



# The Marketplace Merchant

JULY 2007 ISSUE



## Get ready for Third Thursdays ~ “Ladies Night Out” shopping experiences!

Plans are underway for another great season of Third Thursdays, which is a trio of fun “Ladies Night Out” shopping experiences! Each business will be offering give-aways and specials along with a great prize to raffle off, with the proceeds benefiting a local charity.

The themes and recipients of charity proceeds for 2007 will be:

September – *Death By Chocolate*, featuring chocolate basket raffles to benefit the Crisis Food Center

October – *Be Aware & Win a Chair*, featuring decorated chair raffles to benefit the Susan G.

Komen Foundation  
November – *Frosty On Broadway*, featuring holiday wreath raffles to benefit the local Women’s Oasis Center

September 20th – *Death By Chocolate*  
October 18th – *Be Aware & Win a Chair*  
November 15th – *Frosty On Broadway*

A free trolley route will run from 5:00—9:00 & deliver customers to each participating business. Participants can enter their trolley tickets that have been stamped at every location for a chance at the grand prize—a collection of downtown gift certificates! This is a great chance for you & your friends to get a jump on your holiday shopping!

Downtown shop-owners will be using their imaginations to come up with creative ways to make the evening special for customers—many stores offer refreshments, give-aways, or special sales during the event!

The fee for any Marketplace partner that would like to participate will be \$100 per event, along with the commitment to supply the items to raffle off for the charity raffles—start early by telling all of your customers about the upcoming event!

If you are a retailer or restaurant that would still like to get in on the action, please call 463-1016 ASAP so that we can get you signed up!

*Alton Marketplace to Participate in a special Not-For-Profit Business After Hours*

*Hosted by the Alton YWCA*

**When:** July 19, 2007 (5-7pm)

**Where:** YWCA Levis Room

**What:** A great opportunity for all Growth Association members to learn more about 19 local not-for-profit agencies

**RSVP to:** 467-2280

Members may register a guest as well, so if you know someone that would like to learn more about the Growth Association please bring them along!

**Food, Beverages & Door Prizes will be provided!**

*Engrave your place in history at the YWCA of Alton!*

The YWCA has began an engraved brick campaign; the bricks will pave the front of the building & pricing is as follows:

- ◆ Bricks—\$50
- ◆ Stones—\$250
- ◆ Benches—\$1000

This is a perfect way to show support for the community while honoring your family, remembering a loved one, or sharing a special message!

Call 465-7774 or visit [www.AltonYWCA.com](http://www.AltonYWCA.com) for details!

## Director’s Note ~

It has been a busy summer so far! I would like to thank all of our volunteers who worked so hard on the Celebration of Broadway & All-Wheels Car Show. It was a very successful event, bringing in over 100 cars and over a thousand people to the downtown area over the course of the weekend. Also, thanks to our volunteers from the arts community who are currently helping with the “Artfully Alton” project—we have completed the 1st installation of art work at 554 E. Broadway (in the old Aroma’s Coffee shop). Swing by to see the new logo & poster design that will soon be presented in many other available storefront windows in the downtown area. Please contact our office if you would like to lend a hand to this or any other Marketplace project—we need all the help we can get! ☺



~ Sara



100 East Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

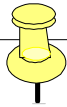
Phone: 618-463-1016

Fax: 618-463-1091

E-mail:

[info@altonmarketplace.com](mailto:info@altonmarketplace.com)

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



The new staircase that leads from City Hall down to Broadway is almost finished! The final stage of installing the guardrails is happening now & the staircase should be open to the public any day, so come down & take a look at how wonderful it turned out!

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

### *CoCo Bongos—*

Is now open at 619 E. Broadway & features tropical fare with a Cuban flare! Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, 6/30—come dance to live flamenco guitar music & see the Bacardi girls for giveaways & drink specials all night! Also, come sample many of their dishes at their lunch buffet from 11-2 for only \$5.99! Hours Mon-Thurs 11am-1:30am, Fri & Sat 11am-3am

### *The Realm—*

A new spiritual boutique located in Mineral Springs Mall is having their Grand Opening on June 30th from 10am-6pm! Free gift for the 1st 50 people, free herbal tea samples and live Celtic harp music all day! Offering psychic readings by Regina, as well as all of your spiritual tools and metaphysical items like music, books, clothing, stones, spiritual counseling, hypnotherapy, herbs and much, much more!

### *Bossanova Lounge—*

Has a 2nd floor party room available for groups as large as 50 people. Enjoy a private bar in your own tiki room—catering is available! Call 462-1175 to make your reservation

### *The Cedar Box—*

Is having 4th of July specials the week leading up to the holiday; don't forget your 4th of July BBQ cigars - see store for details! Also, on July 3rd starting at 4pm come for The Undecided CD Release party & check out the food, drink, and cigar specials - then get a great view of the fireworks from Lincoln-Douglas Square!

### *Argosy Casino—*

*Steve Holy* – \$20

July 13th & 14th at 7pm

*A Tribute to Johnnie Johnson featuring Dona Oxford* – \$20 July 21st at 7pm

\* All proceeds will help fund the upcoming Johnnie Johnson documentary film currently in production

### *The McPike Mansion—*

Is hosting “A Day at McPike” on July 15th.

E-mail for more details—[mcpike mansion@charter.net](mailto:mcpike mansion@charter.net)

### *American Legion—*

Is hosting their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament! Chicken dinner & blind draw for teams on 8/24 for the 4-man golf scramble—11am on 8/25 at Cloverleaf Golf Course. Hole sponsorships are available for \$75; also prizes for the huge raffle will be drawn after the tournament—1st prize is an all-inclusive trip for two to Cancun, Mexico - 2nd prize is 100 gallons of gasoline! (\$5/ticket or 5 for \$20)

### *Crown Vision Center—*

Has extended their free lens promotion until the end of July - buy a frame from a select group and get your lenses free! Also, get 2 pairs of single vision eyeglasses, including the exam for \$99.99! Call for more details: 462-7611 or 1-800-EYECARE

### **Have you noticed all of the unsightly red and white "clothing donation" boxes that are springing up all over town?**

Then you are not the only one...members of the Alton Beautification & Clean City Committee have been investigating where these “US’AGAIN” boxes have come from & apparently they're being put there by an international for-profit network called the “Tvind Teachers Group” that has an extremely complicated organizational structure and has been accused of fraud, money laundering, profiteering, embezzlement and possibly even organized crime. It appears that some unscrupulous out-of-town, for-profit, company is trying to make a quick buck while hurting local charities and cluttering up our local parking lots. A representative from the Better Business Bureau calls the organization “a huge network with strong criminal overtones”. Detractors and victims of the Tvind network have established their own Web site at: [www.tvindalert.com](http://www.tvindalert.com) to share notes on the network's alleged scams and bring awareness of affiliated companies, unaccredited schools, and the fake charitable operations. While the ABCCC looks into what the City of Alton can do to remedy this problem, please make an effort to be sure that your donated items go to an ethical, trustworthy local charity such as the [yellow](#) Catholic Charities drop boxes, the Goodwill, or the Caravan Resale Shop that benefits the local Oasis Women's Center. You may also visit the BBB's Wise Giving Alliance website at: [www.give.org](http://www.give.org), where they offer reports on hundreds of charitable organizations in the U.S. Thank you for giving wisely!