

David Rabinov Honoree of Month for November

BY CLAIRE WEBB
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

David Rabinov is 84 and can often be seen on the side of El Toro Road wearing an orange safety vest, picking up other people's trash.

He said the car "toots" and grins from drivers passing by are the real reward, in addition to improving the environment.

Rabinov started the "Take Pride" committee for the Kiwanis Club nearly 15 years ago after moving to Laguna Woods Village. He will be honored by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods as the honoree for November.

The retired radiologist, originally from the Chicago area, said while he was on a trip with wife Joyce through Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, he saw something unsettling.

"We saw these immense accumulations of these plastic shopping bags," Rabinov said. "I said, 'This is terrible.'"

When he returned home to Laguna Woods, Rabinov said he saw a striking resemblance on El Toro Road and Moulton Parkway. Rabinov took to the street



Historical Society November Honoree David Rabinov, 84, founded the Take Pride committee for the Saddleback Kiwanis Club. The club's members, including Rabinov, pick up trash in Laguna Woods Village and the city. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

and began picking up trash and throwing it in public trash bins.

He said soon a handful of residents were helping and Rabinov decided to take the idea to his Saddleback Kiwanis chapter. The Kiwanis adopted the project and Rabinov assigned each of the 10

committee members a roughly one mile section of road in or around the retirement community to pick up once a month.

"I'm probably more famous as a trash collector, my wife says, than I ever was as a radiologist," Rabinov said with a laugh.

Rabinov helped organize and became the chairman of a committee for the Saddleback Kiwanis Club nearly 15 years ago, which helps donate eyeglasses to impoverished countries. The Kiwanis Club has helped collect more than 28,000 pairs of eye glasses in the community and has sent them to countries in need.

Rabinov also said helping young children read is another one of his passions. For the last 14 years he has gone each week to grade schools and reads to kindergarten classes—one of his favorite books is ironically about a man who picks up garbage in the neighborhood.

Rabinov will be honored by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods at a ceremony on Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. at Clubhouse 6.