

# Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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## Town Topics

Join Briana Herzog this Saturday, September 16 at 3 pm in the Lakeview Village Cemetery for a monument cleaning demonstration. See the "You know you are from Lakeview, Michigan if..." Facebook page for more information.

Don't forget the author expo at the Tamarack District Library this Saturday from 10:00 to 12:30.

Autumn begins next week Saturday. Are you ready?

## Summer Forecast

**Thu** Sunny, high 67. Calm wind becoming northwest 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.

**Thu Night** Mostly clear, low 43.

**Fri** Sunny, high 72.

**Fri Night** Partly cloudy, low 48.

**Sat** Partly sunny, high 73.

**Sat Night** Partly cloudy, low 50.

**Sun** A chance of showers. Partly sunny, high 65.

**Sun Night** Mostly cloudy, low 49.

**Mon** A chance of showers. Partly sunny, high 65.



## A Tree in Memory of Those Gone Too Soon



(back row) VFW 3701 Auxiliary President Sandy Onstwedder, Deb and Erin Gorby, Veteran Larry Higdon and VFW 3701 Auxiliary member Jacki Higdon, Veteran John Grawburg (hidden), VFW 3701 Auxiliary Senior Vice President Linda Huckins, Commander Sgt. Major Roy Burmeister, Vietnam Veteran Randy Huckins (front row) VFW 3701 Auxiliary Treasurer Carol Goodwin, Pastor Julie Drews

By Linda Huckins

People in Lakeview, Michigan woke up to rain last Monday, September 11. It was a special day in this local community and the rain wasn't going to stop the planned activities. Two events were scheduled for September 11. The first was a tree-planting ceremony by the Hough / Pontius VFW 3701's Auxiliary.

The rain let up to a mist by 5 p.m., the scheduled time for the ceremony. VFW Auxiliary officers and members, veterans, and people from the community gathered at the Veterans Memorial on Lincoln Avenue. One veteran, Commander Sergeant Major Roy Burmeister,

came dressed in his full uniform.

VFW 3701 Auxiliary President, Sandy Onstwedder, welcomed everyone, and Julie Drews, pastor of the Cowden Lake Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, opened the ceremony with prayer.

Onstwedder thanked everyone for coming and weathering the elements and explained that they were there to plant a red maple tree "in memory of those that have served our nation proudly and succumbed to PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), which cut their lives with us short."

She went on to explain that the Michigan VFW Auxiliary President's

Special Project this year is Suicide Awareness due to PTSD. Each auxiliary under her command was asked to plant a tree somewhere in their communities in memory of PTSD suicide victims.

Our local auxiliary chose to plant their tree at the site of the Veterans Memorial on Lincoln Avenue. They reached out to John Grawburg, who worked diligently to make the Veterans Memorial a reality. Grawburg, who is a veteran himself, wholeheartedly agreed to let the auxiliary plant a tree on the memorial's lot. He even dug a hole for the tree.

Onstwedder presented Grawburg with a certificate of appreciation

for his dedication to our veterans and for his help with the tree-planting project.

She said that in addition to John Grawburg thanks needed to go to the Village of Lakeview. "This would not be possible without the full support of the village," Sandy said. She had a certificate to present to the village, but unfortunately, village officials were unable to attend the ceremony. Village Manager Darin Dood was presented with the village's certificate on September 12.

Finally, it was then time for the reason for the gathering – to place the beautiful red maple tree in the hole that will become

its permanent "home".

Onstwedder presented Grawburg with a ground plaque to be placed at the base of the tree. On the plaque were engraved the words: "PTSD in Memory of Lives Gone Too Soon. 09/11/2023"

She then closed the ceremony with another thank you for those attending.

Turn to page 2 for more pictures.

As mentioned earlier, there were two September 11 events in Lakeview. The second one was the 9-11 Parade organized by the Blue Star Mothers. See the article below.

## 9-11 Parade and Honor Ceremony



Part of the military and police honor guard at the 9/11 Honor Ceremony

By Linda Huckins

On Monday, September 11, 2023, the Blue Star Mothers of Ionia, Kent & Montcalm Counties, MI-188, held its 9th Annual 9-11 Patriot's Day Parade in Lakeview, Michigan remembering those brave heroes who sacrificed their lives for us on the day of that horrible attack on our

nation.

Representatives from the local police department, the sheriff's department, the fire department, the VFW and its Auxiliary and others joined the Blue Star Mothers in marching through the streets of Lakeview to the bagpipe music of the Montcalm County Honor Guard Pipes and Drums.

The parade started in back of the middle school, proceeded through town and ended in front of the middle school where the Blue Star Mothers held a moving ceremony honoring those heroes.

Kathy Barnes opened the ceremony with a thank you for those attending on behalf of herself and her Blue Star "sisters".

"As military mothers," Barnes said, "we know that most likely none of us would have come together had it not been for the events of 9/11. Many of our children stepped up and joined the military because of that day."

She introduced Blue Star Mothers' Department President Jackie Ransom, who was an honored guest.

The National Anthem was played while attendees saluted or honored the flag.

"We gather here to remember the 2,606 innocent lives lost in the towers," Barnes said. "We remember the 125 military and civilian staff at the Pentagon and the 50 brave souls who fought back in the skies over Pennsylvania."

(continued on page 2)

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