

Proposed Crystal Lake Village Key Facts and Information

- 1. The Montcalm Alliance – Montcalm County’s economic and community development organization – has been asked to insure that accurate information is regularly provided to the public regarding the proposed establishment of the Village of Crystal Lake. This is the first of several regular Information Bulletins that will be provided to the public.**
- 2. *Current Status of Proposed Establishment of Crystal Lake Village* – the Michigan State Boundary Commission has the final legal description of the proposed boundaries of the Village of Crystal Lake. The Boundary Commission will vote to approve the proposed boundaries at their May, 2006 meeting (for a map of proposed boundaries go to www.villageofcrystallake.org). If approved by the Boundary Commission, the Director of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services issues a signed order concurring with the Boundary Commission’s decision.**
- 3. *Right of Referendum* – Registered voters residing in the area approved for incorporation as the Village of Crystal lake have 45 days from the date the Director of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services signs the order approving the boundaries to circulate a petition for a referendum on the incorporation question.**
- 4. *Why a Referendum?* – Good question. It provides an opportunity for those opposed to a Village to vote “no”. However, the difficulty is that until a draft charter is developed, no voters have any idea what they are voting for or against. It is the draft charter which defines what the proposed Village’s functions are in terms of what it can or cannot do, its taxing limitations, the services it would provide and whether or not it would be beneficial or not to the residents living within it boundaries.**
- 5. *Doesn’t the Lack of a Referendum Eliminate the Opportunity for Voters to Say “No” to the Village’s Establishment?* – The answer is ABSOLUTELY NOT! The voters elect those who will draft the proposed Charter and then they vote on that Charter – either yes or no. If they don’t like what the proposed Village offers they’ll vote no; if they think what is offered by the proposed Charter is positive, they’ll vote yes. Either way, they’ll be able to vote based on real information, not assumptions. It only makes sense to know what you are voting for or against before you vote.**

- 6. *If No Referendum What Are the Next Steps?* - With no referendum, voters will have the opportunity to vote for 5 members of a Charter Commission. It is the Charter Commission which has the responsibility for drafting the Charter for the proposed Village of Crystal Lake and it is this draft Charter which will go to the voters for approval or denial. It is this draft Charter which will for the first time define what the proposed Village can and cannot do. If the Charter is approved, the establishment of the Village will occur. If the draft Charter is not approved, then the establishment of the Village is not approved. If the draft Charter is not approved, it can be revised one time based on the concerns raised by the voters and resubmitted to the voters. If denied the second time, the Village initiative is dead.**

- 7. *When Would a Vote Occur and Who Votes?* – Whether it is a referendum vote or a vote for the members of the Charter Commission, the vote will occur on November 7, 2006. Those eligible to vote are the registered voters living within the proposed boundaries of the Village of Crystal Lake. They do not include unregistered voters living within the boundaries or registered voters living outside of the proposed village boundaries in Crystal Township. The decision to create a Village is made by those who are directly impacted by the decision – that is, those who would be living in the new Village of Crystal Lake.**

- 8. *What are Some of the Benefits of Establishing the Village of Crystal Lake?* – the next Information Bulletin will identify some of the possible benefits from becoming a Village. It will also address some of the legitimate concerns that have been raised. All of the Information Bulletins will be posted on the www.villageofcrystallake.org website. They will also be available at several business locations in Crystal for those who do not have ready access to a computer.**

If you have any comments, questions or specific concerns you would like to have addressed in future Information Bulletins, please contact Franz Mogdis, PO Box 805, Stanton MI 48888 or call 989 831-5261 or e-mail fmogdis@maisd.com.

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