



# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



## Heartland Blood Centers

Your community blood service since 1943

### Sixth annual pancake breakfast and blood drive at VFW

Post 5040 - January 17

By Matt Klos

VFW 5040 is hosting its annual blood drive which is scheduled for **January 17** (that's a Sunday) from **7:30 am to 12:30 pm**. Heartland Blood Center will have a mobile coach in the VFW Parking lot to perform the collections.

January is considered National Blood Donor Month. January is traditionally a low donation month due to the holidays, travel, and illness. Donations are needed to replenish the low blood supply at this time of the year.

To help you replenish after giving blood, a complimentary **Pancake Breakfast** will be waiting for you. Even if you are unable to donate, come on out for the breakfast. This will be open to the public. Those not donating will have to pay for a meal, but if you donate, your meal is free! If you plan to donate, remember to:

- Bring a photo ID with you.
- Be in good health and feeling well.
- Eat something before you donate.
- It must be greater than 8 weeks since your last whole blood donation.

Pre-signup for donating blood is preferred. For an appointment, please contact the Woodstock VFW at 815-338-5040. More information can be found on Heartland's website:

[www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org)

#### Liquor Price Increase

January 1, 2010, liquor prices at the VFW are going up. Due to changes made by the county in September 2009, prices are increasing about \$0.25 for most bar items.

### \$30M veterans facility in Woodstock discussed

By Don Peasley

News of a non-geriatric nursing home and supported living facilities for injured veterans to be located in Woodstock are under discussion but there is quite a distance to become a reality for a variety of reasons.

The plan discussed at the December 15 Woodstock City Council included construction of the nursing home on property across from the Wells Fargo (Wachovia) building on U.S. Route 14. The proposed construction is being discussed at the same meeting the city council considered relocating the site of the proposed baseball stadium -- a stadium for a minor league team that hopes to begin play in spring 2011.

Here's what we know about the veterans facility. Alan Belcher, Vietnam War veteran, told the city council the facility for veterans is needed.

"They deserve nothing but the best kind of care we can provide. Too many are housed in VA hospitals that do not provide adequate care. They need to be in a

community where they have access to people, activities and the outside world," said Belcher. These would be veterans wounded with traumatic brain injury or multiple limb loss.

Belcher emphasized the goal would be to help veterans reach their maximum level of functioning.

"An ultimate goal is to help them move into supportive living facility, permanent housing or return home," said Belcher.

Under the proposal Belcher said a first building would provide rehabilitation; a second building would provide supportive living, a place to live and continue receiving physical therapy. The presentation before the city council would provide a facility with 100 beds for veterans who need long-term care and up to 120 beds for disabled veterans.

Belcher told the city council, "We were notified this site was available, and it meets our needs. We are seriously interested in this property." Belcher remarked that the nature of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as improved body armor and medical treatment, has led to higher survival rates, but this also means more returning veterans have severe and long-lasting injuries.

With the Army Corps of Engineers holding up the proposed ball park stadium immediately across from the Wells Fargo building, stadium officials want to move the stadium east on the property. The discussed site for the stadium would be east of any extension of Doty Road, northwest of U.S. Route 14.

Apparently, the veterans facility would not be so large as to make it impractical to locate what's needed to care for veterans at the originally planned site for the stadium. Merryman Aggregate is mining gravel on the 240-acre site which extends east to Lily Pond Road.

It seems apparent that the baseball stadium and the veterans facility are intermingled insofar as moving forward with either or both projects. This is in part due to the need to consider suitable access on U.S. Route 14 and roadways that would be

Continued on next page.



### VFW Employee Diane Grace will be missed by Post 5040

Diane Grace, 63, of Marengo, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009, at Centegra Hospital in Woodstock. Diane was an employee at VFW Post 5040 for the last three to four years. She enjoyed working at the Post and helping out where she could.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or a charity of the donor's choice.

For more information, call the funeral home at 815-568-8131 or visit:

[www.marengo-unionfuneralhome.com](http://www.marengo-unionfuneralhome.com)

### Veterans Facility

Continued from Page 1.

necessary on the property to meet the needs of stadium traffic and veterans facility traffic.

Changes to the project must be approved by the Woodstock planning commission, followed by a public hearing with the Woodstock City Council.

Belcher's involvement in this project comes from his leadership in establishing the Transitional Living Facility in Hebron in 1996. It opened in 2001. With a grant received last year, it not only houses veterans but serves as a link helping veterans find employment. Belcher knows firsthand the need for intensive care for returning veterans through his profession of counseling veterans.

About two years ago he began conversations with VA officials concerning the need for a specialized kind of facility. He hopes it will be started near Woodstock before the end of 2010. He has had discussions with the Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

If the application is accepted, HUD will guarantee up to 90 percent of the funding, estimated by one participant at \$30 million. About \$2 million would be required to be raised locally. Belcher is working closely with the McHenry County Community Foundation for that local support.



### Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2009-2010

The charter was draped in honor of our two recent departed members, Lois Freund and Pat Gaylord.

We had a nice turn out for our December Christmas dinner and party. We thank Chris Gehrke and her daughter Michelle Patnaude for all the work they did as co-chairman of the party.

The Auxiliary furnished baked ham and we had a great variety of food. The drawing for the three free dues for the coming year were won by Rose Mary Hellstern, Chris Gehrke and Jessica Rathbone.

Thirty five year membership pins were awarded to Chris Gherke and Irene Brown.

It was decided not to meet in January due to the usual inclement weather. The next meeting will be on February 4 at 7:00pm.

Have a happy and healthy new year!



### Chaplains report

By Pete Lockinger

Sick List: Howard Engstrom - Jesse Berry - Harold Cross - Fred Noble

### A Quick "Thank You"

Mike Lackey and his wife, Sue, would like to thank all the VFW members who attended the party/benefit that was held on Friday, November 27th, at the Waverly House Ballroom as a fundraiser for Christmas Clearing House.

All of the generous contributions of cash and gift cards totaled to approximately \$2,500. Along with The Christmas Clearing House organization, we would like to THANK YOU for your contributions!!!



### Holiday 8-Ball Tourney Winners

"Big Ron" was the winner over Brian Ritter. Congratulations!

### Final roll call for our deceased members of VFW Post 5040 - December 21, 2009

The following 14 VFW Post 5040 members were remembered at the last Post meeting of the 2009 year with a bell tolling. Each of these deceased Veterans will be remembered for their duty to country and the contributions they made in life. May God bless each of our departed comrades and their families:

- Roger D. Behm
- Maril Collier
- John C. Fish
- Ronald Flemming
- Richard Gaulke
- Robert L. Gaylord
- John R. Greenham
- Leonard T. Irlacher
- Charles Mansfield
- Jerome J. Mayer
- Odis H. Moore
- Ralph R. Pedersen
- Wayne L. Sherwin
- Gordon H. Tharp

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**Marine Corps League**  
 McHenry County Detachment 1009  
 Meets every 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM  
 Woodstock VFW Post 5040  
 240 N. Throop St.  
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★  
**WOODSTOCK AMERICAN LEGION**  
 Meets Second Monday of Each Month  
 (Except December) at the VFW at 7:30 P.M.

# January 2010

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise - closing times vary depending on patronage) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Closed	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	<b>Happy New Year 2010!</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm	<b>2</b> Saturday Raffle 4 pm
<b>3</b>	Memorial Day <b>4</b> Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Meeting 6:30 pm	Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm <b>5</b>	Cub Scouts - 7 pm <b>6</b>  <i>Epiphany (Traditional)</i>	No Ladies Auxiliary Meeting for January On this Night <b>7</b>	<b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <b>8</b>	Saturday Raffle 4 pm <b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	VFW Officers Meeting 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm <b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <b>15</b>	Saturday Raffle 4 pm <b>16</b>
 <b>17</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast and Blood Drive</b> Blood Donations taken from 7:30am - 12:30pm Free breakfast to all donors. Contact Post to sign up for donation. <i>Persian Gulf War Began (1991)</i>	VFW Meeting <b>18</b> 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. <b>Deadline for February 2010 VFW News items</b>  <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm <b>19</b>	Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm <b>20</b>	Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm <b>21</b>	<b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <b>22</b>	Saturday Raffle 4 pm <b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <i>Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm <b>29</b>	Saturday Raffle 4 pm <b>30</b>



Prior to the December meeting, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners and their families were treated to dinner by the Post. After dinner, each winner read their essay to Post members. From left is Christine Geherke, Ladies Auxiliary secretary and contest event chairman; Patriot Pen winners Anneliese McGregor, Dana Emery, and Alie Aydin; Voice of Democracy winner Christopher Banville; and VFW Post 5040 Commander Mike Lackey. The District Award banquet will take place on January 9, 2010 at Sequoit Post 4551 in Antioch at 5 pm. (Matt Klos photo.)



**From the Editor's Desk** By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Happy New Year everyone! Sorry about the late issue for December. USPS held up our newsletter at a mailing facility for several days while it processed first class mail. Hopefully this won't happen too often.

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you the best in 2010.

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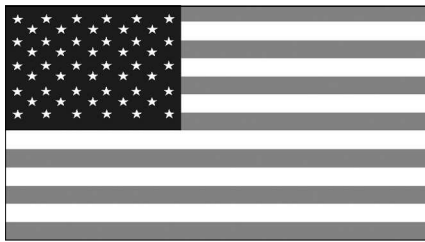
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email: [vfwpost5040@att.net](mailto:vfwpost5040@att.net)



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**VFW Post 5040**  
**Post Officers 2009 - 2010**

Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Lumpp	(630)-460-8812
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Chambers	(815)-703-9000
Quartermaster	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Asst. Quartermaster	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Chaplain	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Mike Iwanicki	(815)-334-4229
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Denny Burrs	(815)-338-7014
Adjutant	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
1 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

**Board of Directors**  
**2009 - 2010**

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	LaVern Emericson	- NA -
Treasurer	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Secretary	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Club Manager	Pat Auvenshine	(815)-338-5224

**Ladies Auxiliary to**  
**VFW Post 5040**  
**Post Officers 2009 - 2010**

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Michelle Patnaude	- NA -
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Patriotic Instructor	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
1 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
2 Year Trustee	Jessica Rathbone	- NA -
3 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546

**VFW POST 5040, WOODSTOCK**  
**We are open to the public!**

**This month's issue:**

- **Liquor prices increase.**
- **VFW employee Diane Grace dies.**
- **Talk of \$30M veteran's facility.**
- **Roll call of deceased for 2009.**
- **And a couple of more things of interest inside...**

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **Jan 9: VOD and Patriot Pen dinner at Antioch Post 4551.**
- **Jan 17: 6th Annual VFW Blood Drive and Pancake Breakfast.**
- **Jan 18: VFW Meeting.**