



Mitch Popolorum, of New Lenox, tries his hand at changing a tire at the Verizon exhibit during last year's Race Fan Rally in Joliet.
JOHN PATSCH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Race rally roars into Joliet

NASCAR fan event likely to attract 40,000

By Bob Okon

BOKON
@STMEDIANETWORK.COM

JOLIET — Expect lots of people but not a lot of trouble getting to and around Race Fan Rally today.

The festival geared to NASCAR fans and those just out for a good time on a summer evening can be expected to draw 40,000 people to downtown Joliet, said Tom Mahalik, vice president of the Joliet City Partnership that sponsors the rally.

"It's spread over six blocks so there's plenty of room," Mahalik said.

"Parking doesn't really seem to be a problem. We've never had any complaints about it."

Early rally attendees can show up at 4 p.m., when the rally starts with recorded music at the main entertainment stage. Food vendors also will be on hand.

Big attractions, Mahalik said, tend to be the live music.

Cowboy Troy and the Penny Mae Dixon Band are headliner acts for the event and will appear on the main stage. Also playing on separate stages are The Righteous Hillbillies and the Cadillac Casanovas.

New to the rally, which is in its 10th year, is a photo booth where people can have their pictures shot in a NASCAR setting. The popular race car simulators are back to give fans the feel of driving on a track. And, fans can meet NASCAR drivers appearing during the rally. Kidz

Street closures begin

FROM STAFF REPORTS

JOLIET — Police begin closing downtown streets and marking detours this afternoon for the Race Fan Rally.

The last street to be closed will be Cass Street (Route 30) between Ottawa and Scott streets at 3 p.m. Traffic will be detoured north on Scott to westbound Jackson Street.

Other street closures include:

- Chicago Street between Jefferson and Jackson streets
- Van Buren Street between Ottawa and Scott
- Clinton Street between Joliet and Scott streets
- Webster Street between Ottawa and Scott
- Benton Street between Ottawa and Scott
- Crowley Avenue between Chicago and Ottawa streets

Joliet Street at Harrah's Casino also will be closed for a stage event there.



Plan ahead! Go to heraldnewsonline.com for a map of street closures for Joliet's Race fan Rally.

Zone again will feature controlled water fights and remote control racing. Downtown fireworks are

scheduled for 9:45 p.m. — a big finish to the event. Comment on this story. www.heraldnewsonline.com