



Western Oakland Meals on Wheels



Important Numbers

Office
(810) 632-2155

Fire, Police, Emergency
911

Office Hours

Mon – Fri 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

9525 E. Highland Road • Howell, MI 48843 • (810) 632-2155

OCTOBER 2020



The October newsletter is sponsored by Brookdale Brighton Senior Living Solutions!

Attention: The Meals on Wheels Office Number 888-886-8971 is no longer in service! Please call **810-632-2155** to reach the Meals on Wheels office!



Meals on Wheels would like to wish everyone with a birthday in October a very Happy Birthday!

November 7th – Blizzard Box Deliveries



Emergency pantry packs will be delivered on Saturday, November 7th, between 10 am and 12 pm to

each Homebound Senior enrolled in the Meals on Wheels Program. Please keep these handy for when the weather makes it difficult to leave home and your Meals on Wheels delivery may need to be cancelled.

David Schied Interview

Meals on Wheels is proud to feature one of our client's David Shied! David has an amazing story and took the time to answer some questions for us! We can't wait for everyone to read about him!

“Tell us about your days being a stuntman in Hollywood”



1. Why did you choose/ start being a stuntman?

A: I was born a late “Baby-Boomer”; and as a child I excelled in baseball. At the age of 17, I almost lost my life in a car accident, and for healing my mind and body, I took up the martial arts at age 19. By age 22, I was hanging around some Texas stuntmen and taking

up gymnastics and trampoline. The following year (1982), **Chuck Norris** was filming “*Lone Wolf, McQuade*” with David Carradine in El Paso. My friends got some work through Norris’ brother as the stunt coordinator. I, on the other hand, straight up asked Chuck Norris if I might join him for a one-on-one workout throwing kicks. Later, he personally worked me into one of the main fight scenes of that movie. After that, I moved to California just as Norris was moving into my old backyard to begin his “*Walker, Texas Ranger*” television series based on the same “*Lone Wolf*” character. The photo above is from the *Lone Wolf, McQuade* movie, with me jumping over Chuck’s head and him throwing me into a crowd of other stuntmen to cushion my fall.

2. For how long did you do stunts?

A: I did it long enough to come to my senses as I reached middle age. I “*survived*” the Hollywood scene for seventeen (17) years and can say “*been there, done that*”. I didn’t strike it rich but had lots of fun, lived in lots of sunshine, and maintained my skills as a gymnast and martial arts while teaching eager children how to defy gravity and protect themselves against potential assailants. I decided it would not be my future career ambition when I kept meeting former stuntmen with burns all over their body, steel bars in their legs, and other horror stories. I decided to apply for a top-tier University of Southern California (USC) and got accepted to their School of Cinematic Arts. I graduated there cum laude with two BA degrees, spending summers interning as a 2nd assistant director on made-for-video action films, and getting my gas paid for by small stunt roles in front of the camera. After I got my film production BA degree, I

David Schied Interview continues on back

David Schied Interview continued

spent an additional year at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan earning my second BA in East Asian Language and Culture. While in Japan, I competed in Judo and earned a black belt from the Kodokan in Tokyo. I also even appeared as a “foreigner” in a Japanese made-for-tv movie filmed at a mountaintop winter resort. The star of that movie, with a title translated to “*Steamy Winter Love Story*”, was a famous Kabuki Theater actor. After graduating USC, I landed a couple of television series, one in stunts and another as a 2nd assistant director.

3. What stunts did you do? What movies were you in?

A: I trained for lots of different types of stunts, to include fighting, high falls, trampoline and mini-tramp tricks, and traditional weapons choreography. I ended up with a long list of films and videos, some I never saw and others that went straight to video to be sold worldwide as “B” films, such as one I worked on with **William Forsythe** (below) called “*Direct Hit*” (1994). More notably, I rode a police motorcycle in a funeral scene of **Richard Gere**’s feature film, *Internal Affairs*; I was regular stunt player on the children’s television series, *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*; and I was second (2nd) assistant director on the second season of **Rick Springfield**’s *High Tide* television series.



4. Who were some of the famous people that you met?

A: Between 2007 and 2009, I worked as security for both the **Hanna-Barbera** cartoon studios and the **Warner Brother** studios. Both places presented me with an assortment of “stars” on a daily basis. It is more like, “*Who were my favorites?*” since listing them all would be too extensive. I felt honored to have met **Mel Blanc**, the voice for Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, and a host of other animated characters, before he (and they all) passed away. **Clint Eastwood**, **Candice Bergen**, **Michael Douglas**, **Dan Ackroyd**, and **Kevin Cosner** are to mention a few. I was security for the set of the TV series of *Life Goes On*, with **Chris Burke**, who took on and



tackled (with help) the challenges of an all too common disability. One New Year’s Eve, **Steven Seagal** invited me to join him and others for a mid-night training in

the martial arts of *Aikido*. I took my future wife with me that night and she sat near Seagal’s wife, then starring actress **Kelly LeBrock**, during that practice session. Since my Houston gymnastic coach was also a good friend and former business partner of **Patsy Swayze**, I had multiple occasions to be in her dance classes, and to rub elbows with her son, **Patrick Swayze**, during his heyday of *Dirty Dancing*.

5. What was one of your most memorable “Hollywood” experiences?

A: Around 1987, I was promoting my first book on home and personal security, which led me to involvement in crime victims’ rights activism with **Doris Tate**, the mother of the famed Manson murdered actress Sharon Tate. In 1998, sometime after working on the founding Advisory Board to the national Coalition On Victims’ Equal Rights (C.O.V.E.R.), I was invited to a fundraiser party at a Beverly Hills home which was also attended by Hollywood legend **Jimmy Stewart**, **Teri Garr**, **Roddy McDowall**, CNN’s **Drew Griffin** and others interested in helping crime victims in their recovery and support of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors. It was a highlight in my profession to see and talk with these people up close and personal. It was also meaningful for me to understand how strongly these “stars” were committed to showing their care for their fellow human beings through generous fundraising donations.

6. Is there any other information that you would like to include?

When I became a father (1997), I decided to leave the ups and downs of the Hollywood scene for a more steady occupation, so I became a credentialed special education school teacher. After putting in a couple of years teaching at California high schools, I moved to Michigan to raise my family in the safer, more educated environment surrounding Ann Arbor. My ambition was to eventually earn my Master’s degree from the University of Michigan, which I completed in 2012. That training has helped me in many ways now that I too have become a disabled senior. Working as a public school teacher also helped me to realize that it is **not** the government that we must rely on to help us, with either the raising of our families, or in our time of special need. This is why I returned to teaching gymnastics to children in the private sector back in 2005. Truly, our society betters itself only when we rely upon and give freely to one another – *We, The People* – in the private sector. **This is where the caring people behind MEALS ON WHEELS make their incredible impact upon our society.** I am so grateful to every one of you; and pray that the blessings you have been bestowing upon me for so long, bring back rewards to all of you many times over. **Thank you ever so much for your love and wonderfully healthful nourishment for body, mind, and spirit.**