

New Tribal Casino Plans Expanded To Resolve Gaming Land Setback

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parcel is within or contiguous to the reservation boundaries of the tribe on October 17, 1988.

It is not.

The 2000 parcel abuts a parcel purchased in 1983 by the tribe. It was taken into trust under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA), is not within the reservation and cannot be qualified as a reservation by the IGRA, which means the 2000 parcel is not contiguous to the reservation.

"This issue was unfortunately unavoidable due to the circumstances," said Tribal Chairperson Aaron Payment.

Although this situation is discouraging, this may prove to be a blessing in disguise.

"We are now looking to further expand our gaming floor at the new facility, which will allow us to utilize the current available space to provide entertainment for our guests. The good news is this issue will not delay the soft opening of our new hotel, restaurant, lounge, and bar at our new site," said Mr. Payment.

With gaming in a separate structure from the hotel and restaurant, a shuttle service will be available.

"We are also adding to our current executive host staff, valet, and shuttle services in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for our guests and to ensure that our customers receive the utmost care and highest level of customer service during and after the transition of the gaming to the new facility," said Tony Goetz, chief operating officer at the casino.

More than 80 employees have been hired to work at the new property, bringing the total workforce at the Kewadin Shores to more than 375 people.

"Anytime we can bring this number of jobs to an area, it's a

Colorful Displays Are Work of Grand Gardeners

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makes them among the best-growing plants on the grounds.

An exception to the carefully groomed flower beds is Wildflower Hill, which is seeded with a mixture of flowers and left to grow on its own. Black-eyed Susans, goldenrod, asters and other native plants can be seen on the hill throughout the season.

Grand Hotel's gardens follow the carpet bedding style, a technique that dates to the Victorian era in which different geometric shapes, patterns, and bold colors repeat themselves in the lushly planted beds. In keeping with the hotel's

good thing for the entire community," said Fred Paquin, Unit 3 Tribal Board Representative from St. Ignace.

St. Ignace City Manager Eric Dodson agreed.

"The casino and the whole tribal organization have been

very good to the city itself. We are very excited about the new casino," said Mr. Dodson in a release provided by the casino. "It will bring new visitors to the area, and bring new life to our troubled economy."

example of using local plants to create a soothing, well-established environment.

"We've been doing a lot of work the past couple years, adding cedar and birch trees, which are both native to the Island," she said, in addition to the smaller spring flowering bulbs and woodland plants that also grow there. One of the few places on the Island that includes non-native plants, said Ms. St. Onge, is by the Esther Williams swimming pool, where the gardeners try to achieve a more lush, tropical look.

Just as the pool is a calculated exercise in using plants to create a specific atmosphere, the rest of the gardens are also planned to achieve special effects down to the smallest bud.

"We pretty much have everything where we want it," Ms. St. Onge said, indicating that even the ground-covering shrubs by the hotel's Labyrinth were planted and strategically placed, and that nothing grows by accident.

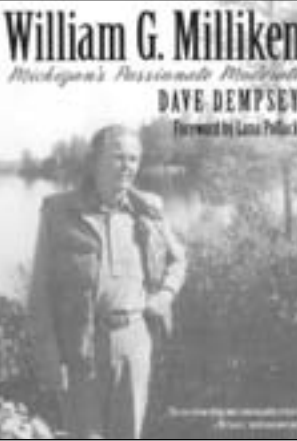
In the summer, Grand Hotel gives garden tours three times a week, and the gardens showcase many Island favorites.

"Everybody loves the horse and carriage topiary" in the Tea Garden, said Ms. St. Onge, adding that people enjoy different things at different times, but that the hotel's 50 varieties of lilac are "always a favorite."

"Even if you're not into plants," Mr. Bernard said, "I think all our plants are appreciated greatly. We grow some unusual and beautiful things."

Grand Hotel's intensive gardening area is about 30 acres and includes the Tea and Wedding Gardens, the Rose Walk, which displays Carefree Beauty Shrub Roses, and the Tennis House Gardens, among several others.

BOOKSIGNING



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