

The 50th reunion of the Newport News High School Class of 1955 will be held in the Newport News City Park on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Deer Run facility. This is the same venue as the 40th reunion except that the pavilion is now glass enclosed and air-conditioned. Interior and exterior views of the pavilion are on our Web site at www.nnhs55.com. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. for those who want lots of time to get together with old friends and chat before the buffet dinner at about 7:00 p.m. The dinner will consist of three buffet entrées: roast prime rib of beef, chicken Chesapeake (seafood, ham, and cheese stuffing), and seared Chesapeake Bay crab cakes. There will be two vegetables and three salads available on the buffet. The committee thought this to be the widest possible choice for wizened palates and crotchety digestive systems available from the Deer Run menu selections.

The cost of the dinner and the venue is \$40 per person. Should you desire to bring family members, partners, etc., we have plenty of room. We have already had inquiries by NNHS graduates from other classes and expect a few to attend. The deadline for receiving your reservation check is August 1, 2005 (see check information on the next page). After that, we cannot guarantee that the caterer will be able to accommodate you.

The feedback from the 40th reunion was that the pavilion was an ideal setting to engender a relaxed evening of conversation with treasured friends. The dress for the evening will be dressy/casual in keeping with the atmosphere we hope to evoke for the evening's festivities. Hopefully, the dress will also be indicative of the personalities we have become in the fifty years since graduation. We have invited several NNHS faculty from 1955 but it is too early to tell if any will be able to attend. We will keep you posted on possible faculty attendees, and a list will be posted on the Web site of those classmates having declared (with a check) that they will be attending. Hopefully, confirming that some of the friends you haven't seen in many years are attending will influence your own decision to join the fun.

Thanks to Kiddy Dickens Starboard, we are also planning a breakfast/brunch at the James River Country Club for Sunday, October 9, at 10:30 a.m. Jackets for the men and dressy outfits for the ladies seems appropriate after a more casually dressed evening at the Pavilion. The menu includes: scrambled eggs with cheese, Belgian waffles with syrup, crisp bacon, maple sausage links, country ham, home fries, grits, fruit breads, muffins, Danish, fresh fruit bowl, chilled juices, and coffee or tea. The cost of the breakfast is \$22 per person and your check must be received before August 1, just like the deadline for the dinner. You may combine your reservations for the dinner and the breakfast into one check, just make it clear what the total amount is to cover. Kiddy has also planned a "Sharing Our Faith" activity before the breakfast for those who care to attend. Contact Kiddy for details, or e-mail her at breakfast@nnhs55.com.

We are still planning a large number of ancillary activities during the year, many during the week of the reunion dinner. Some of these activities have already begun, like the Book Club and Fishing Tournament. Be sure to check the book reviews and comments and the fish pictures on the Web site, and join in the activities. The other activities still being planned are:

Civil War Battlefield Tour	Head Boat Fishing Trip (10/6)
Beach Week (10/9 – 10/16)	Golf Day
Bicycling Trip (10/8, morning)	Evening Harbor Cruise (10/7)
City Park Hike (10/7, morning)	Kayaking Day on the York River
Class Cookbook (all of 2005)	Shopping Day with Lunch (10/5)
Visit to New Yorktown	Williamsburg Tour

Further details of these activities are provided on the Web site or can be solicited from the various Activity Coordinators. Some activities must be booked by June 1, like the fishing charter and the harbor cruise, so if you are interested in these, contact us right away. To keep it simple, if you are interested in additional information on any of these activities, call, email, or send a letter to: Jack Shepherd; 218 King's Grant Drive; Yorktown, VA 23692; Telephone: 757-898-7078; Email: reunionactivities@nnhs55.com. Your name will be given to the proper Activity Coordinator, who will contact you with more information.

The reunion committee is well aware that not all class members will be able to attend or even desire to attend the reunion or any of its other activities during the year. That is still your privilege in this great country. However, we have worked mightily to get this thing together and need desperately to know whether we are reaching all the class members with our communications. If you have not communicated with a reunion committee member, please respond to this mailing (or emailing as the case may be) so we can tell whether or not our communications are reaching their intended parties or whether they are merely being discarded by new occupants or slack ISPs. We really need this communication to cut down on the work between now and October, and let us know if an address changes.

We want to encourage all class members who have not done so to view our Web site at www.nnhs55.com. Those not having a computer can gain access at their local library, which will also provide assistance in getting to the site. Once there, clicking on labeled buttons and scrolling the pages up or down is all that is required to navigate to all the various pages. There is a lot of information and a lot of pictures of the old and the new days, along with pictures of past reunions. If you have been to the site before, be sure to click on the **What's New?** button to find added material.

For all of you who had Miss Burbank for English, we have added an electronic version of "Memoirs" she wrote when 82. She had these published and distributed privately. It is a real treat, and can be downloaded from the site in just a couple of minutes. Look for the **Burbank Book** button on the left of the opening page.

As good as the site now is, it could be better with your input. Check around in those dark and musty places for boxes of high school memorabilia and send items not already on the Web site to us. We will do our best to get them back to you in the same shape we get them.

The committee had some money left over from the 40th and the 45th reunion that has kept us perking along so far. As for our 40th reunion, the committee again chose the route of keeping the cost of attending the reunion dinner as modest as possible to encourage attendance by those that might feel financially pinched in their probable retirement status. As a result, our finances are tightening up. To make sure we have enough to get through this reunion and have enough to kindle a 60th, should we desire, we are asking those who feel comfortable doing it to send us a donation of five or ten dollars to defray expenses (we are not taking trips or having parties with this money).

Make all checks out to "NNHS Reunion 55" and send them to Nan Barfield LaRue, 19 Hertzler Road, Newport News, VA 23602. You can combine a contribution with a check for your reunion dinner and/or breakfast reservations if you wish. Thanks—the NNHS Class of 1955 Reunion Committee.

Don't forget to communicate your receipt of this notice!

If you haven't already communicated with the Committee, we need your current phone number and email address to be sure our communications are reaching you now and that we will be able to reach you in the future. Send your information to Jim Michie, 1493 Lake James Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464; or email it to staff@nnhs55.com.