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**For Immediate Release**

**Mark Newton Band Returning to Arts Alive! this Friday, July 27**

The Arts Alive! season continues this Friday at 7:00 pm when the Mark Newton Band returns to Taylor Park. The Mark Newton band has been a staple of the Arts Alive! season, and has brought bluegrass to Orange for the past several years. Mark Newton lived in Fredericksburg, Virginia for much of his life, but is now living in Nashville, Tennessee where he and the band continue to make music.

After playing in several groups Mark Newton decided to go solo in 1998 with his release of *Living a Dream*. The album, and its subsequent success, reintroduced the bluegrass veteran to the public. Mark has also championed women in bluegrass. While cutting *Living a Dream*, Mark came up with the concept for *Follow me back to the Fold* - his tribute to women in bluegrass. This project has become one of Mark's most widely recognized accomplishments. "The idea came to me because I did this whole album [*Living a Dream*] and afterward realized that there was not one woman on it", recalls Mark. "It was an oversight . . . and I realized there have been a lot of women who have personally impacted me, starting back with Gloria Belle, and I felt I needed to do something about that." The album became a landmark project for bluegrass, and a personal milestone for Mark Newton, capturing IBMA's Recorded Event of the Year Award in 2001.

The performance will start at 7:00 at Taylor Park in downtown Orange. The evening is sponsored by the Orange Downtown Alliance and the Arts Center In Orange and made possible in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. For more information please contact ODA at 540-672-2540 or email [info@orangedowntownalliance.org](mailto:info@orangedowntownalliance.org).