

West Life

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Since 1959



BAY VILLAGE

DeCapua signs with pro soccer team

By **CHRIS VOLOSCHUK**

Bay High senior Matt DeCapua and the rest of the Rockets boys soccer team played their final game of the 2020 season Nov. 4. Less than two months later, the midfielder is on the cusp of playing professionally.

On Christmas, the recently-revived Cleveland Crunch, soon to be inducted into the Major Arena Soccer League, announced that it had signed the 18-year-old DeCapua to a contract ahead of its 2021 season. DeCapua impressed evaluators during a two-day open tryout Dec.

12-13 at the North Olmsted Soccer Sportsplex, then signed a contract a week later.

“It’s mind-blowing (to be a part of a pro team). I can’t believe it,” DeCapua said. “It still won’t even

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Our communities

Bay Village Student honored for creating educational app. **A5**

Fairview Park Jiffy Lube developer pulls request to rezone Lorain Road property. **A6**

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North Ridgeville City Council seeks to fill Hung’s former seat. **A7**

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Photo courtesy Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Rebecca Starck (masked at center of photo) updates masked, socially distanced staff as COVID-19 swept through the U.S., causing unprecedented challenges for health care workers. See story on page 13.

Changemakers

Celebrating our community members who made a difference in 2020

West Life salutes the innovators, the educators and the heroes of 2020 with our annual “Changemakers” list. These individuals are being recognized for their unique contributions to their communities during a particularly challenging year. They made a difference, and we thank them. While we tried to fit all our communities in this week, we will be featuring three (Sheffield Village, Rocky River and North Olmsted) next week. So stay tuned! Changemakers begin on Page 8.

AVON LAKE

Lake Road safety study cites many different problems

By **TOM CORRIGAN**

Be aware while driving, walking or riding a bike on Lake Road between Bay Village and Sheffield Lake.

From 2017 through 2019 there were 96 collisions involving vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and fixed objects

on this 10-mile stretch of Lake, according to a consultant’s safety study.

Of those, 24 resulted in injury, most notably to Avon Lake Planning Commission Chairman Richard “Randy” Knilans, who was struck June 6, 2019, by a drunk driver while

riding his bicycle. He died a day later.

Collisions were over the state average in eight categories including pedestrians hit by cars, rear-end crashes and cars hitting a fixed object, such as a utility pole, according to the study by Mannik & Smith Group,

Inc. of Shaker Heights reviewed by City Council Dec. 21. Pedestrians involved in crashes were about twice as high as the state average.

“One of the more critical components of this, and one which the community

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