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Cynthia L. Scherer: DWI crash claims life of Monroeville driver

A Monroeville woman who lived to garden was killed early Sunday in a two-car crash on Tillman Road.

Cynthia L. Scherer, 46, was on her way home from a nephew's birthday party in New Haven, her family said, when her car was hit by a black Dodge at Tillman and Minnich roads in southeast Allen County.

Police with the Allen County Sheriff's Department were called to the crash about 1:10 a.m. Sunday and found the Dodge and Scherer's silver Chrysler in a nearby field, spokesman Steve Stone said. Scherer died at the scene.

The driver of the black Dodge, Justin W. Silvers, 22, is accused of running a stop sign and a flashing red light at the intersection as he headed west on Tillman. Scherer was southbound on Minnich, and the two cars collided in the intersection, Stone said.

Silvers ran from the crash before police arrived, police said. Officers found him bleeding badly behind a home at 7219 Minnich Road, and he tried to run again. A police dog stopped him by biting him, Stone said.

Silvers was taken to Parkview Hospital in fair condition from injuries suffered in the crash as well as the dog bite, Stone said. Silvers was expected to be arrested and taken to the Allen County Lockup late Sunday night or today.

He faces a charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death. Silvers had a blood-alcohol level of 0.24 percent, three times the legal limit of 0.08 percent, Stone said.

Scherer had spent Saturday night with her sisters for the party. She is survived by her husband, Kevin; daughters Jennifer Stump and Darcy Scherer; son Kyle Scherer; four sisters; two brothers; and both of her parents. Her son Joseph Stump died in 1996.

Scherer adored flowers, particularly those that attracted butterflies and hummingbirds, her oldest daughter, Jennifer Stump, said. Scherer began working on her large flower garden about five or six years ago and ever since had devoted almost more time to her flowers than to her children, Stump said jokingly.

The flower beds at the Scherer home line the front of the home, wrap around the garage and extend from the barn to the corn crib. It started with just a little garden in front and ended with a whole barnyard full of flowers, Stump said.

"That was her thing," she said of her mother.

Scherer worked part time at the Fort Wayne Vehicle Auction for about 10 years as an auction clerk. Originally from Fort Wayne, she spent the past 20 years living in the Monroeville area, Jennifer said.

"She loved us more than words could express," her daughter said. "We're really going to miss her."

**Contributed by Jane Edson**