

A tale of (?) cities

▷ Continued from Page 1A

this week and collected signatures long after dark Thursday. Homeowners were told to leave on a porch light if they wanted to sign a petition.

Leaders then gathered outside the Boone County Courthouse at 7:30 a.m. Friday to be sure they filed petitions before Candlewick.

"Lots of sleepless nights are hopefully going to pay off now," organizer Steve Rapp said.

In contrast to Candlewick's plan for a city of 3,200 people — most of whom would be Candlewick residents — the opposition proposes two villages of about 200 residents each.

Candlewick, which unveiled its plan July 10, wants to incorporate surrounding areas so that the development can remain private while still enjoying the benefits of a municipality. The ultimate objective is access to nearby Beaver Creek so that treated sewage from Candlewick's 1,000 homes can be dumped there rather than in the development's private lake.

Candlewick General Manager Jeff Heid said Caledonia and Timberlane's opposition appears flawed.

What's next

The first hearing in Boone County Circuit Court is scheduled for 3 p.m. Wednesday at the courthouse, 601 N. Main St. Judge Alford Penniman is expected to schedule another date for hearing arguments on the competing petitions.

The Illinois Secretary of State's office already has granted Candlewick exclusive rights to the name "City of Caledonia." Heid said petitioners must register with the secretary of state before filing to form a new city or village.

"We'll have to see if they followed the rules," he said. "We'll challenge them, of course."

Rockford attorneys Laird Lambert and Ray Ferguson represent the petitioners from Caledonia and Timberlane.

Lambert said he believes residents have a strong case for forming two villages. He expressed sympathy for Candlewick's waste-water management dilemma, but said nearby homeowners are

How to get involved

State law says objections to a municipal incorporation can be filed by property owners, residents or "any other interested person." For more information about how you can object to either proposal filed Friday, contact the Boone County Circuit Clerk's office at 544-0371.

determined not to get dragged into the situation.

"We think they ought to face up to the problem of their own making," he said.

Some Candlewick residents think management should drop the city proposal.

Resident Sara Herb said she has collected about 20 signatures from neighbors who believe Candlewick should solve its waste-water problem without encroaching on its neighbors.

"People moved out here because they liked it the way it is," she said. "Not because they wanted to change everything."

Chronology

May 10: Boone County Board members reject Candlewick Lake's request to divert treated sewage to nearby Beaver Creek.

July 6: As an alternative to suing Boone County, Candlewick leaders decide to form a new city taking in Beaver Creek and other surrounding areas. They then would be able to dump the treated waste water in the creek without county board approval.

July 13: Residents of unincorporated Caledonia and the area around Candlewick agree to fight the proposal.

July 17: After a public confrontation with Candlewick leaders, opponents begin laying plans to subvert Candlewick plan by forming their own villages.

July 21: Competing proposals are filed at the Boone County Courthouse to incorporate areas around Candlewick Lake.