

WestLife

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Car-truck collision claims two lives

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— North Olmsted Fire Chief Tom Klecan



A Cleveland couple who were in this Buick LeSabre died Oct. 1 when it apparently lost control and collided with a utility truck on Lorain Road. (West Life photo by Larry Bennet)

By Jeff Gallatin

NORTH OLMSTED

A Cleveland man apparently lost control of his car Oct. 1, causing the vehicle to go left of center across two lanes and collide with a utility truck on Lorain Road, causing injuries which resulted in the death of the man and his wife, officials said.

Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office Spokesman Powell Caesar said Monday that William Burkhart, 73, of West 162nd Street in Cleveland, died as a result of blunt trauma injuries caused when he lost control of his 2004 Buick LeSabre while driving west on Lorain Road near West 230th Street. Police said the Buick went left of center and collided with a First Energy truck going east on Lorain Road. In addition, Caesar said the heavy impact also severely injured Burkhart’s wife Mary, 73, as well, causing injuries resulting in her death.

Caesar said there was nothing in the autopsy report to indicate why Burkhart might

have lost control of the vehicle, only that he died from the blunt trauma caused by the impact of the vehicles. Safety officials said the driver of the utility truck was transported to St. John West Shore Hospital, where he was checked for minor injuries and released.

“It was a pretty bad accident,” said North Olmsted Fire Chief Tom Klecan. “Unfortunately, the couple’s vehicle took the brunt of it. Both vehicles had a lot of damage, but a car isn’t going to take an impact with a truck well.”

Police Capt. Jamie Gallagher said both vehicles were traveling in the range of between 35 to 40 miles per hour. He said officers have not been able to determine why Burkhart lost control of the vehicle shortly before 2 p.m. and went across the lanes before colliding with the truck.

“There’s no indications of other problems for him or anything which would cause him to lose control like that,” Gallagher said.

He said a toxicology report due later might shed some light on the matter.

Deitsch: Fairview staying in WSC

By Kevin Kelley

FAIRVIEW PARK

Contrary to circulating rumors, the Fairview Park City Schools have no plans to change athletic conferences, Superintendent Brion Deitsch told West Life. However, Fairview High Principal Kevin Liptrap acknowledged saying that the schools were looking at the

option of joining a conference of similarly sized schools.

The rumors of a conference switch arose when three people, including former Fairview Athletic Director Tom Faska, passed out yellow flyers to parents during Fairview High School’s Homecoming parade Sept. 26.

“Are you aware that the Superintendent and the School Board President are trying to leave the WSC at

the end of this school year?” the flyer asked.

The flyer allege that Deitsch and Board President Dennis Rehor want to break the contract the district has with the West Shore Conference to join the Patriot Athletic Conference, which is made up of mostly of districts in Lorain County such as Oberlin, Wellington and

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Jake’s Life Rocks helps fill Beachcliff vacancies

By Allison Pritchard

ROCKY RIVER

Beachcliff Market Square has been having difficulty filling its store vacancies, but it looks like this market is starting to get back on track.

After experiencing success with their first Ohio store in Hudson, Life is good clothing line brings its new store, Jake’s Life Rocks, to Beachcliff Market Square, taking White House Black Market’s old location.

Madison Marquette, owner of Beachcliff, is close to having another

deal before the end of the year with a unique store that will compliment the existing stores, said Jonathan Shartar, asset manager. The new business will probably take the spot that Chico’s once had.

Rocky River resident Bill Brink started Sept. 29 as a full-time property manager, solely dedicated to Beachcliff Market Square, said Shartar. “On-site management is critically important to keep the existing tenants there,” and it will help with bringing in more shops said Kory Koran, Rocky River director of economic and community development. Sharter said hiring Brink was a

step in right direction and he’s really excited, especially for more involvement with the community.

Beachcliff Market Square also recently went through a change in leasing representation and is happy with their choice, CB Richard Ellis, and their new strategy, said Shartar. He mentioned it’s a difficult market for retailers, yet the stores at Beachcliff continue to do well and continue to see growth.

Jake’s Life Rocks will be a perfect fit with the shops in Beachcliff, said

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