Residents' recall list Approved now a 'Gang of 6'

he group opposing the project added five other council members

added five other council members to its recall plans.

Mayor Pro Tem Joanne Smith, councilwomen Nancy Bates and Cheryl Oliverio, and councilmen Terry Sever and Jon Grant are now recall targets after their se-tion Monday.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who voted against the project, is the only council member not yet facing recall.

In addition, Voters' Voice, the group opposing the Timbercrest project, is filing an injunction to

Move over, Larry Lichtman, stop it, said Sharon Stein, Volce chairwoman.

After Monday's vote by the Farmington Hills City Council to approve a planned unit development (PUD) for 92 acres at the corner of Middlebelt and 12 Mile, Commission. Members of Voters' stop it, said Saaren Scint, Veder chairwoman.
Petition language to recall Farmington Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman was approved Tuesday by the Oskitand County Elections Commission. Members of Voters' Votes will have 90 days to come up with more than 6,000 signa-tures of registered Farmington Hills voters in order to get the is-sue on the ballot.

Sever, who had opposed the Timbercrest project but changed his mind after the developer made concessions, said he won't sit back and he recalled without a fight.

fight.
"They will not find it easy,"
Sever said. "I've already gotten
calls from other residents who
support our decision. I think this
would be a waste of energy, but if
they want a fight, they'll get it."

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"Now I understand why (planning commissioner) Mr. (Philip)
Arnold would say the (Farmington Hills) plenning commission knows better what is best for the people than they do." Despite an overflowing crowd of more than 200 showing up to op-pose the project, as they had on several previous occasions, the council voted to enter a contract

The proposal calls for 165 single-family, detached houses with frontages from 70 to 85 feet, a 14 acre wooded area, retention pond, central park, green belts and a aix-acre shopping center that would not include either a free-standing restaurant or a large super market (45,000 square feet).

What might happen
The amendment would allow three possible scenarios:

I Jonna could develop the land with 6 acres to be used for a shopping center and the remaining 86 acres to be 165 houses. The house a butting Greencastle subdivision would have frontages of 85 feet and the remaining lold would have 80 or 70 foot frontages.

I Jonna could develop the property for 178 houses if the city used its option to buy one-half acre at the corner of Middlebeit and 12 Mile and 13.5 acres at the souther cast leg of the property to be preserved as woodlands. That would cout the city 43.5 million. In any

cost the city \$1.5 million. In any case, the 13.5 acres would not be developed.

developed.

The council could also exercise the city's option to buy the 6 acres at the corner currently planned as a shopping center and allow the remainder to have 165 houses as planned. That would cost \$2 million, to come from a special land acquisition tax, should voters approve it in November.

The fallout from the vote was

immediate.
Sharon Stein, chairwoman of Votore' Votoe, said in addition to the recall petition already submitted for Mayor Larry Lichtman, the group will also seek the recall petitions for the other five council members who voted for the project. They are also filing an injunction against developing the land.

injunction against developing the land.

Call It 'Batesgate'
"We're scalling this 'Batesgate,' 'Bieln said. 'What this amounts to is extortion. They want us to get out and vote for a tax Increase so they (council) can go give it to Mr. Jonna.'

Sover said the, Oliverio, Bates, Jonna, Carson and city manager Bill Coatick worked out the final proposal over the weekend, but said he kept Stein Informed that if Jonna came back with this package, he would vote for it.

Not so, said Stein. "It's bad enough that they changed their vote at the last minute," she said. "But they

didn't bother to tell us. We had to

didn't bother to tail us. We had to find out from someone else."
Sever said the proposal was as good as it was going to get.
"Beople have got to understand," he said, "that short of buying that comer, it's going to be developed."
Stein contended that undercurrent zoning that option would suit residents.
Vagnorzi, who not only voted against the proposal, but also opposed the Planned Unit Development ordinance the city adopted in October of 1992, said this project reinforced his opposition; to PUDs. He added that he will; seek clarification from city attorney John Donohue as to whether voters could reject the deal under, the city's referendum provision.
Jonna said he respected the

Jonna said he respected the residents and understood their

residents and understood their concerns.
"They've made a point of being involved and I expect that to continue," he said. "I want to work amicably with them to get a paciage that's good for the residents."

Farmington Observer

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NEWSPAPERS

Ponke from page 1A

appeared angry during the recess. Ash talked with Hodges regarding letters Ponks had written to his

letters Ponke had written to his family.

"You're just a jerk." Ash said to Hedges as he walked away.
The correspondence reflects Raymond Ponke's state of mind. Ash said, Judge Jessica Cooper didn't allow the letters to be admitted, ruling them as hearsay.
The defendant's mother, Florence Ponke, was carlier saked to identify one of the letters.
A letter written by Raymond Ponke to Jim Tucker in March was admitted as evidence.
Florence Ponke described her

FULL/QUEEN

KING SIZE

- N

son as a hard-worker and a good father, who was abused as a child by his dad, Raymond Ponks Sr. Her husband had Huntington's Disgase, she said.

"What he took from his father was unreal," Florence Ponke said.
"You don't abuse a 5- or 6-year-old like that."

Ponke's brothers, John and Nick, were asked to recall events leading up to Jan. 8.

Both described their brother as becoming increasingly depressed with the pending divorce. Nick Ponke said his brother made threats to Jackle Ponke, who left her husband in November.

He recalled a conversation days

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before her murder.

"Ray just said he was going to kill her." Nick Ponke said. "He said. "Fr... It, I came into this world with nothing and I'll leave it with nothing."

Others was asked to recall the day Jackie Ponke was murdered, including dentiat Dr. Alan Bredin and patient Janet Bolinka.

Both were in the Freedom Road dental office when jackie Ponke's attacker entered and began beat-

dental office when Jackie Ponke's attacker entered and began beating her with a claw hammer. Bredin tried to stop the man, but

Bredin tried to stop the man, but was thrown off.

I immediately said in my mind this is not a beating, this is a murder," Bredin said. "It was devastating."

Oakiand County Medical Ex-aminer Dr. Ljubias Dragovic said Jackie Ponko died from blunt force injuries, mostly to the head, Substantial damage to her heads indicated she tried to defend her-self, Dragovic said.

"Not one single bone in the

skull was left undamaged," he said.

Farmington Public Safety off-cer James Madigan said Ray-mond Ponke, who had blood on him, surrendered without inci-dent.

"He said, 'I had to do it. She wouldn't let me see my child,"
Madigan said.

Medigan said.

Detective Dan Dellar said Raymond Ponke's car was left running in the parking lot. A search of the vehicle turned up various items, including a flyer with European destinations listed on it.

Hedges told the jury during opening arguments Jackie Ponke's murder was premeditate

This case is not about Huntington's Disease," he said.
"You're going to hear about it...
Whether he has it or doesn't have
it doesn't matter. Huntington's
Disease is not a defense for murder."



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