

Adhering to the Village's Lighting Ordinance Helps Turtles and the Environment

Please be mindful that the Village has an ordinance regarding exterior lighting to protect nesting sea turtles during nesting season. Lights that shine onto a nesting beach can draw turtle hatchlings away from the ocean and off the beach, where they have a slim chance of survival. Beach lights can also scare away females crawling ashore to nest.

Here is an excerpt from the ordinance:

Sec. 10-83. Beaches; new developments; exterior lighting.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any individual to illuminate, by artificial light, any portion of the beach within the confines of the village between the hours of sunset and sunrise from May 1 through October 31 except by such frequencies of red light as do not disturb nesting or hatchling sea turtles.

(b) No new development within the village shall be undertaken except that which includes exterior lighting which shall conform to the requirements set forth in this article.

(c) No exterior lighting of any kind shall be permitted except the following: low profile luminaries and baffled lights, except that pole lights shall be permitted in commercial areas; marinas, lighthouses, fire stations, the public rights-of-way or multi-family areas located more than 100 feet landward of the stable line of natural vegetation. The lighting standard shall be approved by the village council. In addition, low voltage up-lights are permitted in commercial areas, lighthouses, fire stations, the public right-of-way and multi-family areas located more than 600 feet landward of the stable line of vegetation along beach and turtle habitats. Such lights are also permitted in the marina area if located more than 150 feet landward of the stable line of vegetation. These low-voltage up-lights shall be rated at a maximum of 50 watt/850 CP (candle power) and shall be oriented such that the thrown light is reflected against the natural vegetation. Non-reflected light is not allowed. (Full ordinance [HERE](#)).

These lighting regulations also help curtail light pollution, reduce skyglow, and improve the nighttime environment for viewing and enjoying the night sky, protect the viewshed of historic Old Baldy, minimize adverse off-site impacts of lighting such as light trespass and obtrusive light, and conserve energy and resources.

