

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

October, 2008

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Next meeting will be Monday November 17, 2008.

HOUSE TOUR: We hope everyone had a great time on the AALA's 36th annual Historic House Tour last Sunday. We especially thank all those homeowners who opened their houses for us. One set of homeowners, Carol and Randy Beckman deserve special thanks. Their house at 1905 State Street is a renovation project they wanted to show off on this year's Tour. However, the weekend before the Tour, a truck went out of control and rammed the front of their house splintering the front porch. Even with this set back, Carol and Randy decided to proceed with the clean up and be on the Tour. Thanks to Carol and Randy and their hard work. We could not put on the Tour without our faithful volunteers. Thank you.

GET WELL: Past president Bob St. Peters is in the hospital. We all want to wish him a speedy recovery.

PARTY: Get ready for an early December Holiday Party. More information in the November newsletter.

DOWNTOWN: There has been more and more discussion about how bad our downtown looks. There seems to be no control on signage and storefronts. As new businesses open, the area looks more and more shabby, disjointed, inappropriate or just downright ugly. One measure that might have to be done is to have the whole downtown turned into a historic district so that building permits have to go through the historic commission for approval. We need stronger control over the downtown building owners to keep them from destroying our historic commercial

area. As things are now, we furthering the look of a dying rivertown. Comments?

FOR SALE: There are many fine historic houses for sale. "Greenwood" at 2367 Central is an 1850's house built by Nathaniel Buckmaster. A beautifully restored house is at 2452 Mills, across from East Elementary School in Upper Alton.

These houses are still for sale: Sebastian Wise House- 505 Bond, Captain Leheye House- 703 State Street, and a house with a great riverview at 453 Bluff A beautiful one and one half acre wooded area is for sale in Christian Hill. They are asking \$130,000 for this tract bordered by Beacon, Bond and Prospect. Wouldn't this be a great city park?

DUES: Dues for 2008 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. Remember the AALA in your will. Thank you for your support.