

**ALTON AREA LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION
BOX 232, ALTON, IL 62002
WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG**

January 2009

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Monday January 19, 2009. 7:30 P.M., Hart House, 524 Belle St., Alton. We are going to begin the year with a two month program about the renovation of the U. S. Custom House and Post Office, known as the Old Post Office, in downtown St. Louis. At the January and February meetings we will play half of an hour documentary about the 2006 revitalization of this building which was key to the renewal of the downtown. This project had a couple of interesting aspects; how to fund such a large project with public and private moneys and when can sacrificing one historic building to save others be justified. Everyone is invited.

POLICE ACADEMY: The Alton Police Department is having a Citizens Police Academy on February 2, 9 & 16 at East Elementary School (1035 Washington) from 6:00-9:00 p.m. If you want to learn more about your local police department, here is your chance. Call 463-3500 ex 3 for more information.

HASKELL HOUSE: An article in the Telegraph mentioned that a Pride event planned to be at the Haskell House had to be moved because it has no heat. Haskell House (not the playhouse) is the city owned building in Haskell Park which has the Parks and Recreation offices. Both the Friends of Haskell Park and the AALA are concerned about the future of Haskell House. It is good that outside organizations would be interested in using it for events. But it is bad that the city is not maintaining it.

DOWNTOWN: The Alton Marketplace Association is kicking off their 2009 Partnership Drive for membership and volunteers. The AALA supports the Marketplace's drive to improve the look of downtown. Call 463-1016 for more information.

The closing of Great Central Lumber is another economic hit to Alton. However, this loss raises questions. Will this land revert back to commons land? Is this prime space for a downtown hotel?

There has been discussion about how bad our downtown looks. There seems to be no control on signage and storefronts. We need stronger control over the downtown building owners to keep them from destroying our historic commercial area. Comments?

FOR SALE: Want to buy a Sears home, cheap? There is two connected houses at 1005-07 Alby. The house on the right is a Sears Gladstone. If you have the catalog of Sears houses find the Langston, it is similar. The houses are selling for \$25,900.

DUES: Dues for 2009 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. Thank you for your support.