



City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

eNews

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City of Alexandria to Host 18th Annual Armenian Festival *Event Highlights the Sights, Sounds, Food and Culture of Armenia*

The Armenian Festival Committee and the Knights of Vartan, in partnership with the City of Alexandria, will host the 18th Annual Armenian Festival on Saturday, June 12, from noon to 5 p.m., at Market Square, 301 King St. Admission is free and the festival will be held rain or shine.

Entertainment features the renowned Arax Armenian Dance Ensemble, which has performed its unique line and circle dances in beautiful authentic folk costumes throughout the East Coast, with Artistic Director Carolyn Rapkivian; Oud player David Rapkivian; vocalist Vivian Chakarian and Mihran; vocalist Edita Kalayjian; the Birky Family enacting Armenian folk tales; Flower Dance by Sevan Birky; music by Michelle Birky, Rachel Birky, and Jonthan Birky; story time for children and Armenian folk tunes.

The festival also features displays showcasing Armenian paintings and crafts. Traditional Armenian food including Lamb and chicken kabobs, dolma (stuffed vegetable dishes), pitas, Eech, (bulgar vegetable salad), baklava (a layered pastry made of phyllo dough filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup), chereg (breakfast sweet bread) and a variety of other food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The Armenian Festival is an annual charity event that benefits charities for children in Armenia, including the World Bank's Fund Matching Program. The Armenian Festival Committee and the Knights of Vartan, Ani Lodge of Washington, DC, are cosponsoring the event.

Visitors to the historic district are encouraged bike, walk or take the Metrorail Yellow or Blue lines to the King Street Station and take the free King Street Trolley, or DASH or Metro buses to the festival. For DASH schedule information, call 703.370.DASH or visit www.dashbus.com. For Metrobus schedule information, call 202.637.7000 or visit www.wmata.com. Parking is also available in one of the convenient parking garages or lots.

Bicyclists may visit www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion for the City's Bikeways Map, which features the City's best on-street and off-road bikeways, as well as locations of grouped bicycle parking.

For additional information, visit www.ArmenianFestivals.com.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the

Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, call Cheryl Lawrence, Special Events Supervisor, at 703.746-5419 (TTY 703.838.4902) or e-mail cheryl.lawrence@alexandriava.gov.