

The Marketplace Merchant

JANUARY 2011 ISSUE



New Year's Day Polar Plunge to Benefit Hope Animal Rescues ~ Freezing Fun for a Cause on the Riverfront!

Local pet lovers are hoping to begin a new Alton New Year's Day tradition: teaming up with Hope Rescues Animal Shelter to raise money for homeless pets by plunging into the icy Mississippi River. The Polar Plunge will be held at the public boat ramp beneath the Clark Bridge on January 1st at Noon.

Inspired by fellow Altonians who are heading to Chicago to plunge into Lake Michigan for the same cause, Alton natives Alison Dreith and Molly Peipert have planned this event to bring some big-city activism to their hometown. Those who are interested in taking the plunge with them can encourage others to donate to Hope Rescues in honor of their plan to plunge. If you're not willing to freeze your tail off but would still like to get involved in helping the animals, you are welcome to join them that day

to watch the plunge, make a financial donation to the cause, and cheer on the jumpers. Riverbender.com will be on hand to film the event, so you can also watch the jump and interviews with participants online!

Hope Rescues is a non-profit,

Alton's inaugural Plunge will be held on Saturday, Jan. 1 at Noon Plan to arrive early for hot cocoa and to cheer on the participants!

no-kill animal shelter based in Alton that rescues pets from both abusive homes and shelters that would euthanize these pets if they are not adopted. This organization gives pets a second chance at happy lives with loving families. Monetary donations to Hope Rescues may be made directly to the shelter via their website, or given to those

involved in the plunge itself. If you plan on donating via the website, the organizers of this event ask that you include the word "plunge" in order to help them keep track of the amount they have been able to raise.

The plungers are also interested in corporate sponsorship, and are willing to wear your company's name or logo as they jump into the river.

Those who plan to attend on January 1st should arrive at the boat ramp before 12pm, as the plunge will take place at Noon. Hot cocoa will be available for purchase & those proceeds will also benefit the cause. To volunteer or donate, please contact Hope Rescues at their website: www.hoperescues.com, via email at: admin@hoperescues.com, or by phone at 463-9983. For more info on the Plunge, find the event on Facebook, or contact organizer Alison Dreith at: alidreith@yahoo.com.

Riverbender.com Community Center Upcoming Events

January 8: Dance Party; Middle School 6-8:30pm; High School 9-11:30pm Admission: \$5 members, \$8 non-members. Dance to the DJ and enjoy all the amenities of the Center: movie theater, dance floor, internet cafe, pool tables, foosball, darts, arcade alley, table tennis, air hockey, board games, concession stand & snack bar.

January 20: Quarter Auction; 7-9pm \$5 per paddle. It's a cross between an auction, a raffle & a home party all wrapped into one! New & discontinued items from local direct vendors will be auctioned off for 1 to 4 quarters per item.

RBCC IS NOW OPEN

to members, grades 6 through 12, from 3pm to 6pm, Monday through Thursday. During these hours the Community Center will offer a variety of services and entertainment options ranging from homework help, reading programs, and free online tutoring offered in partnership with Hayner Library, to group study, music and art lessons, video games, movies, contests, and much more. The goal is to inspire, encourage, and provide our youth with an abundance of educational and entertainment opportunities in a safe and affordable environment.

For more info, please email michelle@riverbender.com, call 465-9850 ext. 212, or visit www.riverbender.com/communitycenter

Director's Note ~

The Artfully Alton project is Marketplace's initiative to showcase local artists who exhibit at various places in the downtown district. Check out our beautiful new website www.ArtfullyAlton.com and please let us know if you would like to help promote the project or participate as an artist. Our group also looks for opportunities to exhibit together, such as a show that our Chairperson Christine Ilewski has organized in the lobby of Alton Little Theater during the showing of docu-drama "Kindertransport" from January 13th through 24th. Youth inspired works and moody landscapes will compliment this play, hailed as a "Modern Classic" and a "powerful contribution to Holocaust literature" by the New Yorker and Chicago Tribune. We hope that you will pay a visit and support the visual & performing arts in Alton! Wishing you & yours the happiest of New Years ~



~ Sara

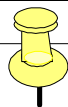


200 W. 3rd St. Suite 100
Alton, IL 62002

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.



Save The Date
for Alton Marketplace's
**Partner & Volunteer
Appreciation
Breakfast**

**Thursday, Feb 3rd
8:00am
At Tony's Restaurant**

*Complimentary breakfast
will be served*

Invitations will be mailed
to all of our supporters
who contributed to our
success in 2010

Please RSVP to:

463-1016 OR

sara@altonmarketplace.com

Alton Marketplace Partners—News, Sales & Events!

Holiday Inn—

Elvis is in the building! Ring in the New Year with Steve Davis as Elvis at the Holiday Inn Alton. Special appearances will be made by Thomas Hickey as Buddy Holly. Matinee show begins at 5pm with party favors, snacks and a New Year's toast for \$25 per person. The evening show will run 9pm-12:30am with party favors, snacks and a New Year's toast for \$39 per person. Franco's restaurant will also be serving a prime rib buffet for \$19.99 plus tax. Don't just come for the show, call 462-1220 to book the overnight package & take the elevator home on NYE!

Jacoby Arts Center—

Awards of Excellence 2011 Exhibition: The award winners of last year's juried exhibits are invited back to display their talents in this exhibition. Juror Libby Reuter selected the work of local artists: Jessica Forsy-Cameron, Kathy Gomric, Michelle Hamilton, Ruth Kolker, Joy Lap-

pin, and Samuel Preston to present in this show. Opening Reception (public invited) - Fri, Jan 21 from 5-8pm, Exhibition - Jan 21-Feb 26, Gallery Talk - Wed, Feb 9 at 7pm. Book the Jacoby Arts Center for your special event or party; we can accommodate a variety of groups, from an intimate gathering up to 200 guests. Our facility, located at 627 East Broadway, is ideal for parties, meetings, receptions, weddings and luncheons. For more information on the options available for your private or corporate event, visit our website at: www.jacobyartscenter.org, call 462-5222, or stop by during our regular hours: Tues-Fri from 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm.

Castelli's Moonlight —

Happy holidays from the first & only family owned restaurant serving our community for over 74 years! Remember our banquets & catering services for your next party and carryout meals for your large family gatherings. We are open at 11am Tues-Sun

serving lunch and dinner. Regular hours on New Years Eve (11am-10pm), and on New Years Day we are open for dinner (4pm-10pm). Visit our website for menus & directions: WWW.CASTELLIS255.COM

Mineral Springs

Haunted Tours—

is pleased to announce the addition of another hearse to our growing Cemetery Tour, which will be resuming in April. "The Grey Pearl" is a 1993 Cadillac Fleetwood that's 22 feet long nose to tail! Explore the paths of the past and witness the diabolical cruelty of man against man at the Historic Museum of Torture Devices, opening on January 1st from Noon-6pm at Mineral Springs Mall (301 E. Broadway). The exhibits and information are historically correct, and we welcome school groups. The new "Night at the Museum" winter tours will resume on January 15, regular hours will be 10am-6pm Fri, Sat & Sun. For more info call 465-3200 or visit www.mineralspringshauntedtours.com

~ A sustainable partnership ~

Alton Marketplace & the Sierra Club Piasa Palisades Group

Our organizations have been teaming up for years to provide an earth-friendly celebration of the river at the Mississippi Earthtones Festival, and also to help our local shops, offices & restaurants "green" their operations through the "Downtown Recycles!" program.

New in 2010, we also partnered on the Green Gift Bazaar on Small Business Saturday & promoted a fun way to spend the day downtown to support the shop local movement. Recycling efforts at this event included: 225 lbs of burned out holiday lights, 378 lbs of electronics, and 546 lbs of batteries that were saved from the landfill!

The Environmental Protection Agency has just informed us that we will be the fiscal agent of a \$1,000 grant for a river clean up to be led by the Sierra Club at the 2011 Mississippi Earthtones Festival. Last year, 80 volunteers from the club turned out to remove 4,000 lbs of litter from the river, approximately half of which was recyclable. WAY TO GO~!!!