

# Residents of McKownville Discuss Means of Halting Crossgates Mall

By **STEPHEN GOLDSTEIN**  
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**GUILDERLAND** — Stopping Crossgates is the reason behind all this talk of a separate village of McKownville, restoration of the McKownville Reservoir as a public water supply and parkland, Dr. Donald Reeb last night told a gathering at a meeting of the McKownville Improvement Association.

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"What this is all about is figuring out how to stop Crossgates," Reeb, the association's president, said at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn.

He contended the creation of a village of more than 500 residents but of less than five square miles would allow the residents to set the boundaries almost where they wished, including the Crossgates parcel. Including that land, he indicated, would allow the would-be village to rezone the land to stop the proposed mall, if it's not yet built.

Reeb said McKownville residents in a village could save town tax money and receive federal and state aid of more than \$100,000, but the audience was not unanimously behind the idea.

"It's conceivable it would be cheaper to operate as a village," said Reeb, an economics professor at Albany State University, "but I haven't done the arithmetic to see whether it's cheaper. But Altamont pays \$40 less per family in town taxes than we do."

"I can't believe in 1980 you'd think it would be fiscally feasible to create a village," said Karl Felsen of Mercer Street, who handles correspondence for Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink.

"There are villages all over the state lining up to go out of business," Felsen said. "It's very difficult for a village to go out of business."

McKownville Fire Chief J. Leo Dugan estimates his total taxes would be \$137 per year higher if his home were in the Village of Altamont, or \$226

more per year if he lived in the Village of Colonie.

"And taxes are taxes," said one woman.

Dugan said the average tax bill for the six villages in Albany County would mean \$154 more per year for his house at its current assess-

ment.

Concerning the Crossgates hearing, which will resume March 31, Reeb indicated the opposition's questions are intended in part to extend the hearing at the cost of the applicant, the Pyramid Crossgates Co.