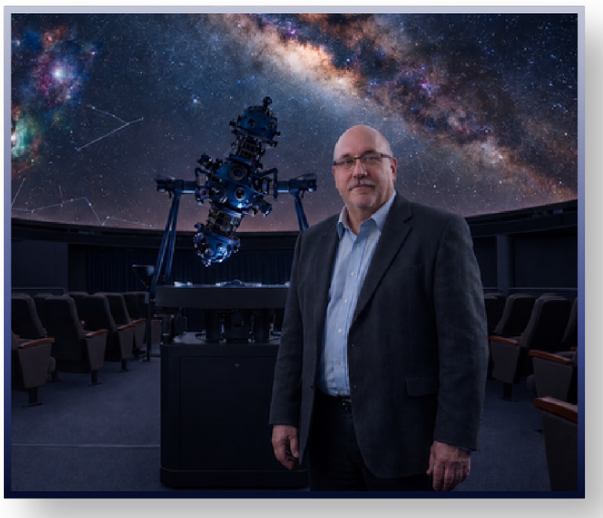
An Introduction to Night Skies



As you may know, the Borough Commissioners have been discussing the concept of "light trespass" (when a neighbor's light or light from a streetlight shines onto your property), and further discussions about nighttime light will be taking place.

Also, the Environmental Commission and the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center (CMPASC) are jointly hosting a speaker about Dark Skies on **Friday, July 24 from 6:30-7:30 pm at CMPASC**. There is no cost! We hope you will join us. To learn more about the speaker, Jim Webster, click here.

In order to provide some background for residents about nighttime light, in addition to co-hosting the lecture on July 24, the Environmental Commission will be sharing a series of articles about ways to minimize nighttime light, as well as the impact that too much light has on our environment.

This first article will introduce you to the work of the DarkSky International Organization.

DarkSky International formed in 1988 to combat the growing issue of light pollution and to protect the night sky. The organization formed for three primary reasons:

- Protecting Astronomy: Growing artificial light from expanding cities was severely hindering the ability of professional and amateur astronomers to view the universe.
- Preserving Human Health: Unregulated artificial light at night (ALAN) was found to disrupt human circadian rhythms and biological clocks.
- Safeguarding Ecosystems: Constant nighttime lighting was causing disruptions to wildlife migration patterns, breeding cycles, and predator-prey dynamics.

This organization developed five principles of lighting. They are:

The Environmental Commission encourages you to attend the lecture on July 24 and to be on the lookout for future articles about this important topic.