

The Marketplace Merchant

JANUARY 2009 ISSUE



Out with the old & in with the new...businesses! Look what's coming to downtown Alton in 2009!

Considering the state of the economy, you may be surprised to learn how many entrepreneurs are making the move to start their own business in downtown Alton!

The Mississippi Landing building at the corner of Alby & Front Street is quickly becoming a great destination, with the addition of **By Design**, a fabulous demi couture boutique owned by textile artist Lillian Bates. Joining her there in the new year will be the **Oz Artisan Bakery** (more info on this great business on the flip-side of this newsletter), as well as **Fringe** hair salon, owned & operated by stylist Conya Cowan of Studio One in Godfrey.

The 200 block of State Street is also brewing with

excitement over the addition of three new shops in early '09. **Alexander's Café** will serve breakfast, lunch &

unique home décor items.

Next door will be home to **Gear Up**, where you'll find sports apparel of all kinds, including gear for running and biking, yoga clothing & accessories, and more!

A pair of new neighboring businesses has also recently come to

the 600 block of East Broadway! **Beautiful Memories** is a full service event planning business specializing in weddings and proms. Order your chair covers, and find great shoes, costume jewelry & accessories all in one stop! **Jeans & Things** is an urban apparel store featuring popular brands of men's & women's clothing, as well as shoes, purses, and other accessories. Best wishes to these new business owners!

NEW DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

Recently opened:	Coming Soon:
By Design	Alexander's Café
Beautiful Memories	Iris
Jeans & Things	Gear Up
Oz Artisan Bakery	Fringe

great desserts - follow their progress & even vote on menu items, hours, etc. at: www.alexanderscafe.com

The Franklin House, home to the newly renovated Lincoln Lofts, will soon feature two new retail stores on its ground level; **Iris** will feature high-end fashion and accessories with a trendy & fun feel. There you'll find clothing lines such as Hippie Ink organic cotton t-shirts as well as

You're Invited

In gratitude for your service & support throughout 2008, we would like to invite all volunteers and partners of Alton Marketplace to our annual

Annual Meeting & Appreciation Breakfast

Thursday, February 12th
8:00am

At Tony's Restaurant
(complimentary breakfast will be served)

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

THANK YOU!

To our 2008
Partners & Volunteers

Director's Note ~

It has been inspiring and refreshing to speak with so many new business owners who are investing in downtown Alton. Their new ideas and enthusiasm are sure to make a great impact on our retail market in 2009, and we at Marketplace will keep you up-to-date on Grand Openings, sales, and promotions as they arise.

Keep an eye out for an exciting article on downtown Alton that will be published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch around 1/16. Columnist Terry Hillig is a big fan of Alton, and he agrees with me that after years of speculation & hard work, downtown Alton is finally reaching its "tipping point" and becoming a fantastic destination for tourists as well as a quality entertainment district for the entire community!



~ Sara



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Alton, IL 62002

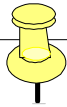
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A community based,
not-for-profit, volunteer
organization dedicated to
securing the economic
vitality and aesthetic
quality of the district.



Info on where to
find local art in the
downtown district is now
available online! Visit:
www.ArtfullyAlton.com



Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Saint Anthony's Health Center—

Polar Bear Plunge Sat,
January 17: 11:30 a.m. to
12:45 p.m. Location:
YWCA of Alton, 304
Third St.

Come hear about the importance of winter exercise and then take the plunge! Children ages 6 - 11 can have fun in the pool as part of our exercise program for kids. Parents can swim with their child or watch from the bleachers. Kids can earn a Polar Bear Swim Certificate and a special surprise! To register, call 465-2264

Oz Artisan Bakery—

Beginning January 12th, begin to experience the OZ touch by ordering Delivered Brown Bag Special lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout the months of January and February.

As a special introductory offer for the month of January, all brown bag lunches will include:

choice of sandwich w/ cup

of soup or side salad & dessert, entrée salad & dessert, or bread bowl with soup & dessert delivered to your door in downtown Alton for only \$8.00!

Brown bag lunches will be delivered cold in microwavable containers between 11 a.m. and 1p.m. Orders need to be made the day before delivery at Oz@nd2d.com or 576-9255. Weekly menus will be posted in our storefront window at 130 Front St., or contact us to receive weekly menus by e-mail!

Mineral Springs

Haunted Tours—

Is once again announcing it's winter "Night at the Museum" tours. Featured will be torture devices from throughout history, on loan from a private collector. The tours meet in the lobby of the Mineral Springs Mall at 7:30pm. A 10-minute video will be shown, followed by a tour, lecture, and viewing of the devices. Then follows a tour of the old Mineral Springs Hotel, including the pool and lower levels. A séance will

be held in the pool, followed by a tarot card reading. Light refreshments are served, all included in the price of \$30 per person. These tours are all indoors, and last 3 1/2 to 4 hours.

Tour Dates:

Jan—Saturday the 17th,
Feb—Friday the 13th,
March—Friday the 13th,
April—Saturday, the 18th

Alton Acoustic Arts—

Now carries Kini Johnson's line of "Naturally Green" all-natural bath & body products, which are not tested on animals, nor do they contain any animal byproducts. Only botanical ingredients & essential oils go into this nourishing line of lotion, soap, shampoo, conditioner, scrubs, facial products, bubble bath, soy candles, and a kids' line too! Naturally Green offers wonderful scents such as: sweet citrus burst, pink grapefruit, lemon grass, and coconut sugar. Find us at 301 E. Broadway!

Alton Marketplace 2009 Partnership Drive

As a 501c3 non-profit volunteer-driven organization, Alton Marketplace depends on the generosity of our business partners and nearby residents in order to continue our mission of revitalizing and promoting downtown Alton. Please lend your support by mailing in your business partnership dues today!

We are also conducting our first residential partnership drive in 2009, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation is teaming up with Main Street communities across the nation to call attention to the need for increased funds. The National Trust is offering each new donor a complementary one-year membership for joining the Main Street cause. Find Alton's personalized page and donate through their secure website at: <http://my.preservationnation.org/alton>

Your contribution will fund projects that have a positive impact on our community, provide important programs that stimulate economic development, encourage business activity, and enhance the appearance of the district that serves as the "front door" of our community. Please join the partnership team that's building a stronger community for your family today, tomorrow and generations to come. We would greatly appreciate your support!