



The Marketplace Merchant

MAY 2008 ISSUE



Many Alton groups were represented at the "ArtWORKS" symposium in Springfield on 4/29

Ten individuals, representing: Alton Marketplace, Alton Weed & Seed Strategy, Pride Inc., Jacoby Arts Center, and the Madison County Arts Council, attended the one-day "ArtWORKS" Symposium to learn how our community can use the arts as an engine for economic development.

The keynote speaker was Tom Barnett, former economic development officer for the city of Paducah, KY—a city that has seen its "Lowertown" neighborhood entirely transformed by a campaign to recruit fine artists to the area to be involved with the revitalization process. "Providing living and working quarters for creative artists can be a viable way of economic restructuring in a distressed inner city

neighborhood," says Barnett. The Hunterstown neighborhood, adjacent to the downtown district, has long been recognized as a good candidate for such a project, and attendees gathered specific information on

landlords, increasing police presence in the neighborhood, partnering with local banks to offer low-interest loans for rehabilitation projects, and launching an advertising campaign in national fine arts publications to recruit artists to the area.

Marketplace's "Artfully Alton" committee is seeking volunteers interested in promoting the arts community in Alton, via exhibits, co-op galleries, etc.

If you would like the "Artfully Alton" committee to match your business up with a local artist to display their work at your location, or to have your artwork considered for the project, please contact the Alton Marketplace office at 463-1016

how to duplicate Paducah's success here in Alton. Key factors included: rezoning areas for mixed use live/work space, rigid enforcement of existing building codes on derelict properties and absentee

The group is producing a brochure on where to find local art in the downtown district, and also aims to spotlight available properties by setting up attractive art displays in the vacant storefronts to advertise the real estate and the artists.

Director's Note ~

Our volunteers are gearing up for the Celebration of Broadway that will be held on Sat, June 21st & Sun, June 22nd! Sunday the street will be closed to traffic on Broadway from Market to George for the 11th Annual All-Wheels Drive-In Car Show. We encourage all downtown merchants to take advantage of the hundreds of people that will be visiting that weekend by offering a special sale, activity, or promotion! Anyone who would like to help organize the event or volunteer the day of (food service, vendor hospitality, directing the hot rods to their spots, etc.) please contact the Marketplace office & let us know how you would like to be involved! ~ Sara



Featured Partner: Ciao Bella Scooters

Ciao Bella's rental season has begun, so get out there & enjoy the beautiful spring weather on a fun & economical scooter!

Rental hours are:
Tues-Friday: 10am-6pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: by reservation

Customers can call in their reservation to:
618-465-9392

Renters must be 21 years of age, and have a major credit card or pay cash for the rental damage deposit.

Pricing & other details for scooter rentals are listed on their website:

www.ciaobellascooters.com

Coupon \$15.00 off Full Day

Rental of 50cc & 250cc.
Reservations Recommended.
Must Be 21 Years old.



618-465-9392
www.ciaobellascooters.com



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



*Mississippi Valley
Garden Club*

Spring Plant Sale

Sat, May 10th (8am-12)

Alton-Godfrey
Sportmans Club
Main Pavillion
3109 Godfrey Rd.

Excellent variety of plants,
mostly perennials,
locally dug from club
members' gardens.

Hybrid daylilies, hostas,
iris, daisies, groundcovers,
grasses, cannas, rose of
sharon, peonies, herbs,
lilies, globe thistle, etc.

**Master gardeners will be
available to answer your
gardening questions!**

Call 278-4650 for more info

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Bossanova Lounge—

May 2, 7-10 pm

Phil Dunlap, piano

May 9, 7:30-10:30pm

Valerie Tichacek and Paul Davis on guitar. Val sings true bossa nova (some even in Portuguese!), and great jazz standards

May 16, 8-11pm

Jim Manley, trumpet, with Mark Friedrich on keyboard. Drummer Arlin Strader, featured performer at the Alton Miles Davis Jazz Celebration, will be sitting in.

May 23 7:30-10-30pm

Chris Voelker on guitar and Vince Sala on sax.

Two jazz veterans perform Latin Jazz, Swing, Bebop and more.

May 30, 7:30-10:30pm

Sky West Duo

Tony's Restaurant—

Is looking for part-time servers to expand their staff for the summer rush! Daytime, evening, and weekend shifts available. Please apply at 312 Piasa.

The Beall Mansion—

Are you having a baby or is someone you know expecting? Before the big event, mom and dad deserve some quality time together on a Babymoon Package at The BEALL MANSION.

Includes: Award Winning Accommodations, Jar of Pickles to satisfy every craving, Silk Rose Petals romantically scattered about your bed and whirlpool, Couples Massage—a Prenatal Massage for the lady and Full Body Massage for father to be—all in the privacy of your guest room, Bottle of our Home Made Lavender Bath Salts to take with you. For more information please visit 407 East 12th Street, call: 474-9100 or Toll Free: 1-866-The-BEALL, or email: bepampered@beallmansion.com

Crown Vision—

Starting Monday, May 5th, Crown Vision is bringing back their 50% off sale! Frames from a select group (including some designer brands) and all lens types will be discounted.

Now is the time to get prepared for the summer and have a pair of sunglasses made to your prescription. Call the store for details at 462-7611 or 1800-EYECARE

Salvation Army—

Has just opened a new coffee shop at 525 Alby Street. "The Underground" is a Christian coffee house and gathering place where you can encounter friends, fellowship, Jesus, and java. All are welcome to hang out, have a cup of coffee, study, listen to music, and have a good time!

Alton Regional

Convention &

Visitors Bureau—

Is actively recruiting group tours to our area. If you have a group or overnight discount that you would like to share with day-trippers, please email your information to Sissy McClain at: sissy@visitalton.com and she would be happy to help you get the word out!

The Alton Farmers' & Artisans' Market Starts May 31st!

Come one, come all to the "Moving the Market Party" on Sat, May 31st and check out the market's new location: the corner of Henry St. and Landmarks Blvd. (across the street from KFC/Taco Bell). Fresh produce and hand-crafted local artwork will be for sale from 8am to Noon every Saturday from May 31st through October.

We are pleased to announce that Alton Marketplace has been awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Agriculture to use for advertising the market. The funds will be spent on vinyl banners and a 10'x20' billboard at the corner of Henry St. and Broadway, which is being offered at a reduced rate by Arrow Signs of Godfrey. Fruits and vegetables are at their freshest and most nutritious when purchased locally, and the most environmentally, economically and socially responsible way to purchase your food is through local growers at the Farmers' Market. Vendors wanted—call 463-1016 for info!