

July 10, 2009

Volume 15, Issue 20

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A publication of

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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **FIREKEEPERS CASINO MOVES TOWARD EARLY AUGUST OPENING: NAMES HEAD CHEF**

**F**ireKeepers Casino is progressing toward an “early August” opening date, as no firm opening date has been set. According to a recent report by the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, FireKeepers Casino is holding off on announcing a grand opening date for their facility. Rather, they have chosen to let the results of a series of ‘test runs’ determine when the facility will open to the public.

The \$300 million casino facility will offer 107,000 square feet of gaming space, set upon 78 acres of land in Emmett Township, Michigan, located near Battle Creek. When completed, the casino will offer 2,680 class III slot machines, 78 table games and live poker and bingo rooms.

On June 29, 2009, FireKeepers Casino officials announced Executive Chef Michael McFarlen will oversee the casino’s five restaurants. The property’s restaurants will offer a wide variety of cuisine, incorporating local, sustainable ingredients into their menus.

“Michael brings sound culinary experience to FireKeepers Casino,” said General Manager for FireKeepers Casino, Bruce McKee. “He’s spent much of his career at notable casino properties, but also has an intimate knowledge of local Michigan flavors and tastes. We could not have found a more perfect Executive Chef for FireKeepers and our restaurants will surely set a dining standard in the community.”

Chef McFarlen’s culinary experience includes time as Executive Sous Chef for The Cove-Atlantis in the Bahamas and as the Executive Chef for MGM Grand Detroit. Prior to joining FireKeepers, he served as the Executive Chef for Ameristar Resort Casino Spa in St. Charles, Missouri.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Located on Michigan Avenue near Exit 104 of I-94, just outside of Battle Creek, Michigan, the FireKeepers Casino project is owned by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. The actual casino will be managed by Gaming Entertainment (Michigan), L.L.C., a joint venture between Las Vegas-based Full House Resorts Inc., and RAM Entertainment, L.L.C., a privately owned investment company.

## MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD RELEASES DETROIT CASINO REVENUES FOR JUNE 2009

Yesterday, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) released the June, 2009 total adjusted revenue figures for the three Detroit casinos – MGM Grand Detroit Casino, MotorCity Casino and Greektown Casino. Overall, revenue was down less than 0.5% from the same reporting period last year. Specifically, revenue for Greektown casino was up by 24.2%, while revenue for MGM Grand and MotorCity casinos was down by 10.07% and 3.19% respectively, in comparison to the same month last year.

Month in 2009	Total Adjusted Revenue 2009					
	MGM Grand Detroit	MotorCity Casino	Greektown Casino	All Detroit Casinos		
	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Gross Receipts	Total State Wagering Tax	Total Detroit Wagering Tax
January	\$45,760,680.80	\$36,824,138.17	\$24,331,489.11	\$106,916,307.76	\$9,633,480.49	\$11,897,192.47
February	\$49,452,574.79	\$40,001,069.14	\$27,507,991.91	\$116,961,635.84	\$10,574,212.18	\$13,023,898.23
March	\$48,417,844.13	\$41,632,619.57	\$29,974,562.14	\$120,025,025.84	\$10,921,009.58	\$13,382,473.44
April	\$44,249,852.45	\$38,539,338.93	\$28,589,866.54	\$111,379,057.92	\$10,165,298.35	\$12,426,215.98
May	\$47,216,927.68	\$40,457,965.75	\$30,153,069.06	\$117,827,962.49	\$10,750,187.72	\$13,144,778.60
June	\$43,772,027.46	\$36,881,519.22	\$28,849,029.46	\$109,502,576.14	\$10,023,669.85	\$12,224,271.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$278,869,906.99</b>	<b>\$234,336,650.78</b>	<b>\$169,406,008.22</b>	<b>\$682,612,565.99</b>	<b>\$62,067,858.17</b>	<b>\$76,098,829.81</b>

The figures above do not include: 1) wages and benefits paid to casino employees; and 2) payments to suppliers, service providers or vendors.

For Greektown Casino, the State of Michigan's share of the wagering tax reflected in the numbers released by the MGCB is 12.1% and the City of Detroit's share is 11.9%, for a total tax of 24%. This 24% tax historically applied to all three Detroit casinos. Greektown Casino has applied for a tax reduction effective as of the opening of its permanent facility earlier this year.

MGM Grand Detroit and MotorCity Casino have received a tax base reduction certification as a result of their facilities being declared "fully operational" by the MGCB. These properties are now subject to a wagering tax of 19%, with a 10.9% of this levy to go to the City of Detroit and 8.1% to be paid to the State of Michigan.

(Continued on page 3)

## OHIO SENATE APPROVES SECOND TEMPORARY BUDGET; VLT DEBATE CONTINUES

On Tuesday, Ohio's second, seven-day interim budget went into effect as state legislators continue to adjust the state's FY 2010-2012, \$54 billion budget. Debate continues over the method of implementation for video lottery terminals (VLTs) in the state. The idea of VLTs has been offered by state officials in efforts to help cure the estimated \$3.2 billion shortfall.

Three weeks ago, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland submitted a budget plan which would allow VLTs at Ohio's seven horse racetracks. Under the plan, the governor's office estimates that the implementation of up to 15,250 VLTs has the potential to generate nearly \$1 billion in 14 months. The state would collect 48 percent of revenue for state education programs, while the other 52 percent would be split among the seven track owners to pay operational expenses, including payouts to winners.

On Tuesday, Ohio Senate President Bill Harris submitted a letter, which included a draft of a joint resolution, to Governor Strickland which seeks to put the idea for VLTs to Ohio voters as well as grant VLT licenses to Ohio's highest bidders, not necessarily the horse racing industry. A minimum bid of \$65 million was proposed for each license.

Although the Ohio Senate contends voters should decide the issue of VLTs, a letter by Ohio Senator John Carey notes "if the governor wants to move forward with VLTs without a vote of the people he has the power to do it through executive order like he did with Keno."

Under Governor Strickland's plan, the Ohio Lottery would be responsible for VLT oversight.

Any expansion of gaming in the state will likely compete with a separate proposal to allow four Las Vegas-style casinos in Ohio. The Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee campaign submitted 850,000 petition signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State. If the petition is certified, Ohio voters will be asked on the November 2009 state-wide

ballot whether casinos should be built in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo. The tax rate would be 33% and the minimum capital investment per casino location would be \$250 million each and would require each casino to pay a \$50 million licensing fee.

Previous attempts to amend Ohio's constitution to expand gaming options failed in 1990, 1996, 2006 and most recently in 2008.

For more information please visit: [www.ohiojobsandgrowth.org](http://www.ohiojobsandgrowth.org).

## MICHIGAN LOTTERY INTRODUCES NEW INSTANT TICKET GAMES

On June 29, 2009, the Michigan Lottery introduced three new \$2 instant tickets: *Dream Cruise*, *Musical Money* and *Red Hot & Blue 7's*.

The new *Dream Cruise* instant ticket is part of a dual promotion between the Michigan Lottery and the Woodward Dream Cruise. The *Dream Cruise* instant ticket offers players a chance to win up to 12 times, with top prizes of \$25,000. Players may enter non-winning tickets for a chance to win a 2010 Ford Mustang GT, valued at over \$30,000. The car will be displayed at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodward Dream Cruise to be held on August 15, 2009. The game will officially end when its four million tickets are sold, expected sometime this year.

The Michigan Lottery has also partnered with online music company, EMI Music, to create the new *Musical Money* instant ticket. In addition to top cash prizes of \$30,000, the *Musical Money* ticket also offers players a chance to win over 320,000 music download prizes from EMI's entire digital music catalog, which features over 1,000 artists and 170,000 songs. Non-winning players may also submit three non-winning tickets for a bonus drawing. The first winner selected in the September 28, 2009 bonus drawing will win a "VIP Custom Concert Experience for Two", including airfare, lodging, transportation and prime seats to an EMI artist concert (a choice of

(Continued on page 4)

2-3 artists) in the continental U.S. within six months after the drawing. The second place winner will win autographed instruments from EMI artists.

The new *Red Hot & Blue 7's* instant ticket also offers players the chance to win up to twelve times on a single ticket, with a Blue 7 winning double the instant prize, and a Red 7 winning triple the instant prize. The *Red Hot & Blue 7's* game has top prizes of \$27,000.

Furthermore, all non-winning tickets from the *Dream Cruise*, *Musical Money* and *Red Hot & Blue 7's* games are eligible for entry into the Michigan Lottery's 'Instant Replay,' second-chance drawing. Instant Replay is the Lottery's second-chance drawing program which allows players to submit just about any non-winning instant ticket into an annual drawing for \$1,000,000.