ting the park. If you don't, there's not much we can do. We hope you will as-sist us."

ONLY ONE resident took issue with the subdivision's petition and park's in-surance at Monday's public hearing. "I do not really feel satisfied with the In-surance program set out," said Donald Edwards.

But ance brogram set out," Sale bonaie Edwards.

But Bibcau told Edwards the petition "doesn't bind anyone. The special assessment district will."

As far as insurance, Bibeau reminded the resident the subdivision has used the park for years. "That's an exposure we all have. If you worried about getting sued, I suppose you would never do anything," Bibeau sald.

Neighbors have used the vacant lot as a park since 1988. They decided to by the property when Farmington school officials announced the acreage was for sale.

"The park is going to be sold. That's a foregone conclusion. The question is who is going to buy it and what are they going to do with it?" said a subdivision resident.

OVER THE years, residents in the subdivision have maintained the area and have made \$25,000 in improve-

ments with the help of rummage sales, auctions, bake sales and contributions, Paler said.

The park now contains playground equipment, a ball field, plenic tables and a tennis court. A pond in the park is used for fishing during summer and as an ice rink in winter. The subdivision association also has planted 49 trees, Paler said.

"It is used throughout all the seasons," said Lynn Lynch, a 16-year subdivision resident. "We need it as recreation near our home."

According to census data, Paler said, approximately 300 children 15 years and younger live in the subdivision. The closest playground is 28% miles away as of the country of the country of the country of the country of the part of the country of

THE PARK development committee THE PARK development committee has a five-year improvement plan that calls for installation of new wooden swings and other playground equip-ment. Wooden benches were recently installed, she added. Another resident, Shirley Ford, a

real estate agent, said the park is the first sight she shows potential home buyers interested in the subdivision. "It never falls to impress people with what has been done (in the park) on a volun-

Council members lauded subdivision residents for their voluntary work in improving the vacant lot and organiz-

purchase.

"I think this is one of the most excit-ing, creative proposals that has ever come before council," said Councilman Donn Wolf.

Councilman Ben Marks agreed. "You people would probably qualify as the all-American subdivision of Farmington Hills."

Wider immunity sought

Farmington has gone on record sup-porting pending legislation granting immunity in third-party liability law-suits against government agencies. State House Bill 5163 is one of 14 deal-ing with several types of liabilities.

"In many cases, we can get the government out of the liability, but cannot get the (municipal) employee out, so we pay anyway," according to City Manager Robert Deadman, in explaining the situation to city council Monday.

The costs of paying liability cases is increasing, and Deadman estimates, "if the current trend continues, some agencies such as road commissions will literally spend more money paying claims than they do building new high-

THE MICHIGAN Municipal League is supporting the bill, Deadman said.

The state House bill resulted from a study of lability and insurance probability and insurance probability and insurance probability and insurance and representatives, the governor and members of the House Judiciary Committee who are presently reviewing it.

Deadman has a special interest in municipal insurance rates, as chalirman of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MRIMA). The MIRIMA is a group of governmental units banded together to provide guaranteed self-insurance at a lower-thanusual rate.

The group works to help communi-ties cut liability and provides munici-pal liability attorneys to handle cases.

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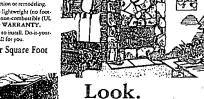
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