

Alton Area Landmarks Association

Box 232, Alton, IL 62002

www.altonlandmarks.org

October 2007

General Membership Meeting: There will be no general membership meeting this month. The next meeting will be Monday November 19th. Thanks to Kathryn Nahorski, Executive Director of the Madison County Art Council, for giving us a tour of the upper floors of the Jacoby Arts Center last month for our meeting.

House Tour: Mark your calendar and call your friends. The 35th Annual Alton Fall Historic House Tour is Sunday October 14th from noon until 6 p.m. This year's tour is shaping up to be one of most varied with some downtown buildings, the newly renovated City Hall and a house with super river view. There are ten sites on the tour. The real estate agencies are also planning to have several open houses in the historic districts. Call Terry Sharp at 463-5761 for more information or to volunteer for a couple hours.

Salu Street: Recently it was brought to our attention that the city had started laying asphalt on Salu Street between Humbert and Elizabeth Streets. That section of Salu Street is protected by Alton's Brick Street Preservation Ordinance. A call to the mayor's office stopped all action on Salu Street. The mayor called President of AALA, Terry Sharp and said it was a mistake and the asphalt would be removed from the street. However, at the next city council meeting, the council changed the law, in one session, and removed that section of Salu Street from the ordinance. This action from the council is disappointing and distasteful. The AALA will continue to speak up to protect the historic elements of Alton we all know and love.

Bruch-Guertler House: Many people love the Bruch-Guertler House at Blair and Alby Streets. The expert on the house and its owners is Norman Shaw. Mr. Shaw will present a program named "Ignatz Bruch, Alton's Stone Cutter: A New Life Carved In America," Wednesday October 24th at 6:00pm at Hayner Public Library. Call 1-800-613-3163 for a reserved seat.

Driving Tour: We are pleased to announce the release of the Historic Alton Driving Tour booklet. This is a 20 page guide to a sampling of the finest homes and buildings in Alton. The houses are from Alton's three historic districts or buildings individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There is a short history and picture of each. The booklet includes four maps to aid visitors in finding each site. They can be found at the Visitors Center at Piasa and Broadway Streets in downtown Alton or by contacting Terry Sharp at 463-5761.

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Eldred House: In addition to our own House Tour this Sunday, the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association will have their annual picnic at the Eldred House in Greene County, Illinois. The Eldred House is an 1861 Greek Revival stone house one mile north of the town of Eldred. There will be more about the Eldred House in an upcoming newsletter.

Dues: Dues for 2007 can be mailed now to: AALA, Box 232, Alton, IL 62002. Individual dues are \$15.00. Family membership is \$25.00 a year. Contributions are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.