



Womack Park History

Jeannie Womack has lived her philosophy, "You only get out of the community what you put into it." Everyone who has enjoyed the Elk Grove Western Festival has benefited from what Jeannie put into it. Her involvement with the Western Festival began more than 30 years ago. She has, at one time or another coordinated virtually every aspect of the weekend: the Saturday morning pancake breakfast, outdoor and indoor exhibits, the carnival, races and contests, spaghetti dinner, the dance, and the parade. She is now serving her second term as president of Elk Grove Western Festival, Inc. after a well-earned hiatus - her first term lasted roughly 15 years! That community dedication was recognized in 1978 when she was selected Elk Grove's Citizen of the Year.

Jeannie grew up in Wilton, where her mother Imogene Dillard and sister Shirley Jackson still live and where the school is named for her grandfather, C.W. Dillard. Her father Walter served as a trustee at Dillard School for many years. Jeannie married Norman Womack in 1951 when they were both in their final year at Elk Grove High School. They graduated together in 1952. Raising their four children (David, Phil, Debbie and Pam) was Jeannie's top priority, and her community involvement included numerous youth activities. She served four years as a den mother for Cub Scout Pack 179, was a Girl Scout leader, helped with the Elk Grove Swim Team at Elk Grove Park pool, and worked with Little League.

When her children were older, she embarked on a 23 year career with the State of California Employment Development Department as a computer room supervisor, magnetic tape librarian, and data entry operator. Both Jeannie and Norman retired in 1990, and are now busy keeping up with their 11 grandchildren. In addition to working on the Elk Grove Western Festival, Jeannie tries to find time for traveling, fishing, camping, hunting trips, abalone and clamming trips, and antique collecting.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.