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## 19th Annual Community Block Party shines in Downtown Dixon



PHOTOS BY COOKIE POWELL AND JARROD R. KOHL

(Left) Ram Town Karate students were just one of the many entertainment acts at Dixon Family Service's Community Block Party Saturday (Right) Local children took the break in the rain to enjoy playing with bubbles on a wonderful spring afternoon.

### By Cookie Powell Special to the Tribune

Once again, the Dixon Community Block Party was a success and very enjoyable. Mother Nature cleared her rainy skies long enough to provide a dry and sunny day. It was a beautiful day for a community event in downtown Dixon. We hear each year that parents are grateful for the Block Party as a free opportunity for their children to have fun in the park.

The 19th Annual Dixon Community Block Party provided live entertainment, free games and crafts, free jump house, and various delicious concessions for attendees. Parents learned about healthy activities for their children including karate, singing, soccer and more. Agencies that provide child care, afterschool programs, kids' health insurance, and the Dixon Library were also on hand with information, brochures, games, free books and other gifts for all.

As at every Block Party the

Dixon Police and Fire Departments and the Solano County Sheriff's Department were there to greet the public, give out safety information and stickers, providing an opportunity for kids to interact with law enforcement in a positive way. We appreciate that these departments have been with us since the very first year. The kids love the vehicles, trucks, canine officers and posse horses they bring.

The Dixon Block Party started 19 years ago when Dixon Family Services set out to create

increased awareness of child abuse and how to prevent it. April is Child Abuse Awareness month and DFS uses the Block Party and the Blue Ribbon Ceremony to open up the discussion and bring more attention to the terrible effects of child abuse and neglect.

It has been our tradition for the Citizen of the Year to lead the Blue Ribbon Ceremony. This year's Citizen of the Year, Dana Besneatte, reminded everyone that all citizens need to become

See PARTY on page 3

# PARTY

Continued from Page 1



PHOTO BY JARROD R. KOHLS

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more aware of child abuse, the signs to look for, ways to prevent it, and how to report it. Councilman Besneatte pointed out that there are many reported cases of abuse or neglect right here in our own community and that there are usually many additional cases that go unreported. To read his entire speech you can go

to [www.dixonfamilyservices.org](http://www.dixonfamilyservices.org).

For more information on child abuse you can contact Solano County Child Abuse Council at (707) 585-6108, [www.childnet.org](http://www.childnet.org), [www.blueribbonpartners.org](http://www.blueribbonpartners.org)

This year financial support for the Block Party came from First 5 Solano, Dixon Family Services



PHOTO BY JARROD R. KOHLS

and Gloria Flores, LCSW. Gloria heard we did not have funds to rent a jump house and so she took care of it. Kids jumped all day for as long as their hearts' desired.

Live entertainment was provided by some long-time favorites Ramtown Karate, Dixon Music Studio and Miracle Christian Worship Center. All of the live entertainment was delightful for all who were present and their performances were outstanding.

Dixon Family Services thanks everyone who helped make the Block Party a success. For 19 years running it has been a fun, free and meaningful event for children and families in the Women's Improvement Club Park.

I hope we have the 20th next April. I saw a lot of happy faces at the 19th Annual Dixon Block Party last Saturday and that makes me very happy too.