

# Lakeview Area News

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Don't forget about the Blue Star Mothers' 9-11 parade in Lakeview next Wednesday at 6:40 p.m. Let us remember those we lost. Is your furnace working properly? You may need it this weekend. If not, it won't be long before you do. Fall is coming.

### Summer Forecast

**Thu** Sunny, high 84. SW wind 5 to 10, with gusts as high as 20 mph.  
**Thu Night** Showers likely, mainly after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 60. Chance of precipitation is 70%.  
**Fri** Showers likely, mainly before 2pm. Mostly cloudy, high 70. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  
**Fri Night** A chance of showers before 8pm. Partly cloudy, low 46.  
**Sat** A chance of showers after 2pm. Partly sunny, high 60.  
**Sat Night** A chance of showers before 8pm. Partly cloudy, low 41.  
**Sun** Partly sunny, high 63.  
**Sun Night** Partly cloudy, low 45.  
**Mon** Mostly sunny, high 69.



## What I Saw At The J.D. Vance Rally



By Cindy Havens

It was a 91-degree heat advisory, and there wasn't any shade. But that didn't stop nearly 2,600 people from coming out to hear J.D. Vance at Majestic Friesians horse farm in Green Township last week. It isn't often that a national candidate comes to our neck of the woods, but it is an election year, after all. Anything can happen. The success of the anti-Gotition efforts by local residents the last year and a half, has put Mecosta County on the national map. I asked Majestic Friesians owner, Lori Brock how the rally happened. "There have been a lot of local people reaching out to the Trump team for the past year," she said. "In fact, it got to be a running joke with their team, that we were calling from 'that damn horse farm,'" Brock added with a laugh. "But they don't give you a lot of notice. They were here on a Saturday; we had Mike Rogers on Wednesday. Last week they were here on Saturday, and we had J.D. Vance on Tuesday. But the Trump team, they really love our community here, the people and our passion."

According to local law enforcement, 2,200 vehicles came through the gate that morning. "We had a 40-acre parking lot," Brock said. Even though Republican Vice-Presidential candidate J.D. Vance wasn't speaking until 1:30 pm., the fields were already filling up fast by 10:00 am. when I arrived.

But Dave Smith was already there. A Mecosta County resident for fifteen years and a Vietnam era veteran, Smith had come out early. I asked him why he was there and what he thought about the current state of our nation. He was direct. "I came out to see the rally and to hear what J.D. Vance has to say. Because if we don't do something," Smith added, "we aren't going to have a nation." A sentiment echoed by almost everyone I spoke with that day. Once I made it through the secret service metal detectors, I chatted with two volunteers who were directing the flow of people. Mary Bechaz and Robin Reed were both there to hear Mr. Vance and support President Trump. Big Rapids resident and veteran Carl Crawford was there with his wife and brother. "I'm here to support Donald Trump and J.D. Vance," he said. When I asked if there was anything going on in the nation today that bothered him, Crawford laughed and said, "I don't think you have enough time in the day." As with most people I spoke with, Crawford said the border is a big issue for him, as well as the economy. He mentioned "the wars going on and the price of food, the prices of everything, really," he said. I asked what he thought of Harris being the Democratic nominee. "She wasn't the people's choice," he said, adding, "I don't think either one of them can beat Trump."

And then I spotted a guy who had found a corner of shade between the fence and the 20-foot-high pile of speakers. Shawn Young, an army veteran and Mecosta County resident was there to hear what J.D. Vance had to say. "Our country is in a downward spiral," he told me, "and if we don't win this election, we won't make it back." Young was a prison guard in Ionia for thirty years. "J.D. has served his country as a Marine, and he is willing to serve again." Young spoke about the elites in this country not caring about the average Americans, just being in it for the power and the money. We agreed that there are a lot of people who normally don't pay attention to politics, or think they don't need to — "They sure notice when it hits their pocketbook," Young noted, adding that "we need to get the vote out." I visited with Ed Yount from Horsehead Lake, who stated more than once that he was a "staunch Republican". Richmond Township resident and business owner Kim Langworthy was on hand to support Donald Trump. "I want to hear J.D.," he told me, "because if Trump picked him, he must know what he's doing. Because everything Trump says has happened right to the tee. He told us all that would happen if Biden got in, and it went down just like that. I worked in the oil fields for 25 years," Langworthy said. "There's more oil in

the United States than we could ever use. We got to get drillin' again. But he's got some common sense. Sure, I don't like a lot of the stuff Trump does, but that's who he is. He knows how to run this country." The program began at 12 noon with a prayer by a local pastor. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Patricia Taylor singing the National Anthem. Speakers included former Michigan gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon and rally host Lori Brock who led off with comments. They were followed by former ambassador Pete Hoekstra and Senate candidate Mike Rogers. Then J.D. Vance was introduced. The best part was that he came out fifteen minutes early, probably due to the heat or the impending storm that was expected that afternoon.

But Vance came out swinging in support of the anti-Gotition cause. "Kamala Harris not only wants to allow the Chinese Communist Party to build factories on American soil, she wants to pay them to do it with our tax money." Vance went on to talk about his running mate. "Donald Trump stopped the stupid wars and stood up to the bad guys all over the world. He recognized what our failed leadership didn't — that weakness invites American boys and girls to wars that they shouldn't have to fight. American strength promotes peace. And we had a lot of peace when Donald J. Trump was the president of the United States."

(continued on page 2)



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