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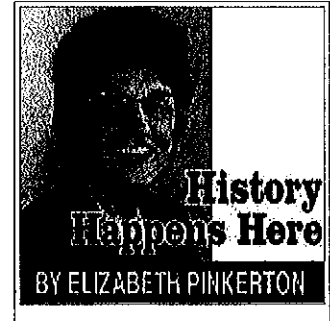
LIFESTYLE

Super Grads and their families make history

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There is a national focus on community service these days, and it is from President Obama. However, for our local residents, that is not new because community service is what most people in Elk Grove and south Sacramento County do. It has even been part of our expectations for students, high school as well as elementary, for many years. Community service has been a large part of the history of our area, and we have many families that have demonstrated community leadership and service through several generations. Even though we have added many new people to our neighborhoods, community service is alive and well in Elk Grove.



Today, I am focusing this part of the Super Grad history on three local families whose names are well known for their contributions to the community. They are the families of Bartholomew, Zehnder and Guttridge. The Bartholomew family dates back to the late 1880s in Elk Grove, and the Zehnders and Guttridges came here in the 1940s. Members of these three families have been Elk Grove grads dating back to 1898 with Joanna Bartholomew and continuing through the years. Members of these three families have been leaders in a variety of activities, businesses and community organizations for the past half century. In each of the three families, I have chosen one member to serve as a representative of the family and its amazing amount of community service.

Janet Guttridge Hume, Elk Grove HS, Class of 1952 – Janet's parents, James and Minnie Guttridge, were very active in a variety of community groups and, in 1959, James Guttridge was on the first Board of Education for the new Elk Grove Unified School District. He founded the Emerald Park Company and built many of the houses in Elk Grove in the 1960s and 1970s, along with business and shopping centers. Janet's brothers, Mike and James, and her sister, Sally, are all active in Elk Grove businesses and support groups. Through the years, these are just a few of the groups that have had Guttridge family members actively involved: Rotary Club, Elk Grove Chamber, Western Festival, Cattleman's Association, Garden Club, Soroptomists, Home Field Advantage, and Strauss Festival. Janet continues to be a very active member of the Elk Grove Community Foundation, and there are two memorial scholarships given out yearly in memory of Guttridge family members. In addition, Janet's son, Patrick Hume, is presently our mayor of the city of Elk Grove, and he too has a long, long record of community service. Patrick attended Florence Markofer Elementary, so we can proudly add him to our list of EG Super Grads. Welcome to the Club, Mr. Mayor!

Mike Zehnder, Elk Grove HS, Class of 1972 – Mike's father, John, has been recognized in many ways for his outstanding services to the community, and the entire family was designated as Family of the Year in 2003. I wrote about John Zehnder in January as a Super Grad for he is in the EGHS Hall of Fame and was also Citizen of the Year in 1969. But, Mike Zehnder, known to many as Fireman Mike, was also a Citizen of the Year (in 1992), and his list of accomplishments go far beyond the fire department. Like Janet, he is a dedicated member of the Elk Grove Community Foundation, and there is also a Zehnder Family Scholarship. John and Nancy Zehnder's other six sons can also be considered Super Grads, especially John, Jr., who is an outstanding and long time teacher of economics at Elk Grove High. The others, Tom, Dan, Steve, Brian and Paul, are all involved in various businesses and services in the area, and there is probably not a single activity that takes place anywhere in the south county area that does not have a Zehnder (from the three generations) somehow involved. One more thing about Mike is his wife, Kathy, who is also an Elk Grove Super Grad. She is a secretary in the office of Dr. Steven Ladd, EGUSD Superintendent, where she assists in keeping the school district moving forward.

Here is an added piece of interest about Mike Zehnder. As a graduate of 1972, he and his classmates were the first to go from kindergarten to high school graduation in the unified school district.

Hal Bartholomew, Elk Grove HS, Class of 1964 – Although the Bartholomew family has a long history of community involvement, the family torch of local service belongs to Hal, a Sacramento attorney. He served on what is now the Cosumnes Community Services District Board for 18 years, beginning when it was

basically a parks and recreation organization in 1976. The new Bartholomew Sports Park that is under construction in east Franklin is a tribute to Hal and his family. The Bartholomew family dates to the 19th century, and C.P. Bartholomew is listed in the 1880 History of Sacramento County book. He mined gold in Placerville and then purchased land in the Elk Grove area. Joanna Bartholomew was one of the first graduates of Elk Grove HS in 1898. Much, if not all, of the early land leveling that was done in this area was done by Bartholomews dating to the early 1900s.

Wayne Bartholomew, brother to Hal, is an active businessman in Elk Grove. He graduated from Elk Grove HS in 1959 where his sister, Nancy, also graduated. Hal's parents, Alvin and Amy, were very active in local groups, and it was Alvin who was involved with the first efforts to have Elk Grove become a city. Hal also played a role in that series of activities and was president of the 2000 Incorporation Committee. Along with Janet Hume and Mike Zehnder, Hal also serves on the Elk Grove Community Foundation Board.

As you can see, these three families contributed greatly to the development of Elk Grove, and their family members continue in that tradition. We have three parks with their names on them. Guttridge Park and Zehnder Park are in the Laguna area or, as I prefer to call it, west Elk Grove, and the Bartholomew Sports Park is next to Franklin High School in east Franklin.

And, in case you have ever wondered about the name of Barth Street, well, now you know, it was named for the Bartholomews.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Yesterday, Joe Lopes celebrated his 100th birthday, so I have to take a moment to wish him a Happy Birthday week! I interviewed Mr. Lopes last year at his Green Road home in Wilton, and the amazing thing about him was that he could remember just about everything that had come his way 90+ years! I asked him about flooding on the Cosumnes River at his Ranch, and the words just came tumbling out. "It was on March 26, 1926..." and then he told me in detail everything about that flood and its effect on him and the property. I hope that when I am 99, I will be able to remember things that well but, unfortunately, I can't even do it now. Hopefully, all the readers of this column will have the memory banks that Mr. Lopes has.

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2. History Happened Here, Book 2-Fields, Farms, Schools - \$20
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