

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
August 30, 2007

- 1. *Why is the City changing the direction of one-way traffic on the 100 block of East Alder Street?*** There was a time, twenty-some years ago, when the 100 block was a one-way eastbound street. I don't know why it was changed to a westbound direction, but most local residents (especially Post Office patrons) are pretty accustomed to it. After Labor Day, the direction of the 100 block of East Alder will be reversed, and once again, it will be one-way eastbound. This change is necessary to accommodate the planned relocation of the "Main Street merge lane" from its present location (between Redwood and Laurel) to the south (between Oak and Redwood). When the direction is changed, northbound travelers on Main Street will be able to turn right onto East Alder Street at a non-signalized intersection, thereby reducing congestion on Main Street. These changes were studied by the City and Caltrans for the past several years and the final configuration was selected by the Council last year. The City is in the design phase for the Main Street merge lane relocation/downtown streetscape project. While the Main Street project will not be constructed immediately, this summer's Downtown Streetscape Project modified the intersection configuration and sidewalks on East Alder Street and it is necessary to change its direction now to assure vehicle and pedestrian safety and to allow for re-striping. Although no parking will be lost on the 100 block, the City is also evaluating the possibility of providing diagonal parking on the north side of the 200 block of East Alder to provide additional parking for patrons of the Post Office and other businesses in the area.
- 2. *Employee of the Month.*** Police Service Technician Diane Olsen has been selected as the July Employee of the Month. In nominating Diane, Chief Puthuff noted that: "Over the last several months, Diane has gone the extra mile to improve the Police Department's service, image, and overall functionality. Diane worked energetically to improve the Property and Evidence Room processing, storage, and inventory procedures. Another example of Diane's proactive performance is the Community Bike Sale. Diane spent many hours after normal work hours and on weekends to prepare for this wonderful event. The Community Bike Sale, with Diane as the project leader, is an example of the Police Department team "giving back" to the community."
- 3. *Skate Park Project on Dana Street.*** The City, School District, and Rec District will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Dana Grey Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room to obtain community input regarding the proposed Skate Park project. The three agencies are considering development of a skate park with above-ground, removable, modular components at a site on School District property just north of the High School parking lot. This type of design will enable the facility to be relocated if there are operational problems at the Dana Street site, if the District needs the property for other uses, and/or if a better site is acquired. The Skate Park project has been pursued in this community for more than a decade, and the cost of acquiring land for the facility has been the biggest hurdle. With the proposed site located on

publicly owned property, the development costs appear to be within reach. As currently conceived, the School District would lease the site to the Rec District, who, in collaboration with the City, would develop, operate, and maintain the facility. The agencies want to make sure that there is community support for a Skate Park at this location, and that nearby residents are given an opportunity to weigh in with their concerns before a decision is made.

- 4. Stewart and Bush Street Block Party a Success.** By all accounts, the neighborhood block party on Stewart Street on August 18th was a huge success. About 60 people participated in the block party which included a delicious BBQ and potluck, live music, brief presentations about community-building, community policing, and household emergency preparedness, and lots and lots of socializing. Staff will be working with the ad hoc Council “Neighborhood Captain” subcommittee (comprised of Mayor Hammerstrom and Councilmember Courtney) to develop handouts, checklists and a streamlined encroachment permit process to make this event easy to replicate in neighborhoods throughout the City.