Summer Concerts Set for Silver Cross Field

The Harrah’s Presents the Bill Jacobs Joliet Summer Concert Series, co-sponsored by Founders Bank, Joliet Herald News, Canton Commercial Real Estate Group, Gold’s Gym and Sapphire Club, will take place this summer in Downtown Joliet. The open-air Silver Cross Field is sure to be humming with excitement beginning starting in June! Individual tickets are available in a variety of prices per concert, ranging from $14 to $85. To purchase premium infield seats which are the closest proximity to the stage, call Group 7 Marketing at 1-866-863-7809. All other tickets are available at the Joliet JackHammer box office Monday through Friday during regular business hours via 815-726-2255 or www.jackhammerbaseball.com. Tickets can also be purchased online at ticketweb.com or by calling toll free to 1-866-468-3401, 7 days a week. Call now for tickets to the hottest concert series ever held in this area! Tickets are available for the following performances:

- July 1, Tone Loc, Boyz II Men and Little Richard; July 15, The Click Five, Kings of Leon and Collective Soul; July 26, Back Yard Tire Fire, Marty Sturry and Mele Haggar; August 12, Ramon Ayala, La Orda, Grupo Control and Grupo Rival.
- September 4th will be an all day rock festival including Big Head Todd and the Monsters, the Verve Pipe and more acts to be announced.

Also, take advantage of two special ticket programs which provide tremendous savings to those who act early. The Premium Series Pass allows entry into all seven scheduled concerts, guaranteeing a seat within the first five rows, an invitation to post concert parties and VIP access. Premium Series Passes are priced at just $389.00, which is a 40% savings from individual ticket purchases. The Subscription Series Pass permits each pass holder to select their favorite five out of the seven scheduled concerts. Purchasers also receive a seat within the first six rows, entrance into post concert parties and VIP access. With Subscription Series Passes priced at just $279.00, there is a 30% savings from individual ticket purchases. Premium Series Passes and Subscription Series Passes are only available for a limited time and can be purchased by credit card, personal check or cash by calling toll free to 1-866-863-7809. Act now for this incredible opportunity to save!

For more information, please call toll-free to 1-815-726-2255 or cash by calling toll-free to 1-866-863-7809. For information on other fun activities this summer, visit www.jolietpark.org.

NASCAR Race Fan Rally, JackHammer games, outdoor festivals, Farmer’s Market, summer concerts and fireworks will make for an exciting summer in Downtown Joliet. The summer starts off with the IHSA Class A Baseball tournament at Silver Cross Field and the Champions on the Street festival along Chicago Street on June 2nd and 3rd. The annual Car Show will pack Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park on June 17th and 18th. This family festival will include lots of food and live entertainment, but the cars are, of course, the highlight. Over 200 cars ranging from vintage antiques to “tricked-out”, customized late models will be on display. Admission is free to the general public. Pro and amateur burnouts will also take place in burnout alley throughout the weekend and fireworks will light up the sky on Saturday night. The June Fest musical festival will also take place at Bicentennial Park on June 23rd and 24th. Farmers Market starts June 16th and will take place every Friday morning at Chicago and Jefferson Streets thru September. The 32nd Annual Concerts on the Hill place at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park every Thursday starting June 1st at 6:30.

The annual July 3rd celebration at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park kicks off July’s special events. The fun starts at 5:30 with musical entertainment on two stages starting at 7 p.m. The highlight of the evening will be fireworks along the river at 9:30. The Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce will also be sponsoring the annual fireworks display on July 4th at Joliet Memorial Stadium.

The biggest event of the summer will be the 6th Annual Race Fan Rally, formerly known as FanFest. Race Fan Rally will take place from 5pm to 11pm in historic downtown Joliet on July 7th. The event will host NASCAR drivers, simulators, showcases, and exhibits, as well as an outdoor entertainment stage with live music and driver announcements.

Drivers that have appeared in the past include Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kasey.
If It’s Fun…It’s in Downtown Joliet

Kahne and Carl Edwards. Many drivers and celebrities will also take part in an all-star cast at Silver Cross Field for a celebrity softball game during the Race Fan Rally. The game begins at 6:05 and tickets can be purchased at the Silver Cross Field Box Office or call 1-815-726-BALL.

The 24th annual Waterway Daze Festival will take place July 20-22 at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park. This year’s festival will be a celebration of the waterway with a “Wild, Wild West” theme. Several boats will be decked out with the western theme throughout the weekend. Fireworks will light up the sky on Friday and Saturday night and the lighted boat parade will get underway at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Back by popular demand is Kids’ Fest. The festival will take place on Saturday August 5th and will include several fun zones with activities for the young ones including a Touch-a-Truck zone.

For more information and to pick up your Joliet Calendar of Events for the spring and summer call 1-877-JOILET or check out www.visijoliet.org.

Bronk’s Corners Will Offer Options To “Shop,Work & Dine”

The new development, Bronk’s Corners, will be located on the northwest corner of Route 59 and Theodore Road. It will feature several mid-sized retailers, specialty retailers and offices for a variety of professional and business uses. In addition, three full service restaurants will be opened, making Bronk’s Corners a highly desired dining spot.

“This is probably the nicest development I’ve seen in Joliet,” said Herb Barrton, a homeowner whose property lies just north of the planned development. “In many ways, they’re trying to do mimosas of all the things you see in places like Oak Brook and Naperville.”

The outdoor mall will be anchored by three medium-sized stores accounting for 118,000 square feet of retail space. The anchors will be complemented by specialty retailers and boutique-style shops totaling 71,400 square feet of space. The plan includes a small lake with a fountain at the corner of Illinois 59 and Theodore which will distinguish Bronk’s Corners from other commercial projects along the Route 59 corridor.

City achieves balanced growth and record housing valuation

The City of Joliet continues to achieve its goal of a greater balance between new commercial and residential growth. The number of commercial structures equaled the record set in 2000. A total of 53 new commercial structures were built in 2005. The new structures were valued at $972,200,465 an increase of over 20% compared to 2004. Over the last ten years the Mayor and City Council have approved hundreds of new commercial projects including Chicagoland Speedway, Route 66 Raceway, Silver Cross Field and significant expansions at both Harrah’s and Empress Casinos. The higher percentage of commercial structures benefits all local taxing bodies, especially the local school districts.

The City of Joliet continues to maintain its position as one of the fastest growing cities in the country. With a population of over 145,000, Joliet is now the fourth largest city in Illinois. Last year, 2,002 new housing units were constructed; the highest total since 2001 when 2,062 total units were built. Last year’s total includes 1,534 single-family homes and 468 multi-family units. The number of housing starts has more than doubled in the last ten years and has increased dramatically since 1985 when just 27 units were built in Joliet. The estimated valuation of all housing starts in 2005 set a record of $274,795,516.

NEW YEAR-ROUND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Joliet Mayor and City Council have enacted a year-round water conservation program City of Joliet water customers. Watering is permitted from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at even addresses on even numbered days and at odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days. According to the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Unit, this will provide ample opportunities for residents to water their lawns. In general, about 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week is needed to maintain green color and active growth. The City has also added five new wells this year to more than accommodate the anticipated water demand.

An important decision to make before summer is to either water lawns consistently as needed throughout the season or let lawns go dormant as conditions turn warm and dry. Do not rotate back and forth. In other words, don’t let the grass turn totally brown, apply enough water to green it up, and then let the grass go dormant again. Breaking dormancy actually drains large amounts of food reserves from the plant.

When is it time to water? The first few weeks of the season, a customer does not automatically mean to water lawns. In fact, allowing lawns to start to go under mild drought stress actually increases rooting. Watch for footprints remaining on the lawn, walking across it (instead of leaf blades bouncing back up). Grasses also tend to turn drier in color as they go under drought stress.

In general, water as infrequently as possible. Water thoroughly so moisture gets down to the depth of the roots. Avoid frequent waterings, which promote shallower root systems and weeds (i.e. crabgrass). Given a choice, water early in the day when lawns are normally wet from dew. Avoid midday due to evaporation, and at night due to potential increased chances of some diseases.

Finally, there are some measures to conserve water use by lawns. Mow higher, avoid excess nitrogen applications, avoid brown turfing, control thatch and soil compaction, and avoid pesticide use on drought stressed lawns. For additional information on managing lawns under drought conditions, check out the University of Illinois Extension’s Lawn Talk website at www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/lawntalk.