

The Marketplace Merchant

MAY 2011 ISSUE



Calling all local musicians ~ this could be your chance to play at Alton's Riverfront Amphitheater!

Alton Marketplace and Riverbender.com are announcing the first stage of the 3rd Annual BIG GIG Local Music Show set for Saturday, July 23rd at Alton's Riverfront Amphitheater.

Band recruitment is now in progress; the postmark deadline for mailed entries is Monday, May 16th or

entries can be hand-delivered until 5pm on Wednesday, May 18th. Six Metro East bands will be chosen to perform their original music at the amphitheater, and will be featured on an interactive website.

A volunteer selection committee will narrow the entries down to six finalists, and ticket buyers will vote for

their favorite band which will determine the winner. The band that sells the most tickets will get first pick of their time slot to play and will also receive a prize package

Tickets will be \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, and \$1.00 from every ticket sold will be donated to the Jacoby Arts Center to advance their live music endeavors. Each band

will receive a portion of the proceeds for all tickets they sell.

The event is open to all genres of music; any band that is

interested in entering can visit www.AltonMarketplace.com to download an application to be sent in along with a band photo and an audio file, CD or video of at least three original songs that best represent their music style. Bands may also choose to include one optional cover song in their entry package. For more info, please call 463-1016.

VENDORS WANTED!

Alton Marketplace is seeking a variety of vendors for food, arts & crafts, exhibits, community outreach, etc. to set up sales booths or informational displays at our various summer events: Car Show, Concerts, Farmers & Artisans' Market. Please see our website for applicable registration forms, fees and stipulations on what may be sold at which event: www.AltonMarketplace.com

that includes several promotional tools to advance their music career, including: air-time and feature interview on WLCA 89.9 FM, an electronic press kit, a DVD of their BIG GIG performance, \$250 in free recording time at the studio of their choice, a promotional article in the Telegraph and the featured artist spot on Riverbender.com/music.

AMPHITHEATER AND RIVERFRONT PARK WIN AWARDS

The City of Alton is pleased to announce that the Alton Amphitheater and Riverfront Park have received two awards.

The American Institute of Architects Southern Illinois gave the Amphitheater and Fountain an award in the Urban Planning Category.

The Saint Louis Metro Section of the American Planning Association awarded the Marina/Riverfront District Master Plan an Outstanding Planning Award for Implementation.

"We are pleased to see the Alton Riverfront receiving recognition from our colleagues in the planning and architectural fields," said Phil Roggio, Director of the Department of Development and Housing. "These awards could not have been achieved without thoughtful planning and the input from a variety of community organizations and residents of Alton."

The Alton Amphitheater hosts a variety of entertainment events throughout the year.

For more information on concerts and events, please visit the venue's website:

www.RiverfrontAmphitheater.com

Director's Note ~

Spring is finally here - it's time to get out & about! I'll be traveling to Springfield on May 10th & 11th in order to spread the word about all of the good things happening in Alton. Tuesday is Illinois Main Street Legislative Day, so I will be setting up a display about Alton in the halls of the Capitol building and speaking with visitors about why they should visit our lovely community. That evening I will be setting up a table at the Governors' mansion where I'll have the opportunity to speak with our representatives about issues that are important to our small businesses and historic district. The following day will be full of training and networking with directors of Main Street programs from around the state, it's always a great chance to share success stories and bring home fresh ideas!



~ Sara

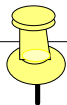


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A community based,
not-for-profit, volunteer
organization dedicated
to securing the economic
vitality and aesthetic
quality of the district.



*Grand Opening
and Ribbon Cutting
for*

**The Hayner Public
Library District
Genealogy & Local
History Library**

**Saturday, May 21st
at 401 State Street**

(ribbon cutting
at 10am in front
of the library)

*Please come join the
Library staff &
patrons for this
exciting event and
welcome them back
to downtown!*

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

State Street Market—

Will be open for lunch starting on May 17th! Their menu will include hardy, European-inspired items including gourmet sandwiches, fresh salads and savory soups. You can also order from our appetizer menu and enjoy a glass of your favorite wine or beer after work in the beautiful wine garden. Call Kary at 462-8800 for information on private events or wine tastings. Stop by 208 State Street and check out the progress we've made on our quaint dining and party rooms.

Mineral Springs

Haunted Tours—

Is featured in this month's issue of St. Louis Magazine! You can also read the article about their Museum of Historic Torture Devices online at: www.stlmag.com

Senior Services Plus—

On June 11th, award winning country band "Little Texas" will play a benefit concert to end senior hunger at Riverfront Amphitheater. The concert will also feature the music of

local artists Borderline and The Glendale Riders. This benefit concert is vital to the sustainability of the local Meals on Wheels Program sponsored by Senior Services Plus. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling SSP at 465-3298 or online at Riverbender.com. VIP tickets are available for \$30 each, which includes reserved table seating, a meet and greet with the band and a digital photo with the band. For more info or sponsorship opportunities please contact Margaret Lanier 465-3298 or mianier@seniorservicesplus.org Also, look for us on May 7th when we will be collecting at the corner of College and Washington Avenues. In the face of massive government budget cuts, vitally important programs are at risk. Services that enable frail older adults to remain independent in their homes, provide support to caregivers and help grandparents raising their grandchildren may cease to exist without these finances. We're counting on our local community's support!

Riverbend

Colorworks—

Drop in for a visit at Alton's newest salon at 560 E. Broadway! Owner/operator Alicia Lombardo specializes in hair color from natural hues to any color in the spectrum. Alicia is very passionate about her field and is well versed in the science of hair color; she holds certifications from two color manufacturers and will complete her third this fall. She has worked in the industry as a colorist and stylist in St. Louis for 20 years, and followed her heart to Alton to open her own beautiful river view studio at the corner of Broadway & Henry St. To make an appointment, call 474-1111 or email: riverbendcolorworks@yahoo.com

Bubby & Sissy's—

It's YAPPY HOUR time! Wed, May 25th from 6-8pm. Join us at 610 Belle Street — all friendly leashed pets are welcome! Enjoy finger foods & drink specials. Your \$5 cover charge supports the establishment of a dog park in Alton!

www.altondogpark.com

Riverbender.com Community Center Upcoming Events!

Middle School Dance/Open Mic Night, May 14, 7-10 p.m. Admission: \$5 members, \$8 non-members. DJ and dancing on main level, Open Mic Night in the "Underground". For more info: michelle@riverbender.com or call 465-9850 ext. 212.

Stars of Tomorrow Auditions, May 21, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Auditions at RBCC all day on Sat, May 21st from 8am-6pm. Semi-finalists Competition @ ALT Showplace, Sat, June 11, 7 p.m. Final Competition Sat, June 18, 7 p.m. For more info: www.altonlittletheater.org or 462-3205.

Please consider becoming a volunteer so that we can continue to provide a safe and fun experience for teens in the RiverBend. Visit our website to volunteer: www.riverbender.com/communitycenter