

AREA UPDATE**Blackhawks singer
slated for festival**

DANVILLE — The renowned singer of the national anthem at Chicago Blackhawks games will open the third Balloons Over Vermilion festival later this month with his “unique, yet traditional rendition” of the “Star Spangled Banner.”

Tenor **Jim Cornelison** will be part of an opening ceremony on July 13 at the Vermilion Regional Airport north of Danville.



As festival-goers enter the airport grounds on opening day, hundreds of American flags — placed by Patriot Guard Riders — will line the highway in front of the airport and the main drive into the facility.

The gates open at 3 p.m. July 13, and the opening ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

A Texan T-6 warbird, flown by local pilot **Jay Schroeder**, will soar overhead immediately following the anthem. First responders and the American Legion Riders motorcycle club will lead the Parade of Pilots before the mass ascension of more than 30 hot air balloons.

“We want to show our appreciation for those who serve and have served our great country,” said event co-chairman **Jim Anderson**.

**CORNELISON****TRACY CRANE**