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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michingangaming.com](http://www.michingangaming.com)

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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## **MOTORCITY CASINO TO OPEN NEW GAMING SPACE JUNE 7**

**M**otorCity is on track to be the first of the three Detroit casinos to open its permanent casino complex. In late May, MotorCity officials showcased the casino's newly expanded gaming space, which is scheduled to be open to the public on June 7.

The overall theme of MotorCity's new complex is a tribute to Michigan's automotive industry. The décor throughout the gaming space includes fixtures resembling steering wheels and hubcaps, and various photos and paintings displaying the automotive theme. The new gaming area is one-third larger than the temporary casino floor, which allows for up to 600 additional slot machines. In conjunction with the debut of the gaming floor, MotorCity will also be opening the Signature Lounge dining area for premier guests. The Signature Lounge marks the first of many new restaurants that will be included in the final project.

The remainder of MotorCity's permanent casino complex, including a 400-room hotel, an entertainment venue and additional restaurants, is slated for completion later this year. MGM Grand Detroit Casino is expected to open its permanent complex later this year – its 400-room hotel is currently on track for an October opening. Greektown Casino is scheduled to open in late 2008.

## **MGM GRAND DETROIT NOW ACCEPTING ROOM RESERVATIONS**

**T**oday, the MGM Grand Detroit Casino will begin accepting room reservations for its new 400-room hotel, scheduled to open in October. MGM is the first of the three Detroit casinos to accept hotel reservations.

In an interview with *The Detroit Free Press*, John Hutar, vice president of hotel operations, said MGM is "really positioning this to be the true luxury offering in downtown Detroit."

Many new technological features will be included throughout the hotel rooms including touch screen telephones, automatic room lighting upon entry, electronic "do not disturb" buttons, and motion sensors. The new hotel will house more than 50 suites, and 30,000 square feet of convention space. Standard room rates begin at \$299 per night, while suites range from \$900 to \$2,500 per night.

## **JUNE DECLARED AS MICHIGAN HORSE RACING MONTH**

To honor Michigan's 74 years of horse racing, Governor Jennifer Granholm has declared June as "Michigan Horse Racing Month."

In a press release issued by the Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC), Racing Commissioner Christine White commented on the importance of recognizing the industry.

"Horse racing is a Michigan tradition that makes an important contribution to our state's economy," said White. "It's a very labor intensive business, requiring hard work and dedication from the breeders, stable workers, grooms, trainers, drivers and jockeys. Michigan Horse Racing Month is a great way to show appreciation for the tireless efforts of everyone involved in the Industry."

Several events are scheduled for "Michigan Horse Racing Month" including the debut of the ORC's new Web site ([www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing)) and e-newsletter, as well as several events and promotions at the state's various tracks.

Michigan currently has six licensed pari-mutuel racetracks, including four harness tracks (Hazel Park, Northville, Swartz Creek and Jackson), one thoroughbred track (Muskegon) and one mixed breed racetrack (Mt. Pleasant).

Historical information on Michigan's horse racing industry can be found at [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal). For more information about Michigan horse racing, visit [www.michigan.gov/horseracing](http://www.michigan.gov/horseracing).

## **MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT DECISION OPENS DOOR TO POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL CASINO DEVELOPMENTS**

On May 31, the Michigan Supreme Court released an opinion in the case of *Taxpayers of Michigan Against Casinos (TOMAC) v. State of Michigan*, reversing a lower court ruling stating an amendatory provision contained in the compact at issue violated the separation of powers clause of the Michigan Constitution. The decision makes it clear that the Michigan Legislature can constitutionally delegate authority to the governor to negotiate and enter into amendments to the compacts between tribal governments and the state of Michigan.

Currently, four tribes have compacts which permit the governor to negotiate amendments. The four tribes are the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (Victories Casino, Petoskey), the Pokagon Band of

Potawatomi Indians (soon to open Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo), the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Little River Casino, Muskegon), and the Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi (which is working on a casino development in Battle Creek).

The Court's decision involved a specific fact pattern involving the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. An amendment made to the compact with the Little Traverse Band authorized the tribe to pursue the opening of a second casino. The tribe currently operates one casino in Petoskey, and will soon be replacing its current casino facility with a new building at a different location nearby. In the past, the tribe has discussed the possibility of opening a casino in, or near the Village of Mackinaw City. Currently, the tribe has indicated it does not have an immediate plan for expansion. Instead, it is focused on the grand opening of its new \$145 million casino facility, The Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey, scheduled for June 20, 2007.

The new casino features 50,000 square feet of gaming space, featuring a slot floor with 1,500 machines, 30 gaming tables, and two floors of entertainment options. The new casino will have over 1000 employees and has brought an additional 500 jobs to the area.

## **AGA ACCEPTING ENTRIES FOR 2007 COMMUNICATION AWARDS**

The American Gaming Association (AGA) is now accepting entries for the 2007 Gaming Voice Awards. The Voice Awards recognize outstanding achievement in advertising and corporate communications in the global gaming industry.

Entries will be accepted until August 31, 2007, and the entry form can be found by visiting [http://www.americangaming.org/events/communications\\_awards/index.cfm](http://www.americangaming.org/events/communications_awards/index.cfm).

Award winners will be honored at a luncheon on Monday, November 12, at the Las Vegas Convention Center during the Global Gaming Expo's Training and Development Institute keynote luncheon.

For more information visit [www.americangaming.org](http://www.americangaming.org) or e-mail Brian Lehman at [blehman@americangaming.org](mailto:blehman@americangaming.org).