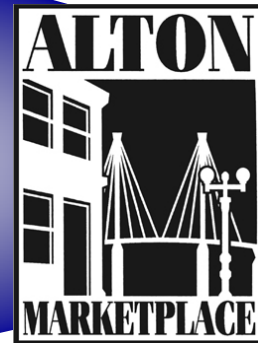


The Marketplace Merchant

OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE



“What’s Up Downtown” A new quarterly information exchange on downtown development

In an effort to increase communication between the variety of stakeholders in the downtown district, Alton Marketplace has decided to start a new forum where property owners, business owners, City officials, non-profit groups, and community volunteers can make connections and share ideas and information on their current projects and future plans.

One meeting will be held each season, and the fall kick-off event will be held at the Jacoby Arts Center (627 E. Broadway) from 5:30—7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 6th. Appetizers and cocktails will be provided.

These meetings are designed as a casual environment to learn about what developments are already taking shape, and ask questions you may have about the direction of various projects.

Ballots are currently running in The Telegraph for their 2011 “Best of the Best” poll. Remember your downtown merchants when you cast your votes!

Our Board of Directors also hopes that these gatherings will bring together people of common interests to learn more about opportunities to get involved with our committees that are working to make positive changes

in our community. With so many exciting things happening and in the works, Downtown Alton is at a tipping point for an explosion of new development in coming years. Even if you are not a big investor, come share your thoughts on what types of development you would support if they were brought to our community. Public input is important as City Government and private investors craft their strategy, and a movement has been started to align all parties involved as we move forward. Join us to have a voice in the progress and see how you can get involved!

Director’s Note ~

I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation from Audubon Missouri and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as they open their doors to our area’s newest attraction for families, students and nature-loving tourists. The Audubon Center at Riverlands in West Alton will hold its grand opening on Sat, Oct 15th from 10:30am-3:30pm.

Even before this new addition to the sanctuary, the Center was attracting 200,000 visitors each year. The impact that this improvement will have on downtown Alton can not be understated—bird-watching is one of the most rapidly growing forms of ecotourism, and travelers from far and wide will now have our area on their radar as a vacation destination. Our district is sure to see an infusion of business from tourists looking to grab lunch and browse shops after their visit. Well wishes!



~ Sara

Alton Farmers’ & Artisans’ Market will continue until Sat, October 15th!

Don’t miss these great activities:

Oct 1st

Live Music from Topsy Gypsy and a magician for the kids

Oct 8th

Community Supported Agriculture & Urban Gardening Day

Oct 15th

Pumpkin

Carving Contest

Bring your masterpiece to the Market & a public vote will determine the winner of a \$25 prize!

The River Bend Growth Association’s October Business After Hours

is traditionally reserved to promote their non-profit partners. All members please mark your calendars for Thursday, 10/20 & head to Riverbender.com

Community Center from 5-7pm to learn more about the great agencies that do so much for our community!

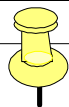


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www.AltonMarketplace.com

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



Timbaridge Concert

to be held at 7pm on
Thurs, October 6th
at Senior Services Plus
(2603 N. Rodgers Ave.)

Proceeds will benefit
SSP's Meals On Wheels
Program. "Feed the
Need" and help put an
end to Senior Hunger!

A suggested donation
of \$5.00 is being asked
for admission. Door
prizes, refreshments &
50/50 will be part of the
evening's events!

For more information,
please call 465-3298

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Dr. Susan Mielke—

A new Women's Spirituality Group is now forming to begin meeting the third week of October. This is an opportunity for women to deepen their relationship with self, God and the world. We will be exploring two texts as a way to engage our understanding of the living God in contemporary times.

This group will be facilitated by Dr. Susan Mielke, D.Min, LCPC. Please call 618-474-7300 or visit www.susanmielke.com for more info and to register for this free opportunity. Books are required.

Jazz on Broadway—

WEEKLY LINEUP:

Smooth Wednesdays with Ralph Butler & Gigi Darr 7-9pm, **Relax Thursdays** with Roley Overmeyer 7-10pm, **Unwind Fridays** with Ellen Martinez & Bob Werner 7-10pm, **Saxy Sundays** with Fred Walker 7-10pm. Also, don't miss these special events: "Wear Pink" concert in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month on 10/5, performance by Ralph Butler & Gigi Darr 7-9pm. No cover charge!

Danita Mumphard—10/22 7:30-10:30pm (\$10 cover), Jim Stevens Group—10/28 7-11pm (\$10 cover), Alton Landing Jazz Quartet—10/29 8-11pm, Halloween Parade Party: Enjoy the parade while listening to live jazz on 10/31 at 6pm.

Alton Stained Glass Works—

Our new hours will be Tues evenings from 5:30-8:30pm and Sat from 10am to 5pm. Drop by 412 E. Broadway to see our wide selection of gift ideas and stained glass supplies. Our newest products are fused glass table settings. Add a unique, artistic flair to your restaurant or home's table settings with these custom made fused glass chargers, bread plates, and candle holders in any style and color combination. Please call to discuss your needs and get a price quote. Visit our website for photos and more info: www.altonartglass.com

Chez Marilyn—

Join us for a Craft Beer & Wine Tasting on Sat, Oct 1st! Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, which includes a sampling of seasonal beers from Fritz

Distributing, wine from several area wineries, samplings of a variety of homebrewed beers and homemade wines for the first 100 tickets sold, heavy appetizers, and entertainment by Typsy Gypsy from 3:00-4:15 and Crazy Chester from 4:45-6:00pm. Cast your vote for the favorite local homebrew! 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Mustard Seed Peace Project, whose mission is to be a vehicle for the development of youth worldwide, and to empower them to become instruments of change. Seating is limited, reserve your ticket by contacting Terri Cranmer at 225-0696 or territlc2001@yahoo.com

By Design—

Our new School of Fashion is teaching all levels of clothing and accessory construction from beginner to experienced. Weekly classes are forming now with teachers who are masters of their techniques, such as: knit, crochet, weaving, fabric surface design, and clothing repair. Call 433-1400 or email lillianbydesign@aol.com to receive a schedule by email.

Brown Bag Networking Lunch Series

These are turning out to be a big hit—grab lunch & drop in for great conversation anytime between 11:30-1pm at the following locations:

- ~ **Friday, Oct 21st** at Riverbend Head Start & Family Services (550 Landmarks Blvd. - Third Floor Conference Room)
- ~ **Thursday, Nov 10th** at Alton Memorial Hospital (Meeting room in back of the cafeteria - free valet available!)
- ~ **Wednesday, November 30th** at Jacoby Arts Center (627 E. Broadway)