

# The Marketplace Merchant

JANUARY 2010 ISSUE



## Was your resolution to get more involved in your community in 2010?

Well do we have some golden opportunities for you! January is here, and with the busy holiday season behind us it's time to cultivate a solid vision for 2010 and decide where to direct our energy in the coming year. We are seeking volunteers with a variety of skills & interests.

If you would like to be a part of the dynamic group that is charting the course for downtown revitalization, there are two spots on our Board of Directors to be offered to appropriate candidates. At this time, we are especially seeking involvement from the financial and real estate sectors.

If you are an outgoing professional looking to meet new people through event planning and promotion as well as networking opportunities, please consider applying to be a part of our new

"A-TEAM" of 20 movers and shakers who will be the face of Alton Marketplace.

If a one-day commitment is

up with new ways to thank those of you who help us make good things happen. Traditionally, Alton Marketplace's

February Board of Directors meeting is opened up to our Partnership, giving us the chance to treat you to breakfast and thank you for contributing to our success in 2009. Volunteers should also watch their mailboxes around springtime for your "Downtown Dollars" that we'll be mailing via postcard again this year. Spend your reward coupon

at any of our shopping or dining partner establishments!

If you are short on time but would like to contribute financially, please visit our website where you can make your donation via a secure PayPal link.

### **Attention all 2009 Partners & Volunteers**

**With appreciation for your support and service, you are cordially invited to attend our**

### **Annual Meeting and Appreciation Breakfast**

**Thurs, Feb 4—8:00am  
at Tony's Restaurant (312 Piasa St.)**

***Complimentary breakfast will be served***

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience:  
463-1016 OR [sara@altonmarketplace.com](mailto:sara@altonmarketplace.com)

more up your alley, please consider signing up for a shift at one of our many events throughout the year. Besides the good feeling you'll get by helping to improve your community, we are always coming

*The Riverbender.com Community Center needs your help to fill in a few gaps on their wish list!*

The goal is to have the new center at 200 W. 3rd Street ready in time to host Marquette's After-Prom party at the end of April!

The center has a variety of needs for various projects & would appreciate a donation that would cross an item off their list.

For the kitchen & snack bar large items are needed, such as commercial-grade appliances and food prep tools. Small items are also needed, such as dishtowels, serving ware and cleaning supplies.

You could inspire fledgling artists with a gift of supplies, musical instruments or sound equipment that you don't use.

There is also great need for couches, chairs, bookcases & end tables to fill the various lounges, gaming rooms and movie theater area.

Or how about volunteering a little (or a lot!) of your time over the winter and using your own two hands to get the Community Center off the ground? For a full list of needs & volunteer opportunities please email: [info@riverbender.com](mailto:info@riverbender.com)

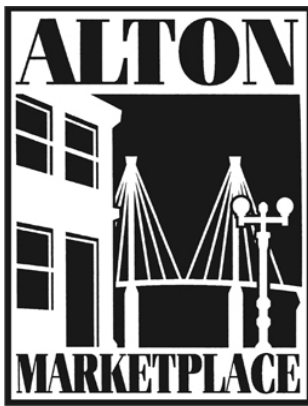
**More info at: [www.riverbender.com/communitycenter](http://www.riverbender.com/communitycenter)**

## Director's Note ~

Happy new year, everyone! We have some exciting changes that we'd like to announce. Alton Marketplace will be relocating our office to 200 W. 3rd Street—Suite 100 in the Riverbender.com Community Center. Our website now has a redesigned look & will offer additional features from Riverbender as well! We trust that being a part of this network will lead to increased exposure for our partner links as well as our events page. Also, this monthly newsletter will now be broadcast through Riverbender's weekly update email that goes out to 40,000+ subscribers! There's great energy in the air heading into the new year with a new office space, a fresh online presence, and valuable enhanced partnership with John Hentrich & his team at Riverbender.com. Looking forward to 2010!



~ Sara



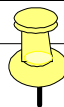
**\*NEW LOCATION\***

200 W. 3rd St. Suite 100  
Alton, IL 62002

618-463-1016

info@altonmarketplace.com  
www.AltonMarketplace.com

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



### **Library News**

Hayner Library's board & staff are excited to announce that their State Street facility will become a local history and genealogy library with display facilities for local history artifacts and artwork.

The Illinois Room collections will all be housed there with rare or fragile items housed securely, yet available for public use. Genealogy staff & services will also be working from this facility.

Don't forget that the Downtown branch on Belle Street is still offering adult lending collections, youth library services and public computers.

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

### *The Grapevine—*

Visit The Grapevine of Alton at its brand new location! The Grapevine has moved, but only directly across the street from the former location. They are now in a newly remodeled space at 10 East Broadway. The Grapevine still offers the same great merchandise, customer service and convenience. Their winter clearance sale is currently underway and new spring styles will be arriving soon. A grand re-opening is planned for Sat. Feb 13, from 10am to 4pm. Please come by and join them for refreshments, door prizes and some great sales!

### *Castelli's Moonlight —*

Is going to WINTER HOURS starting Monday Jan 4th. Many upcoming events are planned, including include a 70's party on Friday Jan 15th from 7-10pm and a Valentine's Mixer on Thurs Feb 11 from 7-10pm. Find details online: [www.castellis255.com](http://www.castellis255.com)

### *Jacoby Arts Center—*

Welcomes internationally known photographer Von McKnelly, who will be giving a four hour workshop on the art of still life photography with natural and studio lighting on Sat. January 16th from 10am-2pm. Cost: \$49 per person, limited to 20 artists. Make reservations at: [vonmcknelly.redbubble.com](http://vonmcknelly.redbubble.com) Or call Jacoby Arts Center for more info at: 462-5222

### *Mineral Springs*

### *Haunted Tours—*

Mineral Springs Haunted Tours announces the start of the winter tour season with the Jan. 16th tour "A Night at the Museum", featuring torture devices on display as well as a tour of the Mineral Springs Hotel. There will be four tours in the 2010 series, Jan. 16, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, and April 17. The regular tour schedule will then begin, with walking, dinner, haunted overnights and cemetery tours.

### *Alton School District—*

is currently recruiting com-

munity members to be mentors for students 3rd-12th grade. A mentor is a positive adult volunteer who meets once a week with a child at school—a role model, cheerleader and friend. No special skills needed! Too many young people do not have a caring adult mentor to provide support, and this program aims to meet that need. Volunteers commit to a one year match with one child, agree to a background check, receive training and support, and make a BIG difference! The first mentor training will be on January 26th at 7PM. If interested, contact Marybeth Gras today! [mgras@altonschools.org](mailto:mgras@altonschools.org)

### *JMC Design—*

Reminds you to THINK FUN, THINK NEW, & THINK CREATIVE while starting the new year! Contact Jean Cousley at 463-0566 for a consultation on design, color, space planning, faux finishes, staging and more! [www.jmcdesignalton.com](http://www.jmcdesignalton.com)

## *- Alton Police Department Citizens Police Academy -*

The Alton Police Department will again be hosting a Citizens Police Academy Monday, February 1, 8, and 15 at the Commons at Lewis and Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road. The Academy allows for citizens and police officers to meet face-to-face in a series of sessions conducted over three weeks. Each session will provide an overview of various areas of law enforcement. Topics will include general policies and patrol information, community services and investigations. There will also be several demonstrations including a K-9 demonstration, crime scene evidence collection, taser demonstration, pepper ball, and defensive tactics demonstration.

The sessions will start at 6pm each night, and pre-registration by 1/25 is required. Registration forms will be available at the Alton Police Department (1700 E Broadway), the Mayor's Office in City Hall (101 E Third), and the Park and Recreation Office (2 Emma Kaus Lane). Many of these activities include hands-on participation by attendees, and this is an adult focused event; some content may not be suitable for children. The Alton Police Department is committed to the philosophy of community oriented policing and developing partnerships with citizens. The goal of the Citizens Police Academy is to help open direct lines of communication and gain a better understanding of the operation of the Alton Police Department. For more info please call 463-3500x3.