



ALTON AREA LANDMARKS ASSOCIATION  
BOX 232, ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002  
[WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG](http://WWW.ALTONLANDMARKS.ORG)

October 2012

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** There will be no meeting this month. Everyone is busy with the 40th annual AALA House Tour. Our next general meeting will be November 19th.

We are planning a seminar about financial incentives for preservation for later this year. Watch for it. Pretty soon it will be time for the Holiday Dinner.

**HOUSE TOUR:** We are making final preparations for the 40th annual AALA Fall Historic House Tour this Sunday October 14th. We have a great line up of houses. Houses will be open from noon until 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. Tickets are on sale now at the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau at Piasa and Broadway Streets in downtown Alton. (The first 100 ticket buyers will get a free gift.) On Sunday we will also be selling tickets at the Hart House (524 Belle Street) and outside at East 4th and Henry Streets. Call your family and tell your friends. There will be many houses for sale open also. We have gained some new volunteers, but we need more. Want to help? Call Terry Sharp at 463-5761 for more information.

**FREW'S BRIDAL:** In the Riverfront Times' Best of St. Louis issue, the best bridal shop award went to Frew's Bridal at 305 Piasa Street in downtown Alton. Formerly known as Sears and Snyder's Buildings, this huge renovation project is nearly complete. It is already bringing notice to Alton. Congratulations.

**VINTAGE VOICES:** The 11th annual living history tour, Vintage Voices, began last Saturday. The tour celebrates the lives of those buried in the City and National Cemetery who enriched Alton's unique and colorful history. Tickets go on sale at 12:30 pm at the front gate of the cemetery for the next three Saturdays.

**PLAYHOUSE:** The Lucy Haskell Playhouse has recently been broken into and suffered from vandalism. Being in open area near a busy street has not deterred criminals from damaging this Middletown iconic building. But in addition to this recent damage, the playhouse has been found to need extensive and expensive renovations to the roof and exterior. The Lucy Haskell Playhouse Committee has a fund drive to paint, reroof and restore the exterior of the Playhouse. Not knowing how much it might cost, their first goal is to raise \$25,000. The whole Playhouse needs to have layers of paint removed, primed and repainted. A new slate roof will be very expensive. The city will have to be involved also since the playhouse is owned by the city.

**Call Debbie Schuneman at 433-1991 for more information.**

**WEBSITE: Our new website is finally finished. Go to [www.altonlandmarks.org](http://www.altonlandmarks.org) and let us know what you think.**

**DUES: Please remember to support us with a check. 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.**

**ENDANGERED: Alton's Bruch Guertler House at 101 Blair was accepted for this year's Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The owner, James Bailey (618-960-7349), has had numerous code citations on the building from the city. The AALA nominated three other buildings to be on Landmarks Illinois' TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES IN ILLINOIS list. We also nominated the Grand**

Theater, the Wise Olin House at 1128 State Street, and the Kendall Cracker Factory at 201-207 East Broadway. The Grand Theater has recently been boarded up and the vertical sign removed from the exterior. The Cracker Factory was granted \$330,000 of TIF money for redevelopment. There is work started there. The Wise Olin House is in foreclosure through the Deutsch National Bank. The contact for it is Steve Needham at 312-431-1455.

**"SILK STOCKING HILL"**- In a 1979 article in "St. Louis Home and Garden" magazine, State Street hill was called "Silk Stocking Hill" because there were so many fine houses belonging to wealthy bankers, merchants and river tradesmen.

**FOR SALE:** There are many historic houses for sale in Alton.

1128 State Street- Wise-Olin House is in foreclosure.

1700 Liberty- The very elegant James Beall House

1211 Washington- Call Building/Zoning at City Hall

Please remind people you know who are house-hunting to drive around Alton. Contact the AALA for suggestions.

**Alton Aldermen:** Ward 1 - James Ryan 463-0209

Ward 2 - Mick

McCahill 210-3273

Ward 3 - Michael

Velloff 208-7010

Ward 4 - Alice Martin

**462-5665**

**Ward 5 - Charles**

**Brake 462-7253**

**Ward 6 - Gary Fleming**

**465-1412**

**Ward 7 - David Boulds**

**465-8002**

**WINDOWS: The two things that disturb preservationists greatly are replacement windows and vinyl siding. The companies that sell these products make many claims about their energy saving and longevity. New research is questioning those claims.**

**This coming year we are trying to convince renovators to keep and repair original windows.**

**SIDEWALKS: Brick sidewalks are important elements to our historic city. When they get overgrown, people don't use them. And when they don't get used, they get more overgrown. The AALA would like if everyone picks an overgrown brick sidewalk and cleans it off. Find one in your neighborhood and spend an hour scraping off the dirt, grass and leaves. It is good exercise and it will encourage walkers to use the sidewalk. People with over-hanging bushes, please trim them back off of sidewalks, also. Thanks.**

**CEMETERY: Alton now has ten individual sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The newest is the Alton National Cemetery, 600 Pearl Street. The National Cemetery is adjacent to and formerly was a part of the Alton City Cemetery. The cemetery has 533 U.S.**

veterans buried there, including about 220 Civil War veterans. The VA says that the North Alton Confederate Cemetery at 635 Rozier is also on the list of nominations to the National Register.

**SAVE WESTERN:** The Mississippi Valley Christian School is selling the old Western Military Academy in the Upper Alton Historic District. Charles "Bo" Jackson, whose family was associated with the academy since its inception, is leading the drive to preserve it. He has created a website with information about it, [savewestern.com](http://savewestern.com). This is another large building in Alton which we need to find a new loving owner.

**HISTORIC COMMISSION:** The Alton Historic Commission is the body set up by our historic preservation ordinance to review changes in Alton's three historic districts. Visit their website at <http://www.historicalton.com/>.