

# Farmington Observer

Volume 96 Number 45

Thursday, March 14, 1985

Farmington, Michigan

74 Pages

Twenty-five cents

## A community mourns its daughters

### Family and friends recall good times

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

Juan Carloni's memories of his daughters are good ones.

There were, to be sure, the usual teen-age squabbles, but the good shines through.

"They were interested in life," Carloni said Tuesday. "They just kept going all the time." School projects kept his daughters busy; they also enjoyed dancing, and had done some downhill skiing.

"They were full of life and joy," Carloni said of Lara and Vanessa. "They will be missed immensely."

Lara, 15, and Vanessa, 16, died early Sunday morning when the car they were riding in collided with another on Farmington Road. A third passenger in the car, 16-year-old Michael Altman, is in critical condition at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

The Carloni girls were students at Mercy High School. Tuesday, friends and family gathered to mourn at the funeral home.

JEFF CIAMPA, a friend of both of the girls, had gone out with Vanessa over the past two years.

"They were always smiling, always happy and cheerful," said Ciampa, a senior at Birmingham Brother Rice High School.

"It's so hard to say, there's so much. Both of them were beautiful girls. Vanessa always talked on the phone," he said with a smile.

"They were a really close family."

"The girls often confided in one another, Ciampa said.

"They had their own friends, but they

told each other everything, too."

Juan Carloni, a physician, and his wife, Beatriz, have one other child. Their son, Alex, is a senior at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills.

"They were always happy," Alex said of his sisters. "Wherever they went, they made everyone else feel happy."

Friends of the two girls agreed with Alex.

"I've been to Florida with their family twice," said Scott Neisch, an Andover High School senior. "They were really caring people."

"Vanessa was the outgoing type." She frequently hugged friends who were visiting the family's home, Neisch said.

"THEY WERE two of the greatest people in my life," said Dave Hahn, a Brother Rice High School senior. "We were good friends. It's a great loss everyone's feeling."

In addition to their parents and their brother, the girls are survived by their grandmother, Maria G. de del Olmo of Argentina.

Funeral services for Vanessa Ines Carloni and Lara Vivian Carloni were held Wednesday at St. Regis Church, Birmingham, with the Rev. Daniel Murphy officiating. Entombment was at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy. Funeral arrangements were handled by Vasa, Rodgers and Connell Funeral Directors, Royal Oak.

Memorial contributions may be made to: The Vanessa and Lara Carloni Memorial Fund, Mercy High School, 29300 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Mich., 48018.



Juan Carloni and his daughters, Vanessa (left) and Lara, are shown at a recent gathering. The girls died over the weekend in an auto accident.

### Pupils, teachers mourn

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

"All I ask of you is forever to remember me as loving you."

Students at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills gathered Tuesday morning for a prayer service in the auditorium. They sang the words to "All I Ask of You" at a service for two Mercy students killed early Sunday in an auto accident in Farmington Hills.

The young women, Lara Carloni, 15, and Vanessa Carloni, 16, died when the car they were riding in collided with another on Farmington Road, just south of 14 Mile Road.

"We extend to you our most deepest sympathies," Sister Nancy Thompson, the school principal, told members of the family.

"Today calls for a sign of hope because we are a faith community," Sister Thompson said. "Please know and feel this love and support."

VANESSA'S ADVISER, Mary Forlino, and Lara's adviser, Pat Kulwicki, spoke to the assembly, as did Sister Rachelle Harper, the campus minister.

"We're here to grieve right now because Vanessa and Lara call us to be here," Sister Harper said. "We pray for them, but more truly we pray with them."

Faith, hope and love survive after death, she said.

"We know this could have happened to anyone, and it still could. What we know is we are in the hands of God, and we belong to one another."

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## Hills police launch probe of how accident happened

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

Farmington Hills police and State Police are investigating an auto accident that killed two West Bloomfield sisters early Sunday.

Lara Carloni, 15, and Vanessa Carloni, 16, were passengers in a car driven by Brian Smith, 17, of Southfield. Smith's car collided head-on with another car at about 12:40 a.m. on Farmington Road near Heritage Hills Drive, just south of 14 Mile Road.

"It's still under investigation as far as who's at fault," said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer. "It's a tragedy. I'm sure the entire community is shocked by this."

"We don't know what happened yet," said Lt. Ernie Miller, head of the police department's traffic division. "We don't know who went across the center line."

THE POLICE weren't sure if either of the Carloni girls were wearing seat

belts, or if the accident involved alcohol.

"We just don't know" if any of those involved in the accident had been drinking, Miller said. "We're just not going to comment on it until we get all our results." The results include blood tests for the drivers.

Smith, who was in fair condition Tuesday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, was driving a 1982 Renault LeCar. The other car, a 1978 Omega, was

## Officials shun school searches

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing searches of students in schools has "made no dramatic change at all" in the Farmington schools, according to Superintendent Lewis Schulman.

"It really has no impact on us at all," he said. "The ruling comes about because of cities like New York which has a volume of difficulties unlike our own."

Although the Farmington Board of Education briefly discussed the high court's ruling, trustees have not issued a policy for school officials to follow, Schulman said.

Much of the reason for not instituting wholesale searches of students in Farmington has occurred recently in many urban school districts is the lack of overwhelming problems with students bringing weapons and drugs into school, Schulman said.

"These are very, very serious problems in the urban centers," Schulman said. "But a comparison of the Farm-

ington district to urban centers is negligible."

ALTHOUGH DRUG USE "is still around," Schulman said there has been "a dramatic reduction in drugs being brought to school."

Police officials in both Farmington and Farmington Hills agree that problems in the Farmington schools are few.

"There is nothing to the magnitude that other school districts have," said Sgt. Richard Murphy of the Farmington Hills Police Department's juvenile division.

Frank Lauhoff, director of the Farmington Public Safety Department, agreed.

"The reported incidents have declined over the last several years," he said. The High Court's ruling came out of a long and complicated case that began in New Jersey in 1980. The case involved a 14-year-old student who was reported to the school office for smoking in the bathroom.

The student denied the charge to the

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## Hills leader Jim Ellis dies

By Julie Brown  
staff writer

Area leaders this week praised Farmington Hills civic activist Jim Ellis, who died Saturday at Botsford General Hospital.

"I think there's going to be a void in our community," said attorney Harold Wolkind, president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Rotary Club. "I think that he was probably the most outstanding citizen in our community."

Wolkind nominated Ellis as 1984's Farmington/Farmington Hills Citizen of the Year, an honor bestowed by the local Chamber of Commerce. Ellis was secretary of the local Rotary Club at the time of his death.

Ellis, who was 62, had served on the Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals since 1975, in addition to being involved in a number of community activities.

Ellis learned in January that he had cancer of the bile duct and began co-salt treatment, Wolkind said. He had had several heart attacks over the years, in addition to this most recent one.

"He really was fighting," said Wolkind, who had known Ellis for about eight years. Ellis attended last week's Zoning Board meeting.

"HE WAS a unique man," Wolkind said. "There aren't enough of them around, and that's why he'll be missed. He's been an exemplary citizen of our community."

"A lot of people knew him and loved him. It's just one of those unfortunate things that men like that don't survive longer than they do."

"He was just a wonderful human being. You can't believe one man's done as much as he's done."

"I think Jim was a giver," said Joe Alkateeb, Farmington Hills mayor pro tem. "He always gave and never asked for anything back."

"He emulated the caring and dedicated person that all cities need to

prosper and grow," said council member Ben Marks.

"He said what he thought, he was candid, honest, and he fought for what he thought was right. The city of Farmington Hills will sorely miss Jim Ellis. People like him come along once in a lifetime."

"He gave an awful lot of himself to the city," said Bill Costick, Farmington Hills city manager. "He's the kind of citizen you really looked up to and respected." Costick and Ellis were fellow Rotarians.

Ellis was well-known for his work with young persons. He was active for a number of years with the Youth Exchange Program of Rotary International. A steady stream of exchange students have stayed with him and his wife, Beverly, at their Farmington Hills home.

AMONG HIS other youth activities was service to the Boys Republic as its president, an organizer and club president of the Farmington Falcon Boosters Club, assistant athletic director of the Farmington Rockets Little League Football teams and a commissioner of the South Farmington Baseball for Boys Little League.

Ellis is survived by his wife, Beverly, two daughters, Janene Ellis of Alexandria, Va., and Saveta Lynch of Farmington Hills; and one son, James V. Ellis of Wixom. He was born April 4, 1922, in Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jim Ellis Scholarship Fund, Farmington PFA Council, 33500 Silwassee, Farmington, Mich., 48064, or to The Rotary Foundation, c/o Dr. Gerald Hot, 30405 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, Mich., 48018.

The memorial service was held Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, with the Rev. Arthur Spafford officiating. Interment was in Acacia Park Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

## On locker searches?

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that school officials may conduct student searches without violating the Fourth Amendment prohibiting unreasonable search and seizure. While some of the urban school districts are conducting wholesale searches of students and their lockers, Farmington students have less of a chance of being faced with the same.

Superintendent Lewis Schulman says the ruling "has no dramatic im-

port" on Farmington students because of the lack of problems in the local schools.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is: How do you feel about giving school officials the right to search students and their possessions while in school?

To answer this question, call 477-5450 before 1 p.m. Friday. Look in Monday's paper to see how your neighbors feel.

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