

Feb. 2017

HART HOUSE: The AALA has sold the Hart House. Our general membership meetings will be held at various locations, and times. Please read the newsletter carefully for when and where meetings will be. Our post office box (AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL, 62002) is still the way to send dues. If you need other information, you may contact President Terry Sharp at 463-5761, terryasharp@yahoo.com. or through the AALA website.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Monday February 27 at 7:30 p.m., at the Alton City Hall, 101 West Third Street, Alton, IL

Thanks to Jennifer Campbell and her Facebook page, there is growing interest in saving the College Avenue train station. Our February meeting will be a review of the marketing plan the City of Alton has written for Union Pacific, the owner of the station. Mayor Brant Walker will attend and answer questions about the plan.

Go here to read the plan.

<https://www.cityofaltonil.com/blog/details/amtrak-station-building-for-sale-and-relocation/>

Lecture is open to the public. Note time and place above.

Thanks to Lacy McDonald for her lecture last month.

SAVE THE TRAIN STATION: A Facebook page, “Save the Alton Train Station”, was started as a spin-off from another popular Alton Facebook page named, “You know you grew up in Alton when...”. The post started a discussion about what was happening with the old station as the new multimodal station is being built. A number of people expressed concern at the thought that the old station might be demolished. A few people asked, “What can we do?” and expressed a willingness to help. It was then suggested that a page dedicated to the train station would be a good way to communicate with one another and share things related to the old station. There is now over 200 members. Obviously, people are interested in saving our old station!!! Check it out. Thanks to Jennifer Campbell for creating this.

Plan to come to our February meeting.

HASKELL HOUSE: The Haskell House in Haskell Park next to the Playhouse has an unclear future. The City of Alton owns it, but has no use

for it and it is in deteriorating shape. Ideas and creativity are needed to give it a future. Recently a plan has surfaced for having a children's museum there. Sounds like a good use for the building.

TERRA-COTTA: If you were wondering where the terra-cotta ended up, here is what what happened. Denny Scarborough of Tinner's Anvil (211 Langdon Street, Alton, Il. 433-1718) made an offer the AALA could not refuse. All of the pieces of terra-cotta and much of the furniture from the Hart House was moved to the Tinner's Anvil and will be sold on consignment. So if you are looking for a piece of terra-cotta for your garden, visit the Tinner's Anvil and be assured that much of your purchase price will go to the AALA.

DUES: Dues for 2017 can be paid now. Dues can be mailed to the AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL 62002. Individual dues are \$15.00 a year. Family membership is \$25.00 a year. Contributions are tax deductible. Help us be a strong voice in preserving historic Alton. Thank you for your support. And remember to contribute to the other local organizations that enrich your life.