

Mom

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she was with us tonight."

"She sure was," chimed in chorus manager Kathy Hall, throwing her arms around Garr.

After again thanking everybody for their continued prayers and support, Susan Garr talked about the "Heaven" she hoped the teen's classmates and others took away from the concert, sponsored by the city of Farmington Hills.

"I want to tell them about something Melissa wrote in her school newspaper," Garr said. "You have to make every day a good one, because you never know what the next day will bring. That's the lesson we're learning from Melissa. She lived every day with joy. She absolutely did."

Melissa Garr was injured on July 23 while baby-sitting three children at a Farmington pool. A tree limb fell an estimated 40 feet and struck her on the head, knocking her to the cement deck.

She remains on life support at University of Michigan Medical Centers in Ann Arbor. Her father, Farmington Hills Fire Lt. Michael Garr, said doctors were scheduled to Friday perform a tracheostomy and insert a gastrointestinal tube, in order to help fight infection.

Recent neurological tests revealed activity only in her lower brain stem, which controls basic bodily functions.

Concert

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people's lives in only 16 years. All we want for our kids is to be loved. And she's very loved."

The concert enabled Adam Garr to "remember her the way she used to be before the accident. That's the Melissa I want to remember."

Still holding their candles during the aftermath were classmates Erin Allen and Heather Malinowski, both in the band last year with Melissa. Their assessment of the night matched the general consensus: The concert was the perfect tribute to a music-loving teen.

"It was a really good idea and I'm glad a lot of people showed up," Allen said. "It was sad, but it also was a good way to bring everyone together."

Melissa also "really loved to sing," said Malinowski. "I think the choir was really, really nice."

According to FHS vocal music teacher Evelyn Schuette, the performance was "very fitting... because Melissa grew up with that chorus." Susan Garr helped establish the Farmington Community Chorus while pregnant with Melissa.

"And you could really feel the support from the kids," Schuette said. "They're very, very concerned."

Students sat clustered on blankets, off to one side — looking down toward the left section of singers. Schuette didn't say whether there was any significance to the seating arrangement. But she called

Melissa "the alto on the left," because she always stood on that side of the stage during concerts.

Others said the performance was almost therapeutic.

"It was wonderful to see so many people here," said community chorus member Sheila Gappy. "Susan has given a lot to the community through the choir. It was great to see everybody here loving her and showing their support."

"It was emotional for everybody here. We all care about Susan and Melissa."

Geri Rornbacher, a Farmington Hills resident and honorary lifetime member of the community chorus, described the concert as "most inspirational. Love was in the air."

Farmington High School Social Worker Bob Crawford was among those who helped light candles prior to the rendition of "Out There," a favorite ballad of Melissa's.

"It's real helpful for kids and adults," said Crawford about the importance of such a tribute. "The more you can publicly share your grief is healthier than holding things in stoically."

But although classmates are praying for Melissa, they aren't being too vocal about the injured teen's bleak situation.

"People are just kind of waiting for more things to happen," Heather Malinowski said. "Because it's almost a bad omen if you talk about the worst thing



Big turnout: Heritage Park's hill was filled on one side with Melissa Garr's classmates from Farmington High on blankets.

happening... Mr. (Band Director Norm) Logan mentions Melissa quite a bit, but we don't talk about it that much."

FHS Principal Jim Myers said social workers have already begun grief coun-

seling with students, and that those efforts will continue as the school year begins.

"Kids always have concerns for their fellow students," he said. "We'll be very sensitive to their needs."

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Death

from page A1

On the nightstand next to the bed, a typed note read "12 Aug. 1997: Janet Good and Dr. Kevorkian ended the progressive and intolerable suffering of Karen Shoffstall (sic), age 34, from New York." A clear plastic syringe cap was nearby and a rubber band was found by her elbow.

Why Shoffstall chose to die in a nondescript room of a hotel chain several hundred miles away from home is not clear. Her family asked not to speak to the media.

Remnants found in the hotel room from her final hours reveal little in terms of the anguish she suffered or the confusion in her decision to end her life.

Police found a walker in a cor-

Arthritis Today
JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
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TREATING AN ARTHRITIS BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS

A physician can treat an arthritis, even when the cause of the arthritis is unclear. Treatment under these circumstances is possible because you can divide arthritis into two basic types: inflammatory and non-inflammatory arthritis.

Non-inflammatory arthritis includes the swelling and pain associated with osteoarthritis or to a knee or ankle injury. Inflammatory arthritis characterizes rheumatoid arthritis, lupus arthritis, gouty, and psoriatic arthritis.

Arthritis is a chronic disease that means that general type of arthritis he is dealing with, it to remove fluid from an involved joint and count the white blood cells present in that fluid. If the white blood cell count is under 1,000 per millimeter then the fluid is non-inflammatory; if over 1,000 per millimeter then the fluid is inflammatory in nature. Once we know that the fluid can do on the fluid at the same time includes a stain for bacteria and an analysis for crystals such as gout.

A physician armed with this information, even though a specific diagnosis is lacking, can begin therapy. If the cell count is under 1,000 then pain medication, as needed, usually will suffice, and you will be encouraged to continue your activities. If the cell count is over 1,000, then you will need anti-inflammatory drugs on a daily basis, and your daily schedule should include provision for rest.

Even if your doctor lacks a precise diagnosis, he can still prescribe specific therapy

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Parks

from page A1

Also included are plans to expand bike paths, turn San Marino from a nine- to an 18-hole golf course and upgrade one park — possibly Heritage — to allow in-line skating.

A sum of \$2.6 million is directed to improvement of existing facilities. The city maintains 61 baseball and softball diamonds and 35 soccer fields alone.

In some instances, funds raised from the ongoing millage will be used as seed money for projects like a family aquatic center, bike paths and development costs — but not the buying of property — for San Marino's expansion.

"The dollars may not fully cover those projects, but with joint ventures and grants, those things may come about," said Dan Potter, Hills Parks and Recreation director.

During the 10-year span, the millage would help in terms of future staffing. The current millage pays for three positions: naturalist, park maintenance supervisor and employee.

If approved, the millage renewal could allow the addition of four full-time maintenance positions and upgrade six part-time jobs in the senior program to three full-time positions.

Parks and recreation department decided how money would be spent through a city wide survey, meetings with the parks and rec commission and interested groups; and study sessions with the city council.

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