

sainato

winter 2008 report



Slot-machine casino and harness track coming soon to Lawrence County... more than 1,000 jobs to be created

Rep. Sainato is pleased that the harness racing track and slots parlor will soon be under construction in Lawrence County. More than 1,000 jobs will be created and the racetrack-casino complex will help make Lawrence County a destination resort for western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. The \$430 million track and slots casino will be located on 250 acres in Mahoning Township.

On Sept. 5, 2007, the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission awarded the state's final harness track license to Centaur Inc. to build a racetrack in Mahoning Township. The decision came after a four-year battle between Mahoning Township businessman Carmen Shick and Centaur Inc. for the racetrack license.

Prospects for the project looked dim when, on July 2, 2007, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled against Carmen Shick's Bedford Downs management and Centaur Inc. in their effort to secure the final harness racing license in Pennsylvania. Reopening the application process could have resulted in the license being awarded in eastern Pennsylvania. On July 5, 2007, Rep. Sainato met with Gov. Ed Rendell to discuss a solution to bring the harness racing license to the 9th Legislative District. Rep. Sainato stressed the fact that the Lawrence County location was superior and would generate more money for property tax relief. Gov. Rendell pledged his support for the location in Lawrence County if both sides could come together and work out an agreement.

Rep. Sainato contacted Shick about working with Centaur to bring a racetrack and casino facility to Lawrence County. Shick was receptive to the idea and moved the process forward with Centaur.

Eventually, both sides reached an agreement and the racetrack license was awarded to Centaur. Centaur purchased 250 acres from the Shick family to construct and operate a racetrack and slots casino. Shick will develop 300 acres of the remaining

property as retail space, hotel facilities and an indoor water park. The project should translate into more than 1,000 jobs for the region.

Rep. Sainato said without Carmen Shick's vision to locate a racetrack in Lawrence County and his willingness to compromise and to do what was best for Lawrence County and western Pennsylvania, the project would not have become a reality.

Rep. Sainato thanked the Lawrence County commissioners, the Mahoning Township supervisors, the Mohawk Area School Board and other local officials for their support of the project during the past four years. Rep. Sainato also acknowledged state Sens. Bob Robbins and Gerry LaValle for their efforts in keeping the process fair and making sure the harness racing license was not eliminated. Rep. Sainato said this goes to show that when all levels of government work together, great things can happen in the community.

With the racetrack license in hand, Centaur has applied to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for a slots casino license. Rep. Sainato, a member of the House Gaming Oversight Committee, will continue to work closely with Centaur and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board as the process moves forward.

Here is what's ahead in the casino racetrack licensing process: According to the Gaming Control Board, a public hearing will be held later this year in Mahoning Township. After the local public hearing, the Gaming Control Board will hold a suitability hearing in Harrisburg. At this hearing, Centaur officials will outline their plans for the racetrack and casino, and members of the board will ask questions to determine the suitability and financial fitness of the company and its principals. After that, the board will make a determination on the information presented in the application and at the hearings and vote on awarding the license to Centaur.



Sainato bill to protect people from ID theft via cell phone passes House

Rep. Sainato said the House of Representatives has passed his bill that would ban the use of cell phones to capture people's personal information.

The measure (H.B. 441) would make it illegal to photograph or record someone's personal information, such as a Social Security or credit-card number, with a camera phone or other recording device.

The bill also would prohibit people from downloading captured information from cell phones to computers or another phone.

Violation would be a third-degree misdemeanor.

Rep. Sainato said the bill would provide law enforcement with an additional tool to fight identity theft.



Rep. Sainato attends the St. Vincent DePaul Parish Festival.

Senate considering Sainato energy services theft bill



The Senate is considering legislation introduced by Rep. Sainato that would impose criminal penalties on people who steal energy services in Pennsylvania. The House has already passed the bill.

The legislation (H.B. 1716) would add theft of natural gas and propane service – in addition to electricity and telecommunications services – to Pennsylvania's Theft of Services law. Rep. Sainato said people have been injured or killed in fires caused by attempts to manipulate electric wires and gas lines. He believes Pennsylvania needs a stronger law in order to reduce these incidents.

Violators could face penalties ranging from a \$2,500 fine and a year in prison to a \$15,000 fine and seven years in prison.

In addition, utilities would be able to seek restitution in civil court for the amount of service stolen, and fire departments or other emergency responders answering a call caused by energy theft also would be able to recover their costs.



Rep. Sainato honors the Union Township Fire Department on its 60th anniversary.

Growing enrollment leads to construction of Lawrence County campus

Construction is underway on the new Lawrence County campus of Butler County Community College in Union Township, near the intersection of U.S. Route 224 and Route 60.

The college recently announced plans for Golba Construction to build a 25,000-square-foot building that will include seven classrooms, two science laboratories, three computer labs and 600 parking spaces. Also planned on the 13-acre site are retail establishments, a day-care center and restaurants.

Rep. Sainato said enrollment in BCCC by Lawrence County residents has risen 10 percent over the last seven years. The new building is expected to be completed by May or early June of this year; classes will begin in August.

Rep. Sainato joins local officials at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lawrence County campus of Butler County Community College.



Rep. Sainato meets with Lawrence County BUSTED during their trip to the state Capitol.

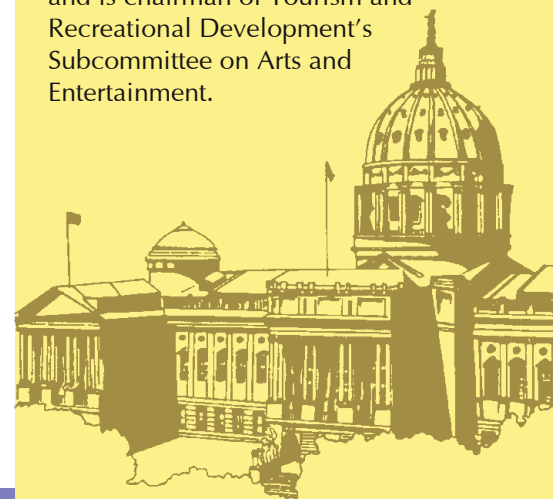


Rep. Sainato spends time with Head Start students in his district.

Sainato has 13-year perfect attendance in Pa. House

Rep. Sainato is proud that he has never missed a voting session day in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since he was elected in 1994. The Lawrence/Beaver lawmaker is serving his seventh term representing the people of the 9th Legislative District.

During his time in the House, Rep. Sainato has passed measures expanding health-care coverage for senior citizens and children. He is a member of the House Consumer Affairs, Finance, Game and Fisheries, and Gaming Oversight committees, and is chairman of Tourism and Recreational Development's Subcommittee on Arts and Entertainment.





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- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
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- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Birth and death certificates
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Requests for literature of all kinds - bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property tax/rent rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- The Children's Health Insurance Program, adultBasic and other state-sponsored insurance
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies

Rep. Sainato's Constituent Service Office

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Rep. Sainato and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to Floreen Uram for 13 years of legislative service in the New Castle constituent service office.

Floreen recently retired. Rep. Sainato wishes her well on her retirement plans.

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