

The Marketplace Merchant

JANUARY 2008 ISSUE



Downtown has been the focus for many recent public improvements - much more to come in 2008!

If you've visited downtown Alton lately you are well aware that there's much to be excited about, considering the many public improvements that are underway in the area. As the final stages of construction on the new 4,000 capacity amphitheater unfold, anticipation is building to see how the covered open-air pavilion and interactive fountains will take shape. The \$5 million project is expected to be completed by next spring.



Artists' rendering of the completed amphitheater & pedestrian bridge

A new pedestrian bridge, called "Landmarks Crossing", will connect Downtown Alton to Riverfront Park, and is expected to be completed by spring 2009. The bridge will allow foot and bike traffic

to pass over Landmarks Boulevard as well as 3 sets of train tracks, connecting with East Broadway at Langdon St. where the old Clark Bridge had connected. There will be plazas on either end of the bridge with a "Welcome Center" area and informa-

tional displays.

The streetscape improvements now tie Broadway's look in to that of the 3rd / State / Belle area with new sidewalks, light fixtures, benches and trash cans from Piasa to Easton Street. City

officials hope to have the streetscape project progress down Broadway to Langdon St. in time to coincide with the opening of the bridge.

To enhance the beauty of the new staircase leading from 3rd St. at City Hall down to

Broadway at Easton St., the City is also working on turning a former parking lot at the foot of the stairway into a sitting area with more trees and landscaping.

Islands have also been added to the "no-parking zones" of Broadway and will feature plantings to add to the ambiance of our business district while making the area much more pedestrian-friendly. Hats off to our city officials!

You're Invited

In gratitude for your service & support throughout 2007, we would like to invite all volunteers and partners of Alton Marketplace to our annual

Appreciation Party

Thursday, January 24th
From 5:00-7:00pm
At Mac's Time Out
(Hors d'oeuvres & drinks will be provided)

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to 463-1016 or sara@altonmarketplace.com

Director's Note ~

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Board of Directors & each of the volunteers who contributed their time & energy into this very successful year for our organization — I couldn't do it without you!

Anyone who would like to learn more about attending, volunteering at, or vending at the 2008 season of Farmers' & Artisans' Market, please join us for a planning meeting on Saturday, January 12th—10am at Gelato's Café (please RSVP to 463-1016 for the \$5 breakfast buffet!) Also, the new 2008 edition of the Downtown Business Directory is now available; volunteers will be running them around town, but to make sure that you get a stack for your customers, please contact the Marketplace office.



~ Sara

THANK YOU!
To our 2007 volunteers

Some people want it to happen,
some wish it to happen,
others make it happen!



Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Jacoby Arts Center—

Artsplash: Free Family Days at Jacoby Arts Center

Saturday, Jan. 12
10:30 am-12:30 pm

Mineral Springs Haunted Tours—

"A Night at the Museum" Haunted tours featuring pieces on loan from the museum of historical torture devices in the Wisconsin dells. Explore the collection, then experience a tour of the Mineral Springs Hotel (all 5 levels including the 2 pools and slaughter house in the sub-basement). Use investigative equipment & attend a seance in the men's pool, before getting a tarot card reading, all-inclusive aprox. 3.5 hours for \$30. Jan.19, Feb.16, Mar. 8, & Apr 12. Tours are entirely indoors. Reservations are necessary, and can be obtained at In-Zone Barber Shop, 465-3200 or 866-465-3205. Private tours available 12 or more.

Biker Brother Leather—

Has outgrown its previous location & is moving across the street to 556 E. Broadway! Biker Brother carries many items that the motorcycle enthusiast in your life is sure to enjoy: jackets, vests, helmets, and many other riding accessories. Leather repaired & patches sewn on site—stop in for a quote on a specially item such as personalized belts, guitar straps & more; custom leather work is Mike's specialty!

Crown Vision Center—

Starting December 31st through February 16th, Crown Vision will have a 50% off promotion on eyeglasses. This promotion will include **ALL** lenses with frames from a select group. The selection will have over 300 designer brand names. Please call the store for details. Crown Vision (Broadway location) 618-462-7611. Crown Vision (Alton Square location) 618-462-6330. Or toll free, 1-800-EYECARE.

Alton CVB—

The 2008 All Around Alton Visitors' Guide has arrived, and it looks fantastic! If you would like a box of 50 guides to give to your customers, please call 465-6676 or email info@visitalton.com

Tony's Restaurant—

Tickets still available for a spot in Tony's loft on New Year's Eve! Enjoy an all inclusive dinner including: appetizers, wines with dinner, Surf and Turf Dinner, followed by dessert and a champagne toast. Appetizers start at 7:00; dinner is at 8:00, followed by dessert and champagne toast. Tickets are \$65.00 per person, which includes dinner and gratuity. Please call 618-462-8384 or email tonysrestaurant@aol.com

Argosy Casino—

The Chippendales – \$20
1/11 & 12—7pm & 9:30

Preservation Hall Jazz Band
1/25 & 26—7pm – \$20

100 East Broadway
Alton, IL 62002

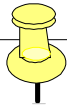
Phone: 618-463-1016

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.



DON'T FORGET!

Every Wednesday @ 8:15am Alton Marketplace showcases one of our partners on WBGZ Radio!

If you would to take advantage of this free opportunity to spotlight your business with a live radio interview, please call 463-1016 to set up a date!

Celebrate New Years' Eve in Downtown Alton!

Enjoy free champagne toasts at Bossanova Lounge & Chez Marilyn's
Gentelin's on Broadway

is completely booked up for dinner on NYE...better make your reservations now for next year!

Spirits Lounge at the Temple

has 2 levels of live music, free appetizers & champagne toast, plus drink specials all night.

FREE ADMISSION, but you must come to the Temple & pick up your tickets in advance for a headcount!

Bubby & Sissy's

enjoy appetizers all night & champagne toast at midnight for \$10 per person - dance to the top 10 most requested music videos of 2007 - drag show starts at 11! Gather around the fire on the patio for your smoking enjoyment!

