

Farmington Observer

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125th anniversary sculpture



JOHN HEALEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Proud artist: Farmington Hills artist Kegan Tazian stands by the sculpture he designed to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Farmington's incorporation as a village. The artwork, located in front of the Farmington City Hall, was unveiled Tuesday before about 200 people. For a story and more photos, please see the Creative Living section in today's Farmington Observer.

Land

from page 1A

The tax is designed to become a revolving fund. The city would buy land and then either convert it to a park or sell it to a developer with conditions on how it can be used. The money from the sale of city land would then go back into the land acquisition fund.

"We've done it before," Bates said. "But we just don't have the money to do that anymore."

And in the light of some controversial projects, such as the recently approved Timbercrest development at 12 Mile and Middlebelt, the money could go a long way to maintain the large lot, residential flavor of the city.

But the recent Timbercrest controversy may make the proposal harder to sell, not easier. Although the city council negotiated an option to buy part of that project and lessen or eliminate any commercial development on it should the land acquisition tax pass, some residents have called the idea blackmail.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, who supports the land acquisition tax, said having the proposal linked to any project risks its defeat.

"I believe in it in principal," Vagnozzi said. "But this is closely tied in with the (developer Gary) Jonna (Timbercrest) development. And I'm opposed to that (option to buy part of the project) because it's overpriced."

The problem will be convincing voters that there is no other way to change zoning, Sever said. Many residents still believe the city can arbitrarily change zoning to an RA-1, or residential use, at its own pleasure.

"Some people think we have that ability to rezone," he said.

Sever added that seeing the proposal only in terms of Timbercrest would be shortsighted, since the city has other areas and odd-sized lots the city could buy and thereby protect the character of the surrounding area.

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