

“Exploring Our Final Frontier Among the Stars”

70th Annual Gathering

Hamlin Ex-Students Alumni Homecoming 2024

September 27 - 28

Please note these are the scheduled events as of this newsletter composition time (mid-July). Please continue to check our **web page: [https:// hamlinexstudents.com](https://hamlinexstudents.com)** and our **Facebook group: “Hamlin Ex-Students”** for updates or additions as time passes. You may also call and leave us a message with your name and phone number so we can get back with you: (325) 721-8512. Stay up-to-date with our school activities: <https://www.gohamlin.com>

Memorial Windows: West 200 block of South Central Avenue in the alcove of the former McDonald’s Dept. Store. These windows will be lighted at night for your viewing. **High School and Alumni Queen/King Photo Windows:** 319 South Central Avenue at Bell’s Home and Auto storefront. These windows will also be lighted at night for your viewing.

Friday, September 27

Registration / Voting / Meal Ticket sales from **9 a.m. – noon / 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** in The Book Nook, 245 S. Central Avenue. **Alumni Registration \$10 / Friday evening meal tickets \$14 / \$8.**

Friday Meal: Note NEW times 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., Hamlin High School Cafeteria, 450 S. W. Avenue F. Meal: Fried fish, hush puppies, fries, slaw, beans, cookie, and beverage – catered and sponsored by the Hamlin Lion’s Club. Meal tickets may be purchased at the door, along with continued Alumni Registration / Voting. **Meal Tickets: \$14; ages 10 and under, \$8.**

Homecoming Football Game: 7:00 p.m. – “Piper Stadium”. Hamlin Pied Pipers vs. Quanah Indians. Special half-time activities will take place recognizing and crowning Hamlin High School’s queen/king nominees/winners, along with the Ex-Students nominees/winners from the classes of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, and 2004. Tickets for reserved seating for the game may be purchased by contacting Sheila Maberry at (325) 576-3624. Tickets will also be available at the ticket window prior to and during game time.

Post-Game Fellowship and Reception for all Alumni in the Foyer of “Piper Court”, located directly behind Hamlin High School. Stop by and enjoy some refreshments with us following the game and visit with your fellow Pipers until 10:15 p.m. **Some of the downtown businesses** will also be open post-game for more visiting, shopping, etc. Enjoy the entire evening!

Saturday, September 28: Downtown Reunion/ Informational Gathering/Vendors/Music/PARADE/Meals/”People’s Choice Award” on Floats post parade/Scholarship Awards:

ALL of Saturday’s activities will take place in downtown Hamlin. **Bring a lawn chair** with you and get ready to mix and mingle with your fellow Pipers, along with shopping and dining, as we celebrate 70 years of Homecomings and our heritage of being Pied Pipers. There will be portable toilets located in the downtown area.

Alumni Informational program on Hamlin and her future goals: 10 a.m. in the lobby of First National Bank Aspermont/Hamlin: Take time for this 30-minute gathering to learn about our community and school and the future goals for making Hamlin a better place to live. Dr. Randy Burks, retired HCISD Superintendent and Hamlin's new Municipal Development Director will be presenting current and future projects for our community.

Live Musical Entertainment beginning @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Come enjoy some of the many talented people, all Hamlin alumni, who will be performing prior to and following the parade. These entertainers will be located near the bank.

Local Vendors will be set up throughout the downtown area to showcase their hobbies or home businesses.

Homecoming Parade begins at **11:30 a.m.** in downtown Hamlin. Parade route begins on the far south end of S.W. Avenue F to West Lake Drive, turning east towards downtown and heading south on S. Central Avenue, making a U-turn at S. W. 5th Street, coming back north through the downtown district, and back west on West Lake Drive, finally turning south on **S. W. Avenue A, turning onto S.W. 3rd Street (brick street)** for adjudication for additional monies as selected by parade attendees wishing to vote for **the “People’s Choice Award” for “Best Overall” float.**

Note new meal time and location: 12-1:30 p.m. on the **South Bank parking lot.** Come join your fellow alumni and the Hamlin community **with your lawn chairs** for a **donation-only contribution meal to our Ex-Students Alumni Association** consisting of your choice of either grilled hamburgers or hot dogs with all of the trimmings, condiments, chips, and a drink. **Food will be served until we run out. Our scholarships will be awarded at 1:15 p.m. in this same location.**

Wow! Seventy years of Homecomings, even continuing a portion of the events during 2020 with the outbreak of Covid. As early as 1924, then Superintendent for Hamlin Schools, H.D. Neff, and his wife helped to organize the HHS Alumni Association, that only saw a few meetings of ex-students return to Hamlin primarily for a meal and time of fellowship; that organization did not last. It would not be until the fall of 1955 that Hamlin held its first two-day Homecoming event with a pep rally, meals, football game, and a parade. With your continued support and involvement, whether you live near or far away, Hamlin's Homecoming will continue. One of our major hurdles is keeping current addresses and e-mails in order for classes to be able to stay connected on their reunion years, and for us to notify all of our Piper family of our annual event. The classes from 2000 through the current year are ones we particularly need help in updating. Caleb White, Class of 2019, is our new webmaster for our newly designed and secure web page that was birthed and well-maintained by our late friend and alumnus, Mike Brown, from the HHS Class of 1969. We have now added Venmo to the already established PayPal and credit card options for those who wish to register, vote, become a homecoming “sponsor”, in addition to year-round giving for memorials, etc. Work is still ongoing for the Memorial Wall page, which will also better accommodate updates on losses of our ex-students.

The theme for this year's parade focuses on space exploration and can include any previous, current, or future means and/or discovery in what some have termed “our final frontier.” Entries may include historic documentaries, television shows, movies, and current ongoing exploration, along with sightings of UFO's and UAP's.

Hamlin is filled with new businesses and faces since last year's newsletter. Among the new businesses: POSH, Aesthetics and Wellness clinic; Hamlin Liquor; A Cut Above, barber shop; Get-N-Go / Crazy Cones, drive-thrus; Main Street Artisan Pizza; PFS Clothing Store; Southern Grace and Sisters Tex-Mex food trucks; Down to Earth School of Massage; and Small Town RV Park with more under construction. New faces include our school superintendent, Dr. Chanda Bloch; City Administrator, Franklin Shearer; Mayor, Tucker Teague; MDD, Dr. Randy Burks; Police Chief, Brandon Arnold; City of Hamlin Judge, Don Dennett; and City Secretary, Tonya Harugthy.