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itself," said Kimberly Wong, Farmington Soccer Club assistant coach and player director. Quantity is not as much a problem as quality, soccer enthusiasts said. Fields at Founders Park have substantial crowns, which affect the run of play. Hacks are another problem.

One of three fields is not being used so it can be restored, Potter said. The city typically rotates fields to save wear and tear. Construction for three new

fields - north of the three existing fields - will start in spring. The plan also calls for an adjacent 80-car parking lot, fencing and bleachers. Part of the \$685,950 cost for the new fields will be offset by \$100,000 matching grant from the Department of Natural Resources Michigan Land Trust. Council members instructed Potter to pursue bids that include a \$210,000 drainage system for the three new fields and well as those being recondi-

tioned. Potter recommended not including the sophisticated underground system, saying proper draining could take place with proper grading and topsoil improvements. Council members agreed with the soccer folks. "Soccer has been a second-class citizen for too long and they (soccer enthusiasts) have been very supportive of our parks and recreation millages," Mayor Alvo Vagnozzi said. "They deserve this motion."

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impression on Lanigan fifth-grader Robert Bytner. "I learned that the flag is something not to burn, not to let touch the ground," Robert said. "You have to take care of it and honor it." Christiansen and other guests emphasized to students how important it is for them to have respect for the flag and to remember the sacrifices of the American men and women who fought to preserve the freedoms everybody enjoys today. Kicking off the program were introductions from "Uncle Jack" Card, a veteran of World War II and presentation of the Stars and Stripes by Livonia Churchill Air Force ROTC cadets Lisa Grattan, Tim Kropp, Jessica Maxwell and Liz Paszek, who are part of a color guard program that draws enrollment from the metro area. Then, with everybody standing tall, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited with reverence. Soon afterward, Jennifer Hoomke, 1997 Miss Farmington-Farmington Hills, came up to the podium and analyzed each line of the pledge. "With liberty and justice for all means with freedom ... for each person in the country. You and me," Hoomke said. The students next heard from



The pledge: Alen Pehar (center) and Sasha Merritt (right) join their classmates in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to Old Glory.

Sgt. Mike Cannon, who served in Vietnam and who heads up the color guard program at Churchill. He talked about what the colors of the American flag stand for. "Red stands for valor, it stands for the bloodshed that took place long before you were born," Cannon said. "White stands for purity and blue stands for justice. Those colors were chosen for a reason by our founding fathers." Before students could ask questions, Farmington Mayor pro tem Mary Bush recited a poem about "Old Glory" and the guests demonstrated the proper way to fold an American flag to

be presented to the widow or widower of a deceased veteran. "You fold it, like a paper football," said Christiansen to the young crowd as the cadets deliberately folded the flag. "You will no longer see the red and white. When they're done, all you'll see is the stars in a field of blue." Several types of American flags were also unveiled for the students, including miniature versions that are placed on the graves of veterans every Memorial Day and an all-weather nylon version, which can fly even in rain and snow "as long as it's illuminated," Christiansen said.

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Power from page A1

like that people don't forget," she said. Trupiano said he dismissed the lawsuit on the advice of his attorney. "I admit now it was a mistake," he added. Lost in the acrimony is what a positive impact the 23-acre development will have on the area, Trupiano said. In addition to upscale brick colonials and Cape Cod-style two-story homes, Oakwood Hills means water and sewer improvements to the entire area. Existing Power Road residents will be able to tap into the new systems. Interest from potential buyers in the proposed project has been overwhelming, Trupiano said. Demand exceeds the number of lots, which will likely lead to a lottery. Trupiano and his partner also assure they share the Power Road residents' love of the wood-

ed and pristine area. He mentions how the typography will allow between the 12-15 walkout basements for homes that will be surrounded by trees. "Contrary to popular belief, our goal isn't driven by the bottom line; our goal is to provide a quality community," Trupiano said. Tsatsanifos was inspired by the area's numerous churches and access to I-696, which is why he waited to accumulate the land parcel by parcel during a four-year period. "Stand at the top of Oakwood Hills at night and you can see Detroit ... You can see the lights," said Tsatsanifos, whose wife, Louise Lewis, taught math at Harrison High before retiring in 1991. Tsatsanifos and Trupiano have worked on other developments, including a 33-unit project in

Southgate whose homes are fetching \$200,000 or more. Together and separately, the pair have developments ongoing in Flat Rock, Brownstown Township and Grosse Ile. They haven't faced nearly the opposition they did with Oakwood Hills, though. Trupiano emphasizes it was a "small group of individuals" who spearheaded the battle against the project. "The best way I can answer that is to describe the difference between a developer and conservationist," Trupiano said. "A developer can scope out a beautiful piece of land and he can envision a community. A conservationist already lives there. It's a double standard: I live here; you can't." "I want to focus on the development itself. We want to put all that behind us."

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