

Woodstock

# VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

State Second Place  
2004

[www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

November 2004  
Vol. 50. No. 5



Workmen place a concrete divider between the city and VFW parking lots on Throop Street. Places to fly flags or pennants were included while finishing the concrete. The VFW arrangement to lease the parking lot to the city expired September 1. (Ralph Ritter Photo).

## Divider Now In Place

If you have driven past the Post recently, you may have noticed that a concrete divider now separates the VFW and city parking lot. The concrete divider was laid on October 5, 2004.

The cost of the project was approximately \$6,000, split between the city and VFW. The contractor, Alliance Contractors, Inc., owned by Chuck Ruth, put the sidewalk in.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to Alliance Contractors. In addition to putting the sidewalk in, the cost of the project to the VFW was donated by Alliance Contractors. Great job and thank you very much!

## 5th District Meeting November 7 at Woodstock VFW

The next VFW 5th District Meeting will take place at the Woodstock VFW on November 7th. Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm, with the meeting following.

If you have not attended a 5th District Meeting before, try to attend this one. It's close to home and early in the new VFW year. Come out and let your District representatives know what's on your mind.



\*\*\*\*\*

★ **Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Post** ★

★ **November 11 - 11:00 A.M** ★

★ On November 11th, at 11:00 am, the post will be hold- ★

★ ing a Veterans Day ceremony in front of the post. After ★

★ the ceremony, a lunch will be served in the lower hall of ★

★ Post 5040 at 12:00pm. The lunch is open to the public. ★

★ Meal cost is \$6.00, and all veterans will receive \$1.00 off ★

★ the cost of their meal. Menu for the lunch will be ham and ★

★ sides. ★

★ The above poster (in color) can be found at the Depart- ★

★ ment of Veterans Affairs website at: ★

★ <http://www1.va.gov/vetsday/page.cfm?pg=19> ★

★ Remember to thank you fellow vet on this day and say ★

★ thanks for their time in service. ★

\*\*\*\*\*

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2004 - 2005

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025
Junior Vice Commander	Henry "Hank" Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Service Officer	Ron Nehls	(815)-338-3671
Judge Advocate	Elmer "Bud" Pflug	Not Available
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dohm	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Michael David	(815)-338-5341

## VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2004 - 2005

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	Bonnie Kagel	(815)-648-4958
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	Not Available

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

## Donations Made at the October Meeting

Several large donations were made at the October VFW meeting which included the below:

\$450.00 donation to the Wounded Soldiers Program (Veterans Foundation of Illinois). This program seeks to assist men and women in our armed forces that have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq. More information about this was detailed in the August 2004 issue on page 5.

\$100.00 to Operation Uplink, a program that provides prepaid phone cards to our military personnel and hospitalized veterans.

\$150.00 to Operation Christmas Cheer, a program that the post donates to each year which goes to the North Chicago Veterans Hospital.

## Victory Dance At Post

The Adult & Child Rehab Center is hosting a brand new fundraiser. A 40's Style Victory Dance "A Salute to the Servicemen" will be taking place on Saturday, November 6, 2004.

The dance will be located at the VFW in Woodstock from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The cost for this event will be \$20.00 per person. A cash bar will be available. Door prizes and a 50/50 Raffle are part of the planned evening. Please join in on the fun by dressing in the 1940's era. We will be having prizes for dance and period attire & uniform contests. Monies raised will help to provide many hours of therapy and nursing care for patients who are in need of financial assistance.

Tickets are available at the Rehab Center located at 708 Washington Street in Woodstock or by phone at (815) 338-1707.



## Updates Made To New Horizons

By Don Peasley

Two activities are underway at the New Horizons Veteran Center at Hebron. Updating the facilities at the former Hi De Ho Hotel will lead to receiving a grant from the Veterans Administration.

Around the building extensive landscaping is underway. Brickman Landscaping is donating services to plant red, white and blue flowers in the shape of an American flag. A gazebo for the public and for the veterans at this transitional living facility will be incorporated into the landscaping project.

In keeping with the historic fact that McHenry County's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Elmer Bigelow, was a Hebron resident, the landscaping firm is planning a Bigelow Memorial Garden.

Bigelow, aboard the USS Fletcher in 1945, acted quickly when a Japanese shell exploded below decks and started a fire in a magazine. His Congressional Medal of Honor citation stated, "Bigelow's quick action without doubt saved the Fletcher and her crew so they could fight another day." The explosion occurred February 14, 1945 and he died from injuries the following day.

His Congressional Medal of Honor citation described Bigelow's action on February 14, 1945 when the Japanese shell struck the Fletcher and started several fires to powder cases in the number one gun turret. The citation continues, "Refusing to waste precious time required to don rescue-breathing apparatus, he plunged through blinding smoke coming from the magazine hatch and dropped into the blazing compartment. He worked rapidly and with instinctive sureness to quickly extinguish the fires and cool the cases and bulkheads, preventing further damage to the stricken

**See Horizons, next page.**

## Horizons, continued from previous page.

ship.

“Although he succumbed to his injuries the following day, Bigelow’s action in an emergency averted a magazine explosion which would have left the ship wallowing at the mercy of Japanese guns on Corregidor.”

(The U.S. Navy named Destroyer 942 the U.S.S. Bigelow in honor of Elmer.)

Steve Aavang, executive director for New Horizons, said plans call for a 3,000-square-foot vegetable garden. Improvements to the facility include installing fireproof doors and sprinklers and an alarm system.

A grant to help support this facility was approved by a VA executive Thursday, Sept. 30.

New Horizons has facilities to care for 14 homeless veterans. With the demand for help coming from a growing number of homeless veterans, Aavang said the site manager’s living quarters could be converted into a dormitory. In addition, some of the 14 rooms could have double occupancy.

“We are experiencing increased calls for facilities to help veterans,” said Aavang. Referrals come from township supervisors, VA hospitals, social agencies in McHenry County and veterans organizations, including the VFW, American Legion and AmVets.

New Horizons has three staff members. They are Aavang, executive director; John Ashburn, program coordinator; and Tammy Tope, caseworker. The staff goal is to help veterans find a home and qualify for a job.

“We provide computer training. We also help veterans learn about preparing nutritional meals and counsel them on personal finances,” said Aavang. The average stay at New Horizons is one year. After a 30-day probation period veterans are allowed to stay at New Horizons for up to two years.

Staff members have been able to help veterans obtain work following training at the New Horizons building.



Significant improvements on the physical structure at the New Horizons Veteran Center at Hebron has paved the way to earn approval from the Veterans Administration. An application for a grant has now been approved. George Kanaly, carpenter, replaces doors to the rooms with a steel fireproof entryway.



Workmen for Brickman Landscaping beautify the grounds around New Horizons Veteran Center at Hebron. Brickman is planting red, white and blue flowers at the front of the building to represent the U.S. flag.

## Sweetheart Raffle

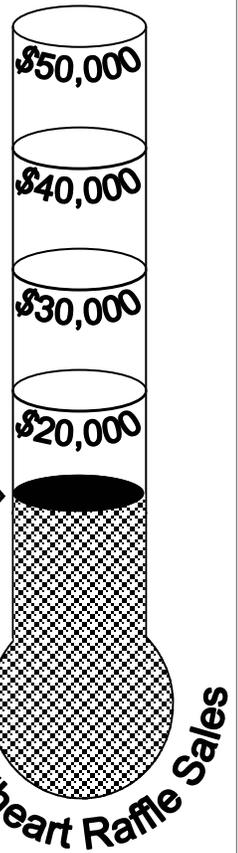
Ticket sales for the February Sweetheart raffle continue to grow, but at a very slow pace. Currently we are at about \$13,000 in sales.

We still have a ways to go Post 5040. As the holidays are quickly come upon us, consider buying a raffle ticket (or two) for that “hard to buy for” relative or family member. The gift would be two fold. One, you help support the Post. Two, the person receiving the ticket may have a chance at winning one of the prizes.

Don’t forget, this is a large raffle. 1st prize will be \$5,000, 2nd prize is \$3,000, 3rd prize is \$2,000, and 4th prize is \$1,000.

Also consider Veterans Day. This is a special day to remember our veterans and what better way to help make a difference than to donate to the Post. If you have tickets you are trying to sell, this may be a great day to sell them to friends and neighbors.

Sales to date:  
\$13,000



## Veterans Day - November 11

This day is set aside to thank and honor **All** those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. It is intended to thank **Living** veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

## I Need a Copy of My Military Records...What Should I Do?

From the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration Website

From time to time, post members need a copy of military records for one reason or another, and unless they have been careful bookkeepers, these important documents become misplaced. If you do need a copy, the NPRC-MPR is what you need.

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. NPRC (MPR) also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. Information from the records is made available upon written request (with signature and date) to the extent allowed by law.

The website is provided for those seeking information regarding military personnel, health and medical records stored at NPRC (MPR). If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, you may now use [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov) to order a copy of your military records. For all others, your request is best made using a Standard Form 180. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests.

Please Note: All requests must be in writing, signed and mailed to us at the address shown below.

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at NPRC (MPR) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files. The affected record collections are described below.

### Branch Personnel and Period Affected Estimated Loss

- Army Personnel discharged November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960 80%
- Air Force Personnel discharged, September 25, 1947, to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) 75%

No duplicate copies of the records that were destroyed in the fire were maintained, nor was a microfilm copy ever produced. There were no indexes created prior to the fire. In addition, millions of documents had been lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the fire occurred. Therefore, a complete listing of the records that were lost is not available. Nevertheless, NPRC (MPR) uses many alternate sources in its efforts to reconstruct basic service information to respond to requests.

For more information, please use the website at:  
<http://www.archives.gov>

## Annual Turkey Raffle and Dinner November 20, 2004



Make plans now for attending the annual Turkey Raffle and dinner on Saturday, November 20. Dinner will be served from 6 pm to 8 pm. Cost is \$6.00 per person.

Raffle prizes include a **First Prize of \$150, Second Prize of \$100, Third Prize of \$50** and **next 40 prizes of 40 turkeys!**

This should be a lot of fun so come out and enjoy a turkey dinner a week before Thanksgiving.

Also as a reminder, if you have not already done so, please drop off or mail your raffle ticket stubs and monies to the post. There is a mail box (not the flag drop box) to the right of the main entrance to the post mounted on the wall where you can drop off your stubs and collected monies.

## My Hero

Tricia Hiebert, Addison, IL

Some people find their heroes in movie and sports stars.  
My hero is much greater and outweighs them all by far.  
My hero wears a uniform and serves their country well.  
My hero does his duty and answers when he's called.  
He does not look for glory and does not look for fame.  
They are true American Heroes to forget would be a shame.  
Remember all our heroes those with us and those not.  
Without My Hero The American Soldier  
All Freedom Would Be Lost.



## From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos

By the time most of you read this, elections will be over, we will have the same (or new) president, referendums will have passed (or not), new or same representatives will be elected. This years elections have been interesting to listen to and read about, but at the same time sometimes have been downright nasty. I hope that our troops overseas were able to vote, and I hope each of you reading this newsletter voted as well.

I don't know who will be the next president, but I hope that whoever it is will continue to lead our country the best way they can, in the best interests of the people.

As the holiday season comes upon us, let us not forget our military this time of year. They continually need our support from the home front to let them know that they are making a difference in the world and we support them on the home front. God protect them and help our leaders do what your will is. Take care comrades.

# November 2004

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Closed	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm	2	3	4 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm	5 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	6
7	8 American Legion 7:30 pm	9 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	10 Cub Scouts - ?? pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	11  <b>Veterans Day</b> Ceremony at Post 11 am, Lunch at 12 pm	12 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	13
14	15 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	16 Dirtt Group 7 pm	17 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	18 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	19 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	20 <b>Turkey Raffle and Dinner</b> 6 - 8 pm 
21	22 Girls Softball ?? pm	23 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	24 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	25 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> 	26 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	27
28	29	30 Dirtt Group 7 pm	1	2 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm	3	4

## Advertising Sponsorship Renewals

Attention all sponsors that have ads in the *VFW News*. A renewal letter will be sent out sometime in late November or early December regarding your renewal of advertising space in the *VFW News* for the 2005 calendar year. Please be on the lookout for this. The cost for the ad space during the next year will have not yet been confirmed, but will be decided during the November VFW meeting.

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**Letters to the Editor...**

If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please send it to the following address (do not send it to the post address):



**Matt Klos**  
**VFW 5040 News Editor**  
**269 Forest Drive**  
**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**  
**(815)-479-8842**

And for those of you with access to the internet, you can e-mail me at:

**matt.klos@vfw5040.org**

Visit our Post Website:  
**www.vfw5040.org**

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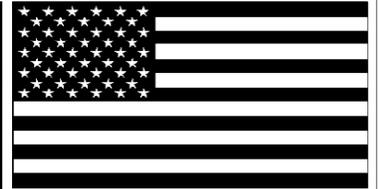
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