendor seen by Galileo and restore a view for some for only one night by the simple curtailment of such illumination; and

WHEREAS, the participation in International Year of Astronomy events is a way of re-acquainting the residences of the year long, as opposed to one day, beauty of the Dark Sky so fervently referenced in the Village's Comprehensive Plan as a community attribute, itself a uniquely rare characteristic amidst a metropolitan urban area.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ITS PRESIDENT, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE DARK SKY OVER THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS A FITTING ATTRIBUTE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY IN 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Village of Barrington Hills to be affixed this 15th day of December, 2008.


MUNICIPAL SEAL

ATTEST:


Deputy Village Clerk



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS


Robert G. Abboud,
Village President