

# Winter solstice marked on Green Bay Trail with traditional dance, family walk

By KARIE ANGELL LUC

DEC 23, 2021 AT 5:08 PM PIONEER PRESS -GLENCOE NEWS



From left, Janis Pozzi-Johnson of Evanston, Jan Gerdin of Glenview and Betty Cittadine of Kenilworth are among attendees at the Winter Solstice Parade on Dec. 21, 2021 in Glencoe at Shelton Park. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

After a year off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Winter Solstice Parade took place Dec. 21 in Glencoe at Shelton Park.

The celebration marked the longest period of darkness this year, signaling the beginning of later sundowns into 2022 until daylight saving time extends sunshine even longer. Sunset on Dec. 21 was at 4:22 p.m.

People gathered at 5 p.m. at Shelton Park where they could access the Green Bay Trail for a festive, free walk. Many attendees arrived as families, some with children nestled and tucked warmly in strollers.

Folks were encouraged to decorate their dogs, strollers or wagons with lights and bright accessories that glowed. Many people wore battery-powered holiday lights as festive necklaces.

The evening began with a traditional dance performance by Glencoe residents.

The Abbots Bromley Horn Dance is a procession historically performed in the village of Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire, England, in the hope that hunters would have a fruitful season.



Betty Cittadine of Kenilworth, center, is among attendees at the 6th annual Winter Solstice Parade on Dec. 21, 2021 in Glencoe at Shelton Park. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

After the dance presentation, attendees could depart along Green Bay Trail to brighten the trail with light and to celebrate the promise of longer days. Festivities ended along a Shelton Park fire pit where hot chocolate and cookies were served.

The Winter Solstice Parade was sponsored by the Friends of the Green Bay Trail and the Glencoe Park District.

“We have very, very enthusiastic residents and supporters,” said Meridith Clement of Glencoe, Friends of the Green Bay Trail trustee and event coordinator.

Clement said the trail has been a safe option for people to find recreation during the coronavirus pandemic.

“This is perfect, in fact, the trail received substantial use and substantial appreciation for being so established and available last year,” Clement said, recalling the 2020 pandemic closure that spring.



Attendees walk in the annual Winter Solstice Parade on Dec. 21, 2021 in Glencoe at Shelton Park. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

The trail has a benefit of, “fresh air, which, as we know, has substantial health benefits,” Clement added.

Jo Ann Kimzey of Glencoe was among attendees wearing festive holiday lights. Kimzey hoped people would, “come and have fun,” she said.

David Leibson of Glencoe wore a set of blinking colorful holiday lights.

“The town and the Friends have done a great job of keeping Glencoe known for its parks and for its green spaces and for the native plants that are grown along the trail, and it’s sort of like an end of the year celebration,” Leibson said. “It is just fun and it’s great for kids.”

Janis Pozzi-Johnson of Evanston and Jan Gerdin of Glenview were among people warming up around the fire pit.

“It’s really fun,” Gerdin said. This year was the first time for Gerdin to experience the Glencoe winter solstice event.

“Being outside during COVID, I feel OK about that,” Pozzi-Johnson said.

Betty Cittadine of Kenilworth, also an attendee, felt she was, “Connecting with other people which I think is important around COVID time.”

For more information about the trail, visit [www.gbtrail.org](http://www.gbtrail.org).



Betty Cittadine of Kenilworth is among attendees at the Winter Solstice Parade on Dec. 21, 2021 in Glencoe at Shelton Park. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

*Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.*