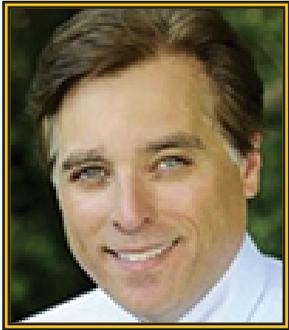




The Altonian

Vol. 1 • No. 1
Year End Review



Brant Walker
Mayor of Alton

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- City Council Meetings – every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., City Hall
- May 30th City Hall Closed for Memorial Day
- May 30th Memorial Day Parade
- City Treasurer's Office no longer accepting Ameren and Illinois American Water Payments

MAYOR'S UPDATE:

Welcome to my first edition of the Altonian. As in the past, the Altonian is a newsletter to inform you on what's going on in the City of Alton. In 2015, my office issued or renewed 98 liquor licenses, the Treasurer's office issued or renewed 834 business license and the Building and Zoning Department issued 537 building permits in the amount of \$23,829,722. Thanks to the efforts of the Police Department, 554 cases were solved. Our Fire Department achieved an ISO rating of 2. That rating was published to insurance companies on April 1, 2015 which saved homeowners money on their property insurance. Thanks to the Public Works

POLICE AND FIRE:

In April of 2015, the Alton Police Department received two fully equipped new police street bicycles from the Madison County Transit agency. The bicycles were put into immediate use and will help the police department in the role of community policing. You may have seen the bikes during the summer concert series or around town in our neighborhoods.

The Alton Police Department has been investigating numerous air conditioner thefts in and around the city of Alton for several months. Several dedicated officers placed their own personal deer cameras in various locations in the city. Dozens of theft cases were solved and the criminals were caught, after the offenders were photographed by one of these strategically placed cameras.

In the winter of 2015, two Alton Police officers were recognized by the St. Louis and St. Louis County Police Departments,

and the Parks and Recreation Departments, for the first time in decades, all 15 water features throughout the city were operational, and we maintained the largest youth soccer program in the region which continues to grow. As you will note, this past year Alton has witnessed a significant amount of investments in our community. The above are just an example of the many positive things that happened in the City of Alton in 2015.

welcome

for helping solve over 260 reports of vehicle and vehicle wheel theft in the St. Louis area. The Alton Police Department received intelligence information about suspect vehicles committing these thefts. Two off-duty officers, Detective Pulido and Officer Custer, observed a suspect vehicle on East Broadway and Officer Custer (riding his bicycle) called police headquarters and identified the vehicle from St. Louis. Detective Pulido who was also off duty in his police vehicle, followed the vehicle and later pursued it. The vehicle traveled into St. Louis County and Detective Pulido apprehended one of the offenders. From that arrest and interview, all the suspects were later apprehended and over 260 cases were solved. "Partnerships like the one we have with St. Louis County is essential in reducing crime in the area," Chief Simmons said.

Alton Police held its 2nd Amnesty Day in May 2015. Partnered with the Third

(continued next page)



The Altonian

(continued from front page)

Judicial Court and the Madison County States Attorney's office, the city of Alton was able to assist over 300 people who were in need.

The Alton Police held its 2nd annual Domestic Violence Awareness walk in October which raised over \$2000 for the Oasis Women's Center.

Through good fiscal city and department management, the police department saved over \$100,000 in overtime costs as compared to the previous year.

Your Alton firefighters are dedicated to providing our community's stakeholders high quality fire prevention and emergency response services. The department strives to meet the needs of the community through the committed efforts of 43 uniformed and 1 non-uniformed personnel. Services we provide include fire prevention and education, fire suppression, paramedic level EMS, technical rescue, and hazardous materials emergency response.

Emergency response services are provided throughout the city from two strategically located fire stations staffing two

Paramedic Engine Companies, one Ladder Company, and one battalion chief unit.

The personnel of the Alton Fire Department (AFD) are proud to serve our community's citizens and guests. We appreciate the support of the mayor, aldermen and alderwomen, and the residents of Alton that help us constantly strive to improve the service we offer.

In 2014 calls for fires and other emergencies like car wrecks, hazardous materials releases and false alarms saw a slight increase from 2013. However, utilization of the Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) protocol by Alton Police Department dispatchers continues to keep call volume lower than 2011 and before. The EMD protocol suggests the dispatchers only alert the fire department to respond to medical calls that meet paramedic or advanced life support criteria. This protocol has reduced apparatus fuel consumption, maintenance costs, and reduced the exposure of our personnel to injuries. Most importantly, the reduced call volume has allowed the fire department to increase its fire prevention and life safety programs.

BUILDING AND ZONING:

Alton Square Mall: Alton Square Mall was recently acquired by Hull Property Group of Augusta, GA. Hull is the owner and operator of 21 enclosed malls across 9 states. Hull Property Group has over 40 years of retail real estate experience and the City firmly believes that the new owner will be able to leverage its relationships with national retailers to stabilize the property and attract new tenants. The property is experiencing new momentum with the recent additions of Ross Dress for Less, Hibbett Sports and the newly renovated Maurice's.

Multi-Modal Transit Facility: In 2011, the City of Alton was awarded a \$13.8 million dollar TIGER grant through USDOT for the development of a multi-modal transit facility to accommodate the expansion of high-speed rail service from Chicago to St. Louis. This mixed-used development, north of Homer Adams Parkway, will include the construction of a new 9,000 sq. ft. train station, mass transit connections, retail development as well as infrastructure improvements to Golf Road, Barons Commerce Parkway, and the construction of a new service road to serve

the site. Mass grading of the site has been completed and full construction will commence during the second quarter of 2016 with anticipated project completion by June 30, 2017.



Multi-Modal Transit Facility

BridgeWest Project:

The BridgeWest project includes the construction of the flood memorial and streetscape improvements to Landmarks Blvd.

The flood memorial

project which will be constructed at the southwest intersection of Landmarks Blvd. and Broadway. The principal elements include: a landscaped plaza with concrete pavers and radial concrete banding (representing the three rivers), serpentine retaining wall, limestone benches, trash receptacles and interpretive signage. The streetscape improvements include landscape enhancements (native plantings), decorative banner poles denoting the scenic byway, decorative bollards, and installation of irrigation on Landmarks Blvd. and IL 143 (to the entrance of Alton Center Business Park). The flood memorial plaza along with the enhancements to Landmarks Blvd. is currently under construction with estimated completion by June 30, 2016.

CITY OF ALTON

PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS:

The parks were very active throughout 2015. The city played host to a multitude of recreational events including baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, flag football, kickball, golf, Frisbee golf, and fishing just to name a few. The Parks and Recreation maintains the largest youth soccer program in the Metro-East with over 1,300 registrations.

Hopkins Field received its first makeover in decades before playing host to Marquette and Alton High School's home baseball games, the Alton Pioneers summer collegiate team, and the American Legion Great Lakes Regional. Rock Spring Park got some much needed attention on the erosion issue that existed next to the tennis courts while every fountain in town was on and working for the first time in years.

Riverview Park has been in the process of receiving a new look with the new overlook and bathroom facilities. Work is expected to be completed this spring. Killion Park received new light bollards on the basketball courts and a new pavilion.

The Alton Amphitheater played host to several national acts including, Dwight Yoakum, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Alison Krauss. The first ever Food Truck Festival was a monster success. The fun continues into 2016 which promises to be a great year, as well!

PUBLIC WORKS: Last year our public works department had a lot of infrastructure repairs which included:

- Widening 2000 feet of Belle St. including curbs and drainage
- Repairing 800 feet of sewer line at middle school
- Repairing 300 feet sewer main on Broadway with Illinois American Water
- Repairs made to overlays on Belle St., State St., Storey Lane, Broadway, 9th and Piasa, Milton Rd. and Brown St.
- Removed and reinstalled brick street on Alby from Front St. to Broadway

Public Works also applied for and secured grants for:

- \$450,000 for Washington Ave overlay from Salu Park to College Ave.
- \$675,000 to overlay sections of Broadway from Monument to Henry St.
- \$760,000 to overlay College Ave. from Washington to State House Circle
- \$350,000 to replace sidewalk in Rock Spring Park from Rock Spring Drive to Holman
- \$400,000 to replace N. Rodgers Bridge which was completed
- Public Works coordinated flood measures, during our historic December flood, which aided in keeping our downtown businesses from flooding.

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT:



ALTON OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Brant Walker
City Clerk: Mary Boulds
City Treasurer: Cynthia A. Roth
Ward 1 Alderman: James Ryan
Ward 2 Alderwoman: Carolyn MacAfee
Ward 3 Alderman: Michael Velloff
Ward 4 Alderwoman: Alice Martin
Ward 5 Alderman: Charles Brake
Ward 6 Alderman: Gary Fleming
Ward 7 Alderman: David Boulds

CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU:

The Alton Regional CVB continues to drive home tourism for Alton. This past year experienced many new and exciting trends, including a culinary explosion with countless restaurants opening with many great tastes, such as Old Bakery Beer Company, Journey at Argosy, 4204 Main Street Brewing Company and Elijah P's Burgers and Brews, just to name a few. And already this year, we have welcomed the Hops House at Argosy Casino, with some incredible new menu items.

Despite the massive flood to end one year and begin another, tourism still ranks among the largest industries of the Riverbend. Tourism in Madison, Jersey and Calhoun counties accounts for more the \$443 million spent each year by visitors coming to town. As we add more rooms to fill, this impact will only grow more to support our city. Already this year, we've hosted several eagle events and underground railroad tours through the Alton Visitor Center, along with a record-breaking

Alton Restaurant Week in January. Be sure to set your taste buds for the All Star Alton Restaurant week in July! That's also when the new Hampton Inn and Suites should be in full swing providing Alton visitors great amenities.

Every day through the Alton Visitor Center, we work hard to deliver on visitor experience and advertising to lure folks here. Last year, our Visitor Center welcomed nearly 15,000 people through the doors and answered more than 6,000 800# calls to the center and live chats on the internet. That's on top of all of our social media interactions and people that use our local lines to call us. Our unique visitors to www.VisitAlton.com surpassed 300,000 this past year, another record.

Bottom line, tourism means jobs and economic activity that all lend to a better quality of life for Alton and its residents. If we build a place where people want to visit, we will build a better place.

**City of Alton,
Illinois**

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Alton, IL 62002

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618-463-3525

The Altonian
can be viewed
online at:
www.cityofaltonil.com

COMING THIS SUMMER!

The CHARLIE DANIELS BAND



LIBERTYBANKAMPHITHEATER.COM
AND AT THE ALTON CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

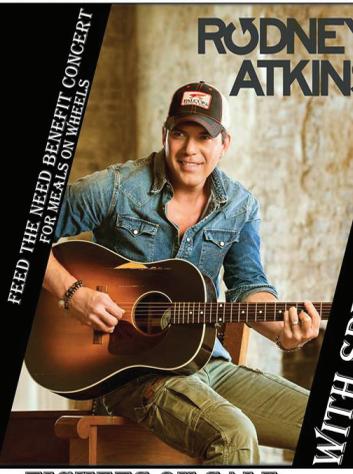


SATURDAY JULY 16

RUDNEY ATKINS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST JANA KRAMER

FEED THE NEED BENEFIT CONCERT
FOR MEALS ON WHEELS



TICKETS ON SALE MAY 6 AT 10 AM



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VISITORS BUREAU



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