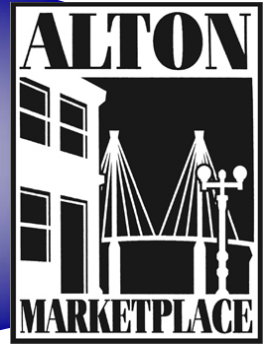


The Marketplace Merchant

JANUARY 2012 ISSUE



Was your resolution to get more involved in your community in 2012?

If you are shaking your head then we have some great opportunities for you! With the busy holiday season behind us, we are putting the final touches on our strategic plan for 2012 and rounding up the people who will help us move toward our vision in the coming year. If you would like to be a part of a dynamic group that is charting the course to achieve a healthy and attractive downtown, we welcome you to contact our office so that we can find the perfect fit for you on one of our active committees. We are seeking volunteers with a variety of skills & interests.

If you are an outgoing person looking to meet new people while planning events that use our district's unique character to bring locals and tourists to down-

town Alton, then our Promotions committee would be right up your alley. We are also in need of one-day helpers at events, which is always a fun and rewarding experience.

If strengthening Alton's

This committee also plans ample networking opportunities to encourage business to business interaction.

If you are passionate about making the entryway to our community look as appealing as it can be, then the

Design committee would be a great match for you. We clean up, decorate, and actively pursue projects with the arts.

Help us make good things happen by calling our office today to find out the meeting time for the group that inspires you.

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. We put every penny of our budget to great use.

Some people wish for things to come true...

Others think that someone else should take care of it...

Be someone who makes it happen!

economy and helping to support local business is where your interest lies, then consider joining our Economic Gardening committee. The group is planning a market survey to find out what type of shops our community would like to see us recruit to the district.

Director's Note ~

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my Board of Directors & each of the volunteers who has contributed their time, knowledge & energy into this very successful year for our organization. Additionally, our appreciation goes out to all of the businesses that support our organization through membership dues. Please let us know if there are any ways that we can promote your business through this monthly newsletter, facebook posts, with an interview on our WBGZ Radio segment that airs every Wednesday at 8:15am, or any other idea that you have — the sky is the limit, our organization is here to serve you! HAPPY NEW YEAR ~



Sara

JMC Design

conveniently located at
726 Belle Street
*across from the
downtown Post Office*

In addition to interior design and graphic services, JMC Design has now added a retail shop in their storefront!

The gallery features lots of cool (but warm!)

Fair Trade items made from Pima cotton and alpaca wool that are perfect for winter gifts or to treat yourself.

You'll find: scarves, gloves, shawls, throws, mittens, baby blankets, stuffed animals & more.

Additionally, you will find essential oils and diffusers, purses, hand-made jewelry, guitar straps, artwork and all kinds of surprises. You might even see a live rooster when you stop by...have you heard about the wild chickens of Belle Street? They're real and they roost in the pine tree at JMC!



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www.AltonMarketplace.com

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



**EXCITING NEWS
FROM THE
ALTON MUSEUM!**

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, your little friends are wrong! Santa exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists!!

We at the Alton Museum know that our Santa is the ROTARY CLUB OF THE RIVERBEND. They are going to repair and paint the birth home of Robert Wadlow so that the Alton Museum can furnish it as it appeared when our "Gentle Giant" was born there.

SIUE Dental School is our Santa also, for allowing us to place the birth home behind the Wadlow Statue. Big thanks to both of these groups from the Alton Museum of History & Art Board of Directors

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Dr. Susan Mielke—

Anne Rappaport and Susan Mielke, both licensed clinical professional counselors, will present a free workshop "A New Year, New Beginnings." They will focus on change and taking the steps toward making the new year better than the last. Bring a list and leave with a plan. Date: January 19th. Time: 6:30-8:00pm.

Place: Jacoby Arts Center, on Broadway in Alton. For more information call (618) 474-7300 or (618) 433-9000.

Riverbender.com—

Your #1 Source for Everything Local, is now offering "Steal of a Deal" gift certificates from local businesses at discounts of 50% or more! Offers range from Dog Boarding to the HCG Diet, from Spa Treatments to Pain Treatment. Simply visit the RiverBender.com Shopping Section and click on Steal of a Deal to view all current offers.

Also, register to receive the Daily Update Email and get deal info plus

much more amazing local content delivered to your inbox Mon-Fri. Hurry, as these special deals are being offered in limited quantity! RiverBender.com continues to provide residents and visitors the best in local information including FREE Classifieds, LIVE High School Sports Broadcasts, News & Obituaries, Weather, Business Directory, Coupons, Real Estate, Autos, Local Events Calendar, and so much more! For more info, contact Wendy Wickenhauser at 618-465-9850 Ext 234 or wendy@riverbender.com

Angela McDowell

Counseling Services— is moving suites within the Wall Street Professional Building. Effective January 1, 2012, Angela's office suite and fax number are changing. Her address will be 322 State Street, Suite 201, Alton, IL 62002-6135, ph 618-558-0296, fax 618-433-9991. She thanks you for your past and future business.

Argosy Casino—

Relive your favorite memories of "The Man in Black" as Bill Forness delivers the

songs of Johnny Cash, including Folsom Prison Blues, Ring of Fire, I Walk the Line & much more! January 20th at 8:00pm & January 21st at 7:00pm at Argosy's Music Hall. Tickets on sale now, call 1-800-711-GAME or stop by Guest Services to purchase yours today!

Mockingbird

Boutique—

Visit 100 W. 3rd St. to check out the new winter styles, and take advantage of a great sale - all denim and party dresses are 25% off, and all winter accessories are 15% off! Like the shop on facebook to see all the latest fashions first!

Facebook.com/
MockingbirdAlton

Somtech E-Cycling—

It is now officially against the law to throw away electronics—that's great news for the planet! Thankfully Somtech E-Cycling will pick up e-waste from your home or business—weekdays or weekends, no minimum or maximum! View our list of accepted items at:

www.somrecycle.com and give us a call at 433-9359 to schedule your pickup.

Riverbender.com Community Center Upcoming Events

Middle School Dance, January 14, 7-10 p.m. - Open to grades 6-8. Admission: \$5 members, \$8 non. DJ and dancing on the main floor, Open Mic Night in the "Underground Room", movies, games, & concessions!

After School Hours, Mon.-Fri., 3-6 p.m. - Does your teen need something to do after school? The Center is open for grades 6-12. Membership is required but it's only \$20/year for one student, \$30/family! Two options: *Free: Education with Rewards:* Homework help & tutoring - after studying for 1 hour, students are free to use the amenities of the Center OR *\$5: Affordable Entertainment:* For students who need a break from the books and are looking to hang out with friends and enjoy all that the Center has to offer.

School of Rock, Every Thursday, 3-6 p.m. - Teens can perfect their skills on guitar, bass, keyboard and drums or maybe they've always wanted to form a band, they can get some direction from music pro Matt McGibany at School of Rock! Only \$5 for 3 hours of all the musical instruction, advice, lessons, tips and tricks they can handle. Membership is required, open to grades 6-12.