BY BILL COUTANT

build a 13-nome development on the property. Council members Terry Sever and Cheryl Oliverio, who were concerned with density and traffic in the area, voted against. Newly appointed Councilwoman Massie Kurzoja was absent leaving the vote 4-2.

Police from page 7A

sponded to a call involving a possible threat of a man, 42, at the Botsford Inn on Grand River in Farmington Hills. A Detroit man, 40, had threatoned the owner and showed a .367 Magnum pistol at 12:20 p.m. Dec. 23, police said. There was no assault. doors and steering column were damaged (\$1,000) and a \$182 Escort radar detector was stolen from a 1995 Mercury Villager parked on Shadwoglen in Farm-ington Hills Dec. 22-23. Farmington Hills police re-

Three cited in liquor law sting

Farmington Hills police cited three establishments for violating state liquor laws by serving alcohol to an under-age customer during the department's sting operation Dec. 21. "We would like to not have any violators," said Hills Police Chief Bill Dwycer, "and last year we didt. But that's probably not going to happen every time." Hills officers, along with a

going to happen every time."
Hills officers, along with a
19-year-old cadet, visited 49
restaurants, bars and taverms in the city Thursday,
all of them with a Class
liquor license, which allows
service of liquor by the
glass. The cadet asked to be
served and was refused in 46
of the 49 establishments.

Blakeney's on Grand River, the Lone Star on Orchard Lake and Roosevelt's on Orchard Lake were cited. The servers were each tick-cted. A report of the viola-tions will be sent to the Michigan Liquer Control Commission for possible fines or other disciplinary action, said Sgt. Doug An-derson, detective supervisor.

Jon Grant, Nancy Bates and Vicki Bar-In a split vote, Farmington Hills City Council members stuck with the recommendations of the planning commission to sell 4.8 acres of property for residential development at the Dec. 18 regular results. nett also voted to sell the property for \$251,000 to Windmill Ridge Development Corp., which plans to build a 13-home develdevelopment at the Dec. 18 regular meeting.

But the controversial Timber-crest development cast its shadow over the discussion.

Mayor Aido Vagnozzi, who had opposed the earlier, targer development on 12 Miles and Middlabelt, voted to sail the city's property on the south side of 13 Miles at Northwestern, "Council member yellow from the country of the Northity property."

Council member yellow Barnett also voted to sell the city of 220,000 to Windmill Ridge Development Corp., which plans to build a 13-home development to he property. opment on the proper-

Hills agrees to Northirly

"We bought it out of a court case and kept it from being developed as office."

Grant said the idea at the time was to resell it for housing, a commitment that city council made. But Sever, who has pushed the idea of land banking city-owned roperty whenever possible to control density, lessen traffic and possibly use for future parks or other city facilities, said he was in no hurry to sell. no hurry to sell.

Kurzoja was absent leaving the vote 4-2.

The property had been the subject of a lawault over a proposed office development. A developer had sought a soning change that the city denied. Ten years of litigation later, the city bought the property for \$500 with the idea of selling it back to a developer interested in building residential housing, Hills City Attorney John Donohue sald.

"I was on council when we purchased the property," Grant said. Sever said the city had gone through a rapid development pe-ried, but thanks to a change in philosophy brought on by many residents, it has become a livable community with plenty of park-land and open spaces in subdivi-

ions. "When we bought Woodland Hills (Park)" he said, "I was thinking in terms of active recre-ation. We did not build right away. A couple of years later, a number of people had influence

land sale for 13 residences

and the preservation of land became important."

The 76-sere park opened this
fell as a passive, natural park.

"If you look at this city in 10
years, the only property that will
likely not be developed will! the
typ property." Sever said.

Vagnozzi said there were many
differences between this project
and Timbercreat, including the
approval of neighboring residents.
In addition, developing the propcrty as residential would keep it
from being developed as office or
worse if a future council agreed,
the said of th

worse it a titude content speech.

"If the city holds the property it
will always be exposed," she said.
"A future council could succumb
to a developer. The best protection would be if we developed a
low density, residential developrest."

ment."
Former Parks and Recreation
Commission Chairman Dennis
Fitzgerald said the city would also
lose money it could use for other
projects and tax money it could
receive from the new residents.

projects and tax money it could receive from the new realdents.

Grant added that if the present city council went back on the commitment of the council to buy the land and sell it for realdential development, it could not expect its decision not to develop to stand either. "I don't know how we can hope to bind a future council to our commitments if we don't bind ourselves to our own commitments," he said.

The sale was approved, but the residential development still awaits final approval from the council.

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