



# The Marketplace Merchant

DECEMBER 2007 ISSUE



## Alton Marketplace to spend the winter months focusing on Economic Development opportunities

The Economic Restructuring Committee is now being chaired by the dynamic husband and wife team and newest Board members, Bill & Barb McKenzie. Business recruiting efforts have been in full swing, and there have been many entrepreneurs expressing interest in starting new businesses or relocating their businesses to downtown Alton.

The committee is compiling a listing of properties for sale or lease in and around our district, and the new Real Estate page on [www.AltonMarketplace.com](http://www.AltonMarketplace.com) will be launched this week!

Any property owner wishing to advertise their property may send a picture of the building, square footage, price, your phone number / email address, along with any other items you can think of that would help spotlight your property, to

Stacey Harmon at: [stacey\\_3748@yahoo.com](mailto:stacey_3748@yahoo.com).

We will post residential properties, commercial / retail buildings as well as office space for sale or lease for potential buyers to browse.

We will be organizing an "incentive card" to help promote any business in the Alton area and to raise funds for local business associations. If your business would like to offer a discount, free gift, or promotional item to drive customers to your location, please contact the Marketplace office for more details on the program.

Both of these initiatives are free services provided by Alton Marketplace. We thrive to keep our downtown a productive and exciting place to be. The ER committee meets on Wed. evenings at 5:30. To get involved please call 463-1016!

**New service!**

Marketplace has purchased a business card rack for our office - please drop off your cards at 100 E. Broadway or call to make arrangements & we will pick them up from you. We would love the opportunity to refer your services to the many visitors to our office!

The committee will also be working on a "shop local" campaign in 2008 to garner support for our community based businesses. The major goal of the campaign is to help citizens realize that through their personal spending decisions, they can positively affect the whole community.

## Holiday Luminaries



Will soon be lit & it takes a neighborhood to provide the glow!

For about 2 decades people have come from miles around to enjoy the Middletown luminaries on Christmas Eve. This is the 3rd year of the expansion west of Henry Street, which now includes: 10th, 11th, & 12th from Langdon to Alton Streets and the area surrounding Dormann Park.

Approximately 7,000 bags will be lit on Christmas Eve night at dusk, and the 10-hour votives will burn well into the late night hours.

### **Here are the details if you would like to assist!**

Meet at 1025 George St. for ~

#### Bag filling:

Dec 15th, Noon—3:00pm

#### Street placement & lighting:

Dec 24th beginning at 3:30pm

#### Bag clean up:

Dec 25th

Project donations may be dropped off at 1025 George Street; please make checks payable to Marlinda Birkner.

(suggested donation \$10-\$15)

For more info please call Marlinda at: 463-8877.

## Director's Note ~

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce readers to a unique project that will be showcasing our region. David Alan Badger is an artist specializing in pen & ink drawings, and he is organizing The Great Rivers Scenic Byway Recipe Project. Your participation in the project will include an original pen & ink drawing of your business, and 2 recipes provided by you to make up a cookbook that will be available for purchase in stores all around the area. There are only a few spaces available, and the book is expected to be published in time for Mothers' Day in May of 2008. For details of the project, please visit: [www.DavidAlanBadger.com](http://www.DavidAlanBadger.com)



~ Sara



100 East Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

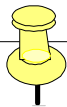
Phone: 618-463-1016

Fax: 618-463-1091

E-mail:

info@altonmarketplace.com

A community based,  
not-for-profit, volunteer  
organization dedicated to  
securing the economic  
vitality and aesthetic  
quality of the district.



Alton Marketplace  
would like to extend a  
warm welcome to our  
newest board members:

- ✦ Shane Cox
- ✦ Brad Kreider
- ✦ Bill McKenzie
- ✦ Barb McKenzie
- ✦ Scott Weiner

## Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

### Argosy Casino—

Get ready for three nights of great music from the *Little River Band* –7pm shows on Dec 13, 14, 15 \$20 Tickets on sale now! Call 1-800-711-4263 or visit Guest Services.

### Gelato's Café—

Is hosting a "Breakfast With Santa" on Dec. 8th at 8:30am—potentially also at 11am if advance ticket sales permit! Tickets for the buffet style meal are \$6 for kids 3-10, \$10 for 11-adult, 2 & under free!

### Meridian Bank—

is holding an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony from 10am-6pm on Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the renovation of the Bank's Alton Branch. In August the building sustained a considerable amount of damage due to a water leak. After several weeks of work the lobby of the bank has re-opened with a sleek more contemporary look. Enjoy refreshments & enter to win prizes!

### A&A's Beads—

Is having major sales on Christmas gifts, holiday décor, and Webkins! Visit their kiosk at Alton Square Mall in front of J.C. Penny's! The Broadway location will be closed from Jan 1st to Feb 1st for remodeling, so stock up on your jewelry supplies while you still can! Bring this newsletter into A&A's Beads for an additional 10% off any purchase! (Offer good until 12/20)

### Jacoby Arts Center—

The current exhibit: Abstractions runs from Nov 16 through Jan 6. There will be a Gallery Talk on Sunday, December 2nd at 2pm. Please join the artists Sandi Shapiro, Mary Beth Shaw & David Burns Smith, presented in the exhibit, for a talk about the concepts and processes of their work. The event is free and open to the public. JAC is open Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-4. Swing by the gift shop to grab a one-of-a-kind work of art for that special person on your holiday list!

### The Beall Mansion—

Give the gift of memories, or treat your out-of-town guests to a stay at this award winning property. Voted "Best of Illinois" in Illinois Magazine Readers Poll! See all amenities, reserve a room, and purchase gift certificates online at [www.beallmansion.com](http://www.beallmansion.com) or call 1-866-THE-BEALL

### Bossanova Lounge—

Enjoy complimentary chair massages from licensed therapeutic massage therapists on 12/5 & 12/19. Also, live JAZZ MUSIC every Friday!

12/7—Phil Dunlap & Nick Jost  
12/14—Hannah McDonald  
12/21—Jobim Dreams  
12/28—Christ Voelker and Vince Sala

### Bubby & Sissy's—

Looking for a great way to spice up your holiday party? Bubby & Sissy's is the place to be! Don't forget to visit JP's Show-lounge upstairs for the best female impersonation show in the area. Congratulations for being voted "Best Ladies' Night Out" in Madison County!

### There are many chances to show your generosity by donating to Downtown Alton's community groups & non-profits in your charitable year-end giving

Donations are being accepted for the United Way's Community Christmas at 2 downtown drop off locations - Alton Marketplace & Alton Acoustic Arts. Helen Davidson, owner of Ciao Bella Scooters, is participating in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's—Holiday of Hope Lock-Up at Argosy; contact her by 12/5 at 465-9392 to help her reach her goal! Giving to Riverbend Head Start helps the organization strengthen families in our community. Your support of the Jacoby Arts Center will help the arts thrive in Alton. You may also consider giving to the Crisis Food Center, the Oasis Women's Center, or the Salvation Army to help those who are in need of food and shelter.

**"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."**

- George Bernard Shaw