



Issue 3

AHS Alumni instaNEWS

Arlington High School Alumni Association

www.ahscolts-alumni.org

P.O. Box 152578 • Arlington, Texas 76015



October 2025

Also in this issue: Pep Rally, Open House, Class Reunion Photos and more!

Sponsors, Donors Help Association Exceed NTGD Goal

Thanks to you, we did it! Our sponsors and donors helped the Alumni Association surpass our North Texas Giving Day goal this year by raising \$17,890 on the annual non-profit fundraising day. Almost 50 contributors helped the organization reach this financial mark.

"This day is so important to us," Nicky Austin, NTGD Co-Chairperson said. "It's the primary fundraising event for the year, and giving back is what we do," she added.

Our theme for this year has been "Making a Difference Together!" and your donations will help make a difference! For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact Nicky or Mike Austin by emailing the alumni association at AHSColtsForever@gmail.com.

We'd like to give a special recognition to our 2025 sponsors and

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Senior Ella Irons' mum, adorned with ribbons, trinkets and bows, says a lot about her individuality, expressing her personality, achievements and social involvement.

Mums "As Big As Texas" On Display at Homecoming

By Rickie Windle
Alumni Association Reporter

"Well, I knew all the music."

That was an off-the-cuff review of AHS Homecoming 2025 by an alum who hasn't seen the pep rally in 50 years.

It is the more things change, the more they stay the same.

There's a lot familiar. They play *The Horse* and the fight song, the same notes and the same lyrics. The coach comes out and professes spirit and victory. The stands are filled with students, many wearing homecoming mums. Cheerleaders chant and dance. There's a parade.

And none of that is like it once was. Like everything else. But it is still Arlington High School Homecoming.

The most visible change is the mums. Once a Fall token of affection that a boy bought a girl, they are now an entire other ball game.

Starting with size. It's not a single mum, two if you're flush and extravagant, with some glitter and ribbons. You can buy such, the single running about \$50 and the double \$100. But some are the size

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Alumni Association Hosts Teacher Appreciation Lunch

On Dec. 12, the Alumni Association will host the annual fall semester Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Teachers will be treated to lunch and have the opportunity to win various donated prizes.

If you'd like to help out by giving back and volunteering to be a part of the Colt Corral, contact Michelle Barlen at 817-917-8007.

We appreciate all the teachers, staff and support workers!

Alumni Association Encourages Seniors to Apply for Annual Scholarship Funds for College Entry

Applications are being accepted for the Arlington High School Alumni Association scholarships for Colt Seniors – Class of 2026.

The \$2,000 scholarships, a cornerstone of the Association's

efforts, go to 10 seniors who exhibit character and a love for Arlington High School. The scholarships are based on many factors beyond academic achievement. Several scholarship holders have been first generation college attendees. The scholarships represent all facets of high school life including athletics, arts, publications and student government.

The application will be in the main counseling office beginning Oct. 31 and are due by Dec. 19. Mrs. Leila Perez is the counselor to contact for the scholarship application.

Mikayla Cathcart was a 2025 recipient and is now a freshman at Texas Christian University.

"Getting the scholarship certainly helped in making the transition from public school to the university and took some of the burden off my family," Cathcart said. She said having the stipend also let her "be more involved on campus" instead of having to put in work hours that took from the college experience.

Scholarships are supported by service organizations, Alumni Armed Service veterans and families honoring past generations of Colts. A number of AHS Classes support the scholarship program including the Classes of 1957, 1962, 1963 and 1978 by giving scholarships in memory of classmates.

Giving back to AHS students and faculty is the main goal of the Alumni Association and why many alumni return at Homecoming each year to support the future generations.

DCA Award Recipient – Peggy Halpin Faber Fighting Parkinson's One Mile at a Time

During this year's Alumni Association annual reunion and Open House, Peggy Halpin Faber, Class of 1980, was selected to receive one of five Distinguished Colt Alumni awards. Peggy was nominated by her sister, Melanie, for completing her quest of participating in 50 marathons in 50 states. Peggy ran her first marathon in 1996 in Portland, Oregon and ran her last marathon in the New York State marathon, which she completed during the Fall of 2024, with friends and family cheering and supporting her.

In 2018, Peggy was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and her disease progressed where she went from running to just walking



Peggy stands in front of the United States map made out of old license plates immediately following her 49th state marathon completion.

the marathons. Yet during this challenging time, she showed the drive and determination she had back in high school as a Colt Kickers drill team member.

"We were all so proud of her for accomplishing her goal," her sister commented, adding that the Colt Spirit was alive as signs were displayed and cowbells were ringing as Peggy completed the final race in seven hours.

Since then, Peggy has been chosen as one of five new members on the Advisory Council of the Parkinson's Foundation People with Parkinson's.

She has also become a published author, collaborating on an unique book, "Sports, Exercise and Slowing the Progression of Parkinson's Disease." The book contains over 20 chapters on over 20 different sports written by over 20 different athletes all living with Parkinson's.

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Members-at-Large: Mike Enger, '74;

Campus Liaison: Natasha Newsome, CBC



Pep Rally, Homecoming Events Continue the Annual AHS Spirit • Pride • Tradition

Homecoming 2025 began with the Alumni Association participating in the AHS pep rally, followed by a reception, recognizing those alumni who were in attendance.

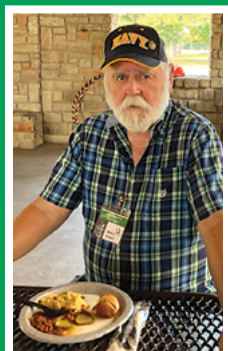
The following day, the annual Open House reunion was held in the school cafeteria. Classmates gathered to reminisce over their times at AHS, listened as former principal, James Adams, gave a brief history on how the Alumni Association began 30 years ago, heard from current Principal Stacie Humbles

and Athletic Director Scott Peach talk about the state of our Alma Mater and the direction the school was heading. The traditional fight song was played by the Alumni Band, this year's Distinguished Colts were awarded, and the program closed with the traditional singing of "You'll Never Walk Alone." A tour was held of "The Cube" as well as the Alumni "Legends" room following the program.

Make plans now to join us next year for this traditional "Colts Forever" event.



CLASS OF 1970 CELEBRATES 55 YEAR REUNION



Classes From Four Decades Get Together to Celebrate Reunions

Classes from the years 1985, 1990 and 2010 gathered in separate areas of J. Gilligan's on the evening of Sept. 13 following the Alumni Association Open House event to celebrate the anniversaries of their graduating years.

Down the street at the Grease Monkey, graduates of 2015 met to celebrate their 10th anniversary of post-high school graduation, while further north, the Class of 1970 celebrated their 55th reunion at the Texas Rangers Golf Club.

The Class of 1985 celebrated their 40th reunion, the Class of 1990 gathered for their 35th, and the Class of 2010 welcomed classmates for their 15th (their 10th being cancelled in 2020 by Covid).

The Classes of 1995 and 2005 chose Grand Prairie to gather, where the class of 1995 celebrated their 30th reunion at the Firehouse Gastro Park and the Class of 2005 rekindled 20 years of memories at Chicken N Pickle. (See photos on Page 7.)

CLASS OF 2010



CLASS OF 1985 CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY



CLASS OF 1990 RECONNECTS WITH CLASSMATES



THE CLASS OF 2015 WAS WELL REPRESENTED FOR THEIR 10TH REUNION



From Cartoon Characters to Flowers –

Painted Parking Spaces Allow Students to Express Individualism

By Rickie Windle
Alumni Association Reporter

High school and parking have been synonymous since Henry Ford was putting Model T's into America's hands.

At Arlington High School, they've turned parking into an art form.

Similar to programs in high schools across the nation, AHS students can buy a specific space in the lot off Park Row in front of the Activities Center and just west of the main school. It takes away the uncertainty of looking for a space no matter how close to first "bell" - they now use an electronic signal for class changes - the student gets to school.

But it's more than two white lines and a box with a number delineating a parking space. Because many of the students put their own flair into their slot that houses their transportation during their time at school.

The combination of function and art may be best exemplified by one spot that is decorated simply with "If you can read this, I am late."

Vice Principal Ryan Hawkins is the administrator for the parking spaces. As the second week of school got into swing, she said 231 spaces had been purchased by students. For the full year, the cost is \$50, for only the second half of the year, \$25.

Students say the best spots are those closest to the tennis courts and D Hall simply because they cut down on the time between arriving and getting into the school.

Hawkins said the school sponsors a decorating party for the spots before the school year begins, but students can put their muse to use at any time.

One Sunday morning just as school had started four ladies were working in the already 90-degree heat. They had thrown up a tent over the spot and were listening to country music as they drew and colored.

Hawkins said the rules aren't very rigid for the decoration. The artists are asked simply to be "school appropriate" and not cover up the number for each spot.

The art varies widely. Powerpuff Girls, three cartoon crimefighting sisters with huge eyes from the '90s, are popular. Flower patterns abound. One declares "Slurpees got me through

high school" with a drawing of the frozen drink. A string of spots on the east side of the Activities Center simply declare "Senior Life is Good." Several along that same stretch, which includes both student and staff spots, designate Bible verses.

A spot that is both representative and distinctive is held by senior Jenna Diaz. It is one of those right near the door. She snagged it in August to ensure that convenience. And she made the decision to actually put her name on it.

"I just wanted people to know if they wondered if someone was parked there, they could come talk to me," Diaz said. "If they needed anything, they could leave a note on my car. Just so they know it is me."

The spot also has a drawing of the television cartoon Great Dane Scooby Doo and the motto "one last mystery." It's an homage to both her childhood and her moving into full adulthood.

"I loved it when I was a kid and I've never grown out of it," Diaz said. "It's my comfort show."

She said overall the art for all the other parkers "allows me to show them the person I want them to see."

There was a time when students purchased a little green and white sticker, like

those meant to remind you of an oil change time, and put it in the window to qualify for AHS parking. That led to lots of circling around looking for a blank space and trying to beat the first bell.

Things are different far beyond designated spots. With four grades in the school it's possible as many as 1,000 students are eligible for a driver's license and need a parking place. A far cry from the just more than 200 who have claimed a space in today's Colt Country. But driving and high school are not synonymous anymore.

U.S. Department of Transportation statistics find that the number of 16-year-old drivers in the nation has dropped 27 percent over the last 25 years. Reasons cited include the costs of driving, ride share operations offering viable mobility options and what psychologists call "driving anxiety" among teenagers.

Once a focused desire of freedom for teenagers, studies show a big rise in mental struggles and witnessing road rage has discouraged teenagers from caring about driving until much later in life, if at all.

*The combination of function
and art may be best
exemplified by one spot that is
decorated simply with
"If you can read this, I am late."*



Stay in touch with your Classmates and your Alumni Association!

Send your reunion dates for 2026 to:

AHSColtsforever@gmail.com

Reunions

CLASS OF 1980

The Class of '80 will be holding its 45th Class Reunion from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8 at Division Brewing, 506 E. Main Street in Arlington. There is no admission charge, but food and drinks are separate. Contact **Lori Richman** at lorisrichman@yahoo.com for additional information.

CLASS OF 2005

The Class of 2005 held two gatherings of its 20th reunion - the first on Oct. 10 at Chicken N Pickle in Grand Prairie and the second, the following evening at J. Gilligan's in Arlington. Over 75 classmates attended the gathering rekindling school memories.



CLASS OF 1995

The Class of 1995 held its 30th high school reunion Homecoming weekend at the Firehouse Gastro Park in Grand Prairie. Attendees were entertained with live music provided by their classmates.





From super-large to multiple flowers, homecoming mums aren't what they once were. The average "Texas-sized" arrangement can weigh 20 pounds or more.

of a young lady, actually attached to boards they drape over their necks, like a sandwich board.

Senior Ella Irons' mum wasn't quite that size, but she pointed out it says a lot about her. One of the ribbons carried the note she is part of There{4} Gathering, a conference for teenage girls to show they have community – both people and Biblical. She had a trinket that notes she's a volleyball player. All the sports have some available

trinket. Ribbons note which class, such as Senior 2026. And there are all kinds of adornment from ribbons to bows that can leave a trail of glitter or feather streaming behind an owner.

Different also is the one who bestows the mum. Most of the time, Mom builds it at home with the student's input.

Cheerleaders are a different experience too. Some past classes had a half dozen or so girls who

would clap and chant. Today's Arlington High School cheerleader team is well versed in gymnastics and numbers about 70 with varsity and junior varsity. And all females. One current cheerleader hypothesized that's only because no males tried out because it isn't "a guy thing" right now.

There's also still a homecoming parade. But it isn't Little Arlie escorting a line of cars down Main Street. With a plethora of Arlington high schools making that an impossibility, members of school organizations pull wagons around the Arlington High gym.

Head football coach Scott Peach brought some fire, but he doesn't stand behind a podium and promise to beat the team du jour at Homecoming. Peach's tradition is to join all the cheerleaders in the middle of the gym bouncing as high and rhythmically as he can to the Kris Kross tune "Jump."

Instead of gym stands that roll open and shut, the four classes, band and

alumni sat in permanent stands. In 2025, graduates occupied about one quarter of the gym seats. Principal Stacie Humbles pointed out the alumni attendance to the students noting "these are what you will become."

And, of course, the Colts defeated Weatherford High School that night 38-27.



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NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY (continued from Page 1)

friends of AHS: Arlington Elks Lodge #1124, Mid-City McAndrew Motors, Lash Cove, McGaw's Automotive, Andy Wright, Aubrey Keal Commercial Real Estate, LLC, La Nueva de Zacatecas, Wade Funeral Home, ARC Realty DFW, Mad Mike's Ice Cream, Ray Givens/State Farm Pantego, Taylor's Inspection, David's BBQ, Jo Eds Bomber, J.Gilligan's, Green's Produce, Prespas and The Upstairs Gallery.

In addition, many donors, individuals and those wishing to remain anonymous, helped support this fundraising event.

Since 1995 the AHS Alumni Association has existed to support and protect the spirit, pride and tradition that is Arlington High School, starting in 2003 when the Association awarded two \$600 scholarships to two seniors. That has increased to where we're now awarding 10 graduating seniors each with a \$2,000 scholarship.

In addition, over the years we've added support for AHS student groups and faculty. To date, we have given back over \$258,600 in scholarships and support for AHS.