

Michael Davis

Buena Park

From the time Michael Davis began walking, he was a go-getter. By the time he entered elementary school his dad was teaching him to use the tools of the trade in his construction company. As a teenager, he had learned to operate all of the construction tools and equipment - lessons that would serve him well.

After graduating from Willow Springs High School in Missouri, Davis began operating heavy equipment. He later hauled produce for Sunkist and then drove a truck for Ralph's grocery. While still trucking, he was asked by a friend if he would like to work on the side, helping process home improvement loans. He accepted and was soon motivated to change directions, a decision that came easily as he had made up his mind that he'd seen the U.S. and wanted "no more trucks." He was ready to settle down and did so 21 years ago in Buena Park.

Although this new direction was stimulating, he still found something missing in his life. Davis enrolled at Cypress College, taking classes in real estate, computers and office administration. In just a short time, he took the real estate exam and was soon embarking on a new career with the same motivation he'd had in his youth. "Working in the community, I found a network to local organizations and organizers, and with these new connections I got involved," he said.

Since joining the Buena Park Noon Lions in 1993, Davis has been a leader in the organization's major fund-raiser, Silverado Days. He says his early years in construction and the fact that he is a "hands on" person helped him dig in and get the job done. Early on he ran the game booths and worked to increase the number of participating organizations. During this time, he also "tailed the leadership" so that he could learn the event from top to bottom. Once qualified to oversee the event, he served as general chairman in 2000, 2001 and again in 2008 and 2009. He was also elected to the Silverado Days Board of Directors, a post he continues to hold. Adding to the excitement of the 2007 Silverado Days, Michael and his wife, JoAnne, pledged their marriage vows on stage at the event.

Lions Clubs are involved with sight and hearing issues, and in 2006, Davis became a director of the Southern California Sight and Hearing Foundation, which collects glasses for eye banks, takes donations for eye surgeries and seeks to find optometrists and surgeons to assist the needy.

Locally, he joins other Lions Club members in putting on pancake breakfasts for community events such as the Buena Park Police Department's open house, Little League overnights and season kick-offs. He's also involved with Buena Park's annual Eggstravaganza held the Saturday before Easter.

At Christmas, he and fellow Lions Club members join other service clubs for the annual Children's Shopping Spree, an event he chaired in 2000 and 2001 at the city level and 2002-2006 at club level. The event takes under privileged children from the community shopping for new clothing and shoes. During this time, he also takes an active role with the Coordinating Council, making sure that food is delivered to needy families.

Another role he takes during the holidays is seeing that Santa arrives in style. Nine years ago, Davis traveled to the Amish Country in Missouri, where he ordered and paid for a horse-drawn sleigh for Santa. Since 2001 the sleigh has played a major role in several of Buena Park's holiday events. City Councilman (and sometimes mayor) Art Brown dresses up as Santa, sits in the sleigh and passes out candy canes to children. It's used at the Chamber of Commerce Christmas event, and the Parks and Recreation Department uses it for Candy Cane Land, its holiday function. The sleigh is also used at the Senior Center and elementary schools.

Since 1997, he has been a Master Mason of Buena Park Masonic Lodge 357, and for several years he helped organize and run a ReMax Golf Tournament that directed proceeds to the Children's Miracle Network at Los Angeles Children's Hospital.

A "Harley" motorcycle aficionado since he was 14, Davis also helps children by participating in charitable toy runs. Since 2001, Knott's Berry Farm has sponsored him, strapping on large Knott's Merry Farm Bears for their delivery to Children's Hospital of Orange County and Hollywood.

