



Office of the Town Manager  
Christopher E. Martino

# STAFF REPORT

**Warrenton Town Council**  
Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Roy Francis, Ward 1  
William Semple, Ward 2  
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3  
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4  
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5  
Paul Mooney, At Large  
David McGuire, At Large

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Dark Skies Presentation
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Receive the Information
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Town Council, Mr. Larry Kovalik (Ward 3)
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	None

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Torney Van Acker from the Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection will offer the Council a Dark Skies presentation.

## BACKGROUND

The preservation of dark skies is a core environmental priority for Rappahannock County, championed significantly by the Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection (RLEP) and advocates like Torney Van Acker. This initiative focuses on mitigating light pollution—the excessive or misdirected artificial light that obscures the night sky. Beyond simply protecting the aesthetic beauty of the Milky Way, dark sky preservation is critical for maintaining the county's rural character, protecting nocturnal wildlife habitats, and supporting human health by preserving natural circadian rhythms. Through community education and the promotion of "smart" lighting practices, the RLEP seeks to ensure that the night sky remains a protected natural resource for the benefit of all residents and the local ecosystem.

<http://www.savingdarks skies.com/>

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Receive the information from the presentation.

## Service Level/Collaborative Impact

This item has been requested by Councilmen Kovalik.

## Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

The presentation does not directly apply to current policy direction or Warrenton Plan 2040.

## Fiscal Impact

A fiscal impact analysis has not been completed for this item. A presentation does not impact the budget unless actions are taken by the Council.

**Legal Impact**

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A legal impact analysis has not been conducted.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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- 2.
- 3.