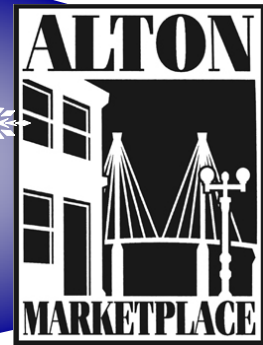


# The Marketplace Merchant

DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE



## Keep your money at HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS this season—remember to shop local first!

Did you know that on average every dollar spent at a hometown business re-circulates three times over? Shopping with locally-owned businesses keeps our community vibrant, local people employed, and contributes to our local tax base during these tough economic times.

Keep an eye out for the “shop local” ad campaign that we’ve organized in the local media; the ads include a list full of ideas on what gifts to buy for the loved ones on your list from your favorite downtown merchants.

Also, reserve Dec. 12th as the date to get all of your loose ends tied up in one

downtown shopping spree! Start out at the Green Gift Bazaar that the Sierra Club will be holding at the new Riverbender.com Community Center at 200 W. 3rd Street from 10am-8pm.

**7th Annual  
GREEN GIFT BAZAAR**  
Saturday, December 12th  
10am-8pm  
At the Riverbender.com  
Community Center (200 W. 3rd)

There’s no entry fee to shop at this unique earth-friendly event, which will feature hand-crafted & environmentally-conscious gifts from local artisans. Kids can make a free take-home holiday nature craft, and organic snacks and

drinks will be provided. Bring your old burned out lights with you for the Christmas Light Recycle Drive to receive a coupon for energy-efficient LED lights, and you will also be entered to win new LED lights for your home! There will also be a Free Workshop: How to “Green” your Holiday Gatherings at 12pm and 2pm during the event.

Your downtown retailers will be offering special sales & hours that day, so pick up a flyer on all of the happenings at the Alton Marketplace booth at the Green Gift Bazaar & get everyone crossed off your list on the 12th!

## Director’s Note ~

Last weekend was such a huge success that I have to take a moment to say thanks to our wonderful sponsors of the Tree Lighting & all of the restaurants & bars that participated in the Taste of Downtown, which SOLD OUT in one hour! The event went so well because of our wonderful team of volunteers, including our two newest board members, Sarah Morrissey from Challenge Unlimited and Kristen Orban from the Arthritis Foundation. Thanks to each of you in the crew for making such an incredible night a reality. Our unending gratitude goes out to an unnamed volunteer that swooped in to clean up the reindeer droppings on the 3rd Street sidewalk...you are a real trooper & I’m glad that we’re laughing about that mishap already! Have a wonderful holiday season, everyone.



~ Sara

## Spread a little \*Christmas Cheer\* with the Alton Caring Corps

**We need your family,  
chorus or club to  
help spread some  
holiday happiness to  
those in our  
community hospitals  
and nursing homes.**

**If you would like to  
participate, please  
contact Curtis  
Collins at: 463-0306  
or: curtisco181**

**@hotmail.com**

### Tentative schedule:

**12/7 @ 6pm—  
Rosewood Nursing Home**  
**12/7 @ 7pm—  
Saint Clare’s Hospital**  
**12/8 @ 6pm— Burt  
Sheltered Care Home**  
**12/8 @ 7pm—  
Eunice Smith**  
**12/9 @ 11am & 4pm—  
Alton Memorial Hospital**  
**12/9 @ 7pm—  
Glen Haven Gardens**  
**12/10 @ 5pm—Saint  
Anthony’s Health Center**  
**12/10 @ 6pm—  
Aberdeen Terrace**



100 East Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

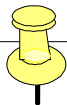
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A community based,  
not-for-profit, volunteer  
organization dedicated to  
securing the economic  
vitality and aesthetic  
quality of the district.



## Jingle Bell

### Run/Walk for Arthritis

Sat, December 5th

@ Gordon Moore Park

10am Start Time

5K Run, 1-Mile Walk,  
or Fun Walk

Enter a team of  
neighbors or co-workers,  
don a holiday costume &  
take a brisk jog in the  
park for a great cause!

More info &  
online registration at:  
[www.jinglebellalton.com](http://www.jinglebellalton.com)

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

### The Ice House

#### Catering & Cookery—

Finally...somewhere to grab a delicious breakfast downtown! The Ice House is open Tues-Sat 6am-2pm, and serves breakfast and lunch the way your grandma and mother used to, with love...but with a contemporary twist! Their specialties include: contemporary comfort foods, homemade pastries, an exclusive roasted coffee bar, trendy beers & wines and even free wi-fi!

Reserve their private facility, available after 2pm Tues-Sat, or anytime on Sunday and Monday for holidays & special events, corporate meetings, bridal/baby showers, birthday/anniversary celebrations, weddings and receptions (ability to accommodate 134 guests). Expanded menus available for private parties and off-site catering. Call Krista or Betty for more details and available dates at (618)-433-1650. Gift certificates are available, to learn

more & check out the menu, visit their website: [www.altonicehouse.com](http://www.altonicehouse.com)

### Iris Boutique—

Now open Mondays throughout the holiday season! Located at 100 W. 3rd Street. For more info, call Casey Cox at 433-2900

### Jacoby Arts Center—

LIVE at Jacoby: Last Saturday Nights: December 26th—Ralph Butler, Gigi Darr and Jim Stevens playing a variety of holiday cheer: Pop, Nu Jazz and R&B. Presented in the gallery until January 10th — “Eye Witness”, an exhibit of the works of James K. Schmidt. Gallery talk Sunday, Nov 29th at 2pm.

### Alton Stained Glass Works—

Why fight the crowds at the chain stores for your holiday gifts? Why not shop locally and purchase one of a kind gifts at Alton Stained Glass Works located on Broadway? We are open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as well as our normal business hours. You can

find unique light catchers, picture frames, jewelry, fireplace screens, and distinctive dinnerware. Or perhaps a gift certificate for art glass classes for that hard to buy for person on your holiday list.

### Mineral Springs

#### Haunted Tours—

GMJ Haunted tours, Inc. announces the opening of the Mineral Springs Paranormal Research Center. We will be conducting overnight investigations with Paranormal Groups, Ghost Conferences, Ghost-Hunting Universities, and more! For more info, please contact us at: [mineralspringshauntedtours@yahoo.com](mailto:mineralspringshauntedtours@yahoo.com), 866-465-3205, or visit our website at: [mineralspringshauntedtours.com](http://mineralspringshauntedtours.com)

### Oz Artisan Bakery—

Feel overwhelmed with the holidays around the proverbial corner? Come into Oz and see what we can help with ...check out our website at: [www.ozartisanbakery.weebly.com](http://www.ozartisanbakery.weebly.com)

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## Please consider helping the “Toys for Tots” campaign

The Marine Corps League, Alton Leathernecks Det. #1160, is in full swing with their annual Toys for Tots Program and are in need of toys. The League's Annual Christmas Party is being held on December 19th from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the VFW post in Wood River, for those who have requested toys for their family. The children's toys will be distributed at this time. The League is also in need of donations of food items (candy, donuts, cookies soft drinks or finger food) and/or money for this party.

If you can help out, please contact Glenn Heimer at 618-433-1281