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Community News

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Manors OKs 58 townhomes on SunTrust site

BY ELIZABETH BAIER
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WILTON MANORS • The list of places hyping this two-square-mile city as a trendy place to live, work, shop and play soon will be a little longer.

City commissioners unanimously approved rezoning the 3.27-acre property at the SunTrust building,

1501 NE 26th St., to allow a mixed-use project to replace the bank and parking lot.

The new structure will include 58 townhouse units and 10,000 square feet of commercial space, where the bank and other businesses will be located.

"It's kind of an underutilized site,"

Community Services Director Wayne Thies said. "It's kind of a fairly trashy area and there's no landscaping there now. We feel this mixed-use redevelopment . . . will spark continuing improvement to that area."

Townhouse prices will range from \$250,000 to \$500,000, and the project will include a pool and courtyard area,

landscaping and street parking, according to Jeff Costello, New Urban Communities director of planning.

The four-story commercial building will face 26th Street and is expected to continue the massive development of townhouses, shops and restaurants that are almost complete only a couple of blocks west at Five Points.

Wilton Station, a 10-acre development at the former site of William Thies & Sons beer distributors, will overlook the intersection of Dixie Highway, Northeast 26th Street and Wilton Drive. The huge project will include lofts, boutiques, art galleries

■ TOWNHOME CONTINUES ON 2

NEWS

■ TOWNHOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and a spa and is largely considered to be the catalyst of the city's downtown transformation.

"I sort of envision Wilton Drive redevelopment extending on that curve to possibly [Northeast] 16th Avenue," Thies said. "There's a lot of potential to redevelop that area and make it look really nice."

The transformation is already visible along Wilton Drive, the city's main artery, where Delray Beach-based New Urban Communities

has already worked on a project.

Belle Isle, a 60-unit development at 2360 Wilton Drive, replaced a trailer park that was sold to New Urban Communities for just over \$3 million in 2003. The townhouses ranged in price from the mid-\$300,000s to the high-\$500,000s and included two landscaped courtyards, one with a fountain, the other with a pool.

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