

VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL REFERENDUM

Village of Crystal Lake proposal shot down

BY ELISABETH WALDON
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP — The people don't want a vil-lage. That was the resounding sentiment during Tuesday's referendum on whether to incorporate the village of Crystal Lake. The proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by a vote of 345 to 151 — 70 to 30 percent. A total of 496 people cast ballots.

The Village Creation Group wanted to incorporate 4.18 square miles of Crystal Township into the village of Crystal Lake. The proposed vil-lage would have represented 13 percent of the township geo-graphically, including the 750 acre Crystal Lake and the Crystal business district.

About 1,380 residents — 48 percent of the township's cur-rent population — would have made up the proposed village and 57.4 of the township's tax-able value would have been inside the village.

Township Supervisor Bill Powell and former township treasurer Genevieve Werdehoff celebrated news of the defeat at Crystal Township Hall.

" I think it's a victory for the people who live within the vil-lage district," Powell said.

Werdehoff said she was opti-mistic that the village proposal would be nixed.

" There were too many people that I talked to who said there was nothing a village could do that the township didn't have," she said. " Everything the village

group claimed they could do was nebulous."

Village Creation Group members gathered at the home of John and Carol Bird on Crystal Lake to await the results. " This is a wonderful example of the political process at its best," John Bird said. " Six years ago the township supervisor ran unopposed and there was total voter apathy, but now we have total community involvement, which is the first step to making improvements.

" We can take another run at it in two years," he said. " We're not finished."

Other Village Creation Group members were less enthusiastic about the results, including spokesman Steve Meinhardt.

" This is a whole issue of bias," he said. " People made up their minds before they even knew the facts."

"After all was said and done, complacency triumphed over change," Jeremiah Stone said.

" I guess you can't improve on something that's already per-fect," Phil Woodruff remarked.

" I didn't think it would go down this bad," said Ron Williams
Staff writer **ELISABETH WALDON** can be reached at ewaldon@staffordgroup.com or (616) 754- 9303 ext. 3065.

Top



Daily News/Elisabeth Waldon

Crystal Township Supervisor Bill Powell and former township treasurer Genevieve Werdehoff celebrate news that voters had rejected a proposal to incorporate the village of Crystal Lake.