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July 23, 2007

For Immediate Release

ODA and Celebrate Orange Receive \$5,000 Grant from Virginia Commission for the Arts

The Orange Downtown Alliance (ODA) and the Celebrate Orange Committee have received a \$5,000 grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts to support the Music on Main Street New Year's celebration and the Picnic in the Park Independence Day celebration. The grant will be used primarily to enhance the number and quality of performers and allow for individuals with disabilities and financial restrictions to attend the events free of charge.

ODA and Celebrate Orange received high marks in the application for the grant because of the many and varied activities and performances offered at the events. The first-ever Music on Main Street received favorable reviews because of its large attendance, wide variety of music and artistic acts and providing an attractive downtown holiday experience for Orange County residents and visitors from other communities.

Picnic in the Park and Music on Main Street are attended by nearly 4500 people. The events bring arts to the community and provide family friendly events. The Celebrate Orange Committee organizes and plans both events with the support of the Orange County Department of Tourism.

The headline act for this year's Music on Main Street will be L'Angelus a family band from Lafayette, Louisiana. They play a variety of Cajun, zydeco and lively party music. The band members are all from the Rees family. Linda (mom) is on guitar. Kids are: Katie, guitar; Paige, bass; John, drums; and Stephen, who plays several instruments including the fiddle, harmonica, pennywhistle and mandolin.

More information on all of the festivities for this year's Music on Main Street event will be coming out closer to December 31. The Celebrate Orange Committee is always welcoming new members and volunteers for the events. If you would like more information or are considering how to volunteer, please contact 540-672-2540, or e-mail director@orangedowntownalliance.org.