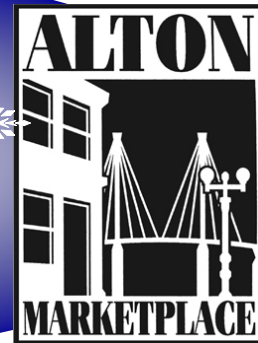


The Marketplace Merchant

MARCH 2010 ISSUE



Vote for the Riverbender.com Community Center to receive \$250K in Pepsi Refresh Grant funding!

Hopefully by now the entire community is tuned in to the exciting things happening at 200 W. 3rd Street — the old First National Bank building is being converted into a 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art entertainment and educational facility called the Riverbender Community Center (RBCC)!

The project is in the running for a \$250,000 Refresh Grant from Pepsi, who is giving away \$1.3 Million dollars every month in 2010 to fund ideas from people, businesses, and non-profits that will have a positive impact.

The facility will be primarily geared for students grades 7 - 12, however there will be events and educational opportunities for people of all ages. This project will

surely benefit downtown in countless ways. The goal of the RBCC is to refresh one's responsibility to its community and the community's responsibility to its children. Specifically, it's a

**Please vote
EVERY DAY
through March 31!
www.Riverbender.com/vote**

place where people from all walks of life can build relationships free from negative peer pressure. The Center promises to supplement public education and improve study skills for our youth through after-school tutoring via a new on-premise library branch; encourage artistic

endeavors in music, art, and theater; and provide creative, social, and multi-media technology, as well as culinary tools for new experiences. RBCC will bring students together with their families, area businesses and their peers for the common purpose of communicating, working side by side, and improving public and personal health.

RBCC will refresh our community by developing opportunities for personal empowerment. The Community Center will be opening this spring; your vote will give Alton's kids hope that there are people who care enough to give them a safe and fun alternative to at-risk behaviors—please remember to vote EVERY DAY!

Encourage Jobs and Historic Preservation in Illinois

...by supporting the passage of a Rehabilitation Tax Credit for Illinois
(House Bill 4823 and Senate Bill 2559)

This incentive is based on the highly successful Missouri tax credit enacted in 1997, which has since generated nearly 40,000 jobs for Missourians. The Illinois tax credit would allow a credit on Illinois state income taxes equal to 25% of the cost of a qualified historic rehabilitation. Used in conjunction with the 20% federal tax credit, it would encourage the reuse of many commercial and residential buildings that would not be possible otherwise.

A state rehabilitation tax credit is critical to create new jobs and leverage private investment in Illinois to help us emerge from the recession. Without this tax credit, Illinois risks losing hundreds of redevelopment, investment, and job creation opportunities to our neighboring states that do have this type of incentive, thereby slowing our overall economic recovery. Please call today & lend your support.

Senator Bill Haine - 465.4764
Rep. Dan Beiser - 465.5900

Director's Note ~

There's a lot of momentum going with volunteer involvement for various projects in the area & it's inspiring to see our community so engaged in making positive things happen in Alton. On that note, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest board members—Mark White from the Oz Artisan Bakery, Kini Johnson from the Laborers Union, and Ron Tanner from Riverbender.com. Right off the bat, each of these energetic individuals has contributed great ideas & signed on for specific tasks to carry them out.

Lastly, please consider attending the Visitors' Bureau's 2nd "Cup of Ideas" event which is a coffee talk/brainstorming session for how to improve & promote the area. Join the conversation on Tuesday March 30th, 8am at the Visitor Center!



~ 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.



Downtown Real Estate

If you are looking to
purchase, rent, or sell
property in the
district, we invite you
to take advantage of
the free service on
our website that
deals specifically with
info on downtown
Alton properties.

Visit www.AltonMarketplace.com and
click the tab for
"ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT"

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Chez Marilyn—

Now open for lunch Tues
- Sat 10:30-2:30.

Homemade soups and
desserts are served daily—
start off with our home-
made crab cakes with
chipotle sauce then
choose from any of our
great sandwich choices,
our house specialty is the
"Geo Club"! Or, have a
half sandwich with a cup
of soup or salad for only
\$7.00. Don't forget that
Marilyn's has great live
music every Friday &
Saturday night. Stop by
119 W. 3rd Street, or call
462-4122 for more info!

YWCA of Alton—

Are you struggling to get a
small business off the
ground? When two busi-
nesses are selling the same
product, why does one
business thrive, and the
other closes its doors after
the first year? Are you in-
terested in tax deductions
for small businesses?
Would you be interested
in networking with other
women who also have a

small business? Come and
find out how women can be
successful in small busi-
ness—please attend the
Women's Small Business
Group. Meetings will be
held from 5:45-7:00 p.m.
on the last Monday of each
month at the YWCA (304
East Third Street) To RSVP
or for additional informa-
tion please call Kim Farkas
at 467-0172 or e-mail
kimfarkas1@gmail.com

Wild Trak Bikes—

On Sunday, March 21 at
10:00am, the Wild Trak
Cycling Club will host a
River Road Clean Up Day
in partnership with the
Sierra Club & PRIDE Inc!
Volunteers will be cleaning
up the river road multi-use
trail. Groups will depart
from Clifton Terrace Park,
Piasa Park, Piasa Harbor,
Elsah Parking Lot & the
Grafton Visitor Center.
Refreshments & bags will
be available; please bring
supplies such as: gloves,
shovels, brooms, wheel bar-
rows, etc. For more info
please call Wild Traks at
462-2574.

Marquette Catholic High School—

Marquette Catholic High
School Theater Depart-
ment will host a Wizard of
Oz Character Tea on Sat,
March 27, 10am-Noon. It
will be presented at the
Riverbender.com Commu-
nity Center, located at 200
West 3rd Street in Alton.
Experience the land of OZ
first hand as you meet
many of the main charac-
ters from the Wizard of
Oz, play games, win prizes,
gather autographs while
enjoying cupcakes and
punch. Wear your favor-
ite "Oz" costume and bring
your camera! Tickets are
available at MCHS (219
East 4th St.) or call 618-
463-0580 for more infor-
mation. Tickets are \$10
for children 3-12 with an
adult attending for free.
Tickets are \$12 the day of
event. Special guest is the
Easter Bunny! April 9-11,
MCHS will perform The
Wizard of Oz. For more
information on the
production please visit:
www.marquettecatholic.org.



Find us on
Facebook

- Alton Marketplace Association
- Alton Regional Convention & Visitors' Bureau
- Logo It @ Langa Resource Group
- The Second Reading Book Shop (John J. Dunphy)
- Gebbs Total Video - CMAX Photography
- The Beall Mansion - Tony's Restaurant - By Design
- Riverbender.com & Riverbender Community Center
- Saint Anthony's Health Center

Interested in learning
how to incorporate
social media tools into
your marketing strategy?

The Alton CVB is co-hosting a
social media workshop on Tues,
March 23rd from 9am—
11:30am at the Holiday Inn.
Please RSVP by March 18th to
the Southwest Illinois Tourism
Development Office by calling
618.979.6197