

# A 'how to' guide for getting things done in Alexandria/Monroe Township

## Get help in a crisis

Alexandria's police department, fire department, and emergency medical services are available 24 hours a day by dialing 911.

Non-emergency calls should be made to Madison County dispatch at 765-642-0221.

## Enroll your children in school

The Alexandria Community School Corporation and the School of Saint Mary offer fine educations through excellent facilities where children are nurtured and grow.

To enroll a child, parents should contact the building principal about what records may be needed. Generally they must show the child's birth certificate and health records.

The ACSC's central office, 202 East Washington Street, is open during the summer from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 7 to 11 a.m. on Fridays. The phone number is 724-4496.

## Schools and their principals are:

**Alexandria-Monroe High School** — Principal Tom Johns, 724-4413.

**Alexandria-Monroe Elementary School** — Principal Leah Sanders, 724-4166.

**School of Saint Mary**, 820

West Madison Street, is a state-certified school for grades K-8. To enroll, contact Rachel Duckworth principal, 724-4459.

## Find a place to rent?

Two sources for locating apartments or homes for rent are to read The Alexandria Times-Tribune's classified ads and the Alexandria-Monroe Chamber of Commerce, 119 N. Harrison St.

## Buy a Tribune?

The Alexandria Times-Tribune is sold at news stands throughout the city, and Circle K in Summitville. In Alexandria, the newspaper can be purchased at: Cox Supermarket, The General Store, CVS, Ricker's Petro Mart, Harvest Market, Casey's General Store, Dollar General, John's Diner and Village Pantry.

Subscriptions are also available for \$24 for six months, \$34 for a year, and \$56 for two years for Madison County residents. Readers outside Madison County pay \$30 for six months, \$46 for one year, and \$79 for two years. Readers outside the state of Indiana pay \$32 for six months, \$52 for a year, and \$88 for two years.

The newspaper office is located 317 South Anderson Street, in Elwood.

## Register to vote?

The Voters Registration

Office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the second floor of the Madison County Government Center, 16 E. Ninth St., Anderson. When registering, a few questions will need to be answered and an affidavit signed.

An easier way is to fill out a form available at the public library, 117 E. Church St., or the local Bureau of Motor Vehicles, 2211 S. State Road 9. The Republican and Democrat parties usually sign up voters at public events such as the Madison County 4-H Fair.

## Have water turned on?

For new utility access, customers should stop by the city water office, 402 W. Washington St., from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Be prepared to present identification, pay a meter deposit, and fill out new account papers.

The minimum monthly bill covers up to 3,000 gallons of water, sewage treatment and trash collection fee.

The water office staff suggests that new customers provide at least a 24-hour notice before the water needs to be turned on.

## Get my trash collected?

Best Way Disposal, a private hauler, handles the city's trash collection. When new

residents sign up to have their water turned on, they are automatically put on the list for trash collection. The fee is included in water bills.

Trash is collected four days during each week. To determine what day your trash is to be collected, contact the Mayor's office, 724-4633. No yard waste. City workers pick up yard waste on the same days as trash collection. Separate the bags or containers on the curb so the crews can tell the difference.

Senior rates are available to household that qualify.

## Find child care?

Parents or guardians looking for child care can call or visit the **Nazarene Nursery Pre-School**, 1401 S. Harrison St., a well-established provider of childcare services. The telephone number is 724-7754.

You can also contact the **Udder Angels Childcare and Preschool Center Inc.**, 625 W. Adams St., 724-5555.

Child care is also offered in several homes around town. For more information, consult the classified advertisements in the newspaper.

## Buy a 911 address sign for my mailbox?

Faster 911 service can be obtained if your address is very visible. Alexandria Fire Fighters Local 1649 sells green reflective signs that

can be attached to mailboxes and posts. The 6 x 18-inch signs are \$15. To order one, call the fire station at 724-2195, or contact a firefighter. Checks should be made payable to the Emergency Sign Fund.

## Get a library card?

The Alexandria-Monroe Public Library is a proud member of the Evergreen Indiana Library Consortium. Evergreen Indiana is a growing consortium of over 120 libraries located throughout Indiana that serves Indiana residents by sharing a common catalog and resources.

The Evergreen Indiana catalog currently holds over 2.8 million bibliographic records and provides access to over 6.6 million items. The catalog may be viewed at <https://evergreen.lib.in.us>.

Patrons can use their Evergreen Indiana library card at any Evergreen member library as if it was their own home library.

AMPL serves the residents of Alexandria and Monroe Township. Library card applicants must provide proof of their physical residency and a current photo ID to obtain a library card. Accepted proof of residency could be a piece of mail that has a printed address dated within the last 30 days, a voter registration card, or a property tax receipt. P.O. box addresses

are not accepted as proof of residency. Accepted photo ID's include a driver's license, state issued ID, school or military ID and any government issued residency card.

In addition to an accepted photo ID, residents of any local shelters within the library district must provide a letter from the shelter stating residency in lieu of accepted residency requirements.

Nonresident Borrower Cards

Individuals who reside in an area where no library tax is levied to support a public library may apply for a non-resident card. Nonresident cards are \$85.00 and expire one year from the date it was originally issued.

Public Library Access Card (PLAC)

The Public Library Access Card is the name for the statewide library card. The PLAC program allows an individual to borrow materials directly from any public library in Indiana. An individual who holds a valid public library card may obtain a PLAC Card at their home library for a fee of \$65 as determined by Indiana Code 4-23-7.1-5.10. This card expires one year from the date it was originally issued.

## Clubs and Organizations

Alexandria is home to a variety of clubs and organizations that provide many benefits to local residents.

### Alexandria Community Band

People who have talent playing musical instruments are invited to join the Alexandria Community Band. The annual agenda for this group includes various public performances including the annual Freedom Concert, the Madison County 4-H Fair, Band Fest, annual Christmas concert and other events. For membership information, contact the band's director, Alan Erwin, 724-9234.

### Alexandria Community Service Clubs Men and Women

The ACSC is a service organization and membership is not limited. Anyone wishing to join may do so by invitation from a current member in good standing. Meetings take place monthly at the Monroe-Township Trustee's building, 204 East Berry. A women's club is also available.

### Alexandria-Monroe Historical Society

An organization focused on

preserving local history, meetings include discussion of local history with pictures, artifacts and genealogical research. Meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month. The Alexandria Historical Museum, 313 N. Harrison St., is open every Thursday and Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

### Art Circle

The Art Circle meets September through May on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in various homes and focuses on the advancement of culture.

### Alexandria Order of the Elks

The Elks Lodge is located on South Harrison Street next to DeVoe Chevrolet and the Yule Golf Course. They hold several benevolent activities including recognition of area public safety officials, and assistance to the less fortunate during Christmas.

### Gilman Home Economics Club

Also an extension of Purdue University, this group focuses its energy toward improving homelife by educating members in subjects

including nutrition, economics, and development. They also focus on helping others. The club is open to persons of all age, gender, and race. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in members' homes.

### Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club is a community service organization. The club sponsors the Madison County 4-H Fair and helps with the upkeep of Beulah Park. Everyone is welcome to take part in the organization. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the south end of the 4-H/Farm Bureau Building behind Beulah Park.

### Alexandria Lady Eagles Auxiliary #1771

Open to all the women of the area by application, this group focuses on home, country and God by raising funds for worthy causes and doing other charity work. Meetings are held Thursdays at the Eagles Lodge at 7:30 p.m. Call the Aeries at 724-7320 for information.

### Riley Club

A literary club focusing on the works of Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley, meetings are limited to 20

members. Membership vacancies are filled by recommendation of current members.

### Small Town Garden Club

The Small Town Garden club was formed in June 2002. Since the first year of the garden club, Small Town Garden Club has been an active part of Alexandria and the surrounding communities. We have presented donations of labor, plants, and funds to Summitville Convalescent Center, The Beauty for Ashes Transitional Home in Alexandria, The Alexandria Community Center, several different youth garden clubs, the community parks, the Downtown Beautification Project, the Wildlife Habitat Federation, as well as to local families in need. We have donated money to Goodwill, The Red Cross, Youth Gardening, families in need at Christmas, Toys for Tots and the Penny Pines Project, which pays for replanting new trees where fires have destroyed the forest. We plant and maintain the flower pots downtown Alexandria and the entry to Beulah Park. We have had field trips to areas like Stream Cliff Farms in Commiskey, Ind., Christy Woods

Greenhouses in Muncie, etc. and to various nurseries.

Many of our members are Master Gardeners and are quite knowledgeable in all aspects of gardening. Being a Master Gardener is not a requirement to be a member of Small Town Garden Club. Our meetings are open to the public and membership is encouraged. We meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Community Center on the first Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted, with the first half hour of social and refreshment time. Our programs begin at 7 p.m. consisting of composting, birding, butterflies, native plants, wildflowers, how to work with bees and their pollination to our plants, all about berries, container gardening, backyard greenhouses without heat, growing in cold frames, plant propagation, aroma therapy, permaculture, all about weeds and their control, etc. We put out a monthly newsletter providing further information about gardening.

We don't work every month. We actually enjoy each other's company at a club picnic every year and hold a Christmas dinner to again enjoy the camaraderie. We seem to carry on the con-

versations about "what are you going to do different this year when spring arrives" or "did you get any new catalogs to peruse", etc. So we "garden" during the winter time as well, so to speak.

As a member of this club, we are also a member of The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. and the National Garden Club. This is another opportunity to learn more about gardening. Many of our members are stewards of Wildlife Federation and many gardens are certified as National Wildlife Habitats.

Our business meetings follow the programs. We discuss digging our plants for our plant sales, which provides income to allow us to make our donations mentioned above. We've supported several youth gardening programs and have purchased flowers to beautify the Beulah Park. Small Town Garden Club has put on a garden tour inviting the public to visit our gardens.

Our membership learns from our programs, sharing our knowledge with anyone asking.

## Church Street Commons

Church Street Commons was founded in 2000 through a vision from founder and president Scott Owens. This vision was about bringing the body of Christ together, working as one in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ. Everything Church Street Commons does is based on that vision. Christians from all tenets of Christianity are serving Christ together at Church Street Commons. Volunteers serve the community in many different ways.

The Church Street Commons tutor/mentoring program has completed its 20th year and has served over 2,000 students since its inception in 2000. Church Street Commons servant volunteers provide positive relationships and encouragement while also helping with homework to middle school (grades 3-6) students. One child, one hour, one day per week can make all the difference in a struggling student's life. The program relies on many dedicated volunteers reaching out to those in need.

Heaven's Wearhouse, located on the north side of The Commons Theatre, came along in 2005 to meet a specific need in the community. Volunteers work together each week to receive and distribute gently used clothing and small household items to local residents at no cost. Hours of operation are Mondays from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Items can be donated and dropped



off during these times.

The Commons Theatre opened its doors in 2013 to provide opportunities in the fine arts and performing arts. Although The Commons Theatre does offer some adult productions and performances, Church Street Commons puts a high emphasis on youth theatre. Our goal is to build relationships and provide opportunities through theatre youth camps, drama clubs and live performances. There is room for everyone at The Commons Theatre.

In 2017, Church Street Commons started Spirit of Recovery to assist and support those who are struggling or recovering from all types of addictions. Spirit of Recovery is a support group open to everyone. Meeting time is at 6 p.m. on Mondays in the basement of Church Street Commons, and dinner is provided. In July of 2019, Spirit of Recovery merged with Brianna's Hope.

Following in its vision, Church Street Commons looks for opportunities for the body of Christ to serve together doing missions and service projects throughout the community. This

includes working and partnering with many other ministries, such as Beauty for Ashes, The Christian Center, Youth for Christ, First Choice, Pete's Pantry and many local churches, all supporting each other and working together as one.

Church Street Commons is supported by private donations along with a once-a-month chicken and noodle fundraiser on the second Monday of each month from September through June. You can eat-in or pick up lunches from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the basement of Church Street Commons. Church Street Commons also delivers these lunches to places of business and private residences. Since 2003, Church Street Commons has delivered over 45,000 meals. Each month, over 40 volunteers from various churches come together to prepare meals, make deliveries, and support Church Street Commons.

As you may see, volunteer servants are the backbone of this 501(c)3 ministry. To get involved, contact Scott Owens at [churchstreetcommons@gmail.com](mailto:churchstreetcommons@gmail.com).

## The Commons Theatre Alexandria's Community Theatre



Aristocats Kids was a recent children's production at The Commons Theatre.

The Commons Theatre is located at 204 West Church Street (Across from the Post Office).

"Small Town USA" boasts of one of its newest treasures, "The Commons Theatre." The small stage in a completely renovated church building which provides a quaint venue for Community theatre here in Alexandria. Born from thousands of volunteer hours and a vision to provide fine arts and performing arts

opportunities for youth and adults, The Commons has delighted audiences through plays, shows and concerts since 2013, and it's growing.

Local folks and visitors from out-of-town are catching on that there is quality, live entertainment here and are not only enjoying the shows but are also getting involved.

The Commons Theatre offers several stage productions throughout the

season including youth productions and a Christmas production coinciding with the Alexandria Christmas Parade activities.

So if you're looking for entertainment, or want to try your hand on the stage, there is a place for you at The Commons. Check out their website at [www.the-commonstheatre.org](http://www.the-commonstheatre.org), follow them on facebook, twitter and Instagram.

# Alexandria, Indiana: Small Town U.S.A.