



PRESS RELEASE

FIREKEEPERS

CASINO • BATTLE CREEK

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CONTACT

Donna Halinski: 517372-4400

Kalamazoo Contractors Working on FireKeepers Casino Tribe Committed to Using Local Sources

Kalamazoo, MI – Kalamazoo contractors are benefiting from the construction of FireKeepers Casino. Stress-Con Industries and Stafford Smith have been hired as subcontractors for elements of the construction of FireKeepers Casino, scheduled to open in summer 2009, located just east of Exit 104 off Interstate 94 east of Battle Creek.

Stress-Con Industries was awarded an \$11 million contract to supply precast concrete and Stafford Smith won a \$6 million contract to supply food service equipment.

FireKeepers Casino will feature Las Vegas-style gaming, including 2,500 slot machines, 90 table games and a 20-table poker room.

The \$300 million casino will be 236,000 square feet with an attached and enclosed 653,700 square foot parking garage. FireKeepers Casino is expected to employ 2,200 employees — 700 construction workers and 1,500 permanent casino employees. At its peak, 300 construction workers will be onsite with over 700 workers needed in total to complete this effort for a projected \$8 million labor payroll.

Stress-Con Industries' Kalamazoo plant has been providing architectural and structural precast concrete for FireKeepers Casino's parking. The company added 45 temporary employees at its Kalamazoo plant to produce the necessary concrete elements. On November 24, crews started construction of the 2,078-space garage.

"We appreciate the Tribe, FireKeepers Casino and Clark Construction keeping work within the region rather than going out of state for these services," said Malek Eljizi, vice president and general manager of Stress-Con. "This local project has helped keep our company going and afloat in West Michigan."

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Stafford Smith, headquartered in Kalamazoo, will provide food service equipment for the employee dining area and the five dining outlets at FireKeepers Casino, including a 70-seat fine dining signature restaurant, a 300-seat buffet, a 150-seat 24-hour coffee shop, a 110-seat fast food court and a Grab-N-Go coffee counter.

Since beginning work on the FireKeepers project six weeks ago, Stafford Smith has added five employees to support the project, including project superintendent and installers. The company plans to complete the project in June.

“We’ve served as a contractor for other casinos around the country but this is particularly exciting for our West Michigan based company to be working for a Southwest based casino,” said Rich Harrison, vice president at Stafford Smith. “We’re looking forward to the completion of the project.”

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi gave a mandate to the general contractor, Clark Construction Co. Inc. of Lansing, to hire local contractors and Native Americans whenever possible.

“One of the Tribe’s primary goals with FireKeepers Casino is to provide jobs and economic stimulus for the southwest Michigan region,” said Laura W. Spurr, Chair of the FireKeepers Development Authority.

“We’ve made a concerted effort to keep the money invested in the FireKeepers Casino project in the hands of those in the local community and surrounding areas,” said Duane Wixson, senior project manager for Clark Construction Company. “All of our subcontractors are from Michigan with the majority of the workforce residing in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties.”

Site preparation for FireKeepers Casino began last May. Installation of site utilities and laying down the concrete foundation was finished in June. The enclosure of the building structure was completed in October. Interior work is currently underway during the winter months with exterior work scheduled for spring leading to a summer of 2009 opening.

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FireKeepers Casino is owned and operated by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and managed by Gaming Entertainment (Michigan), L.L.C. (GEM) a joint venture between Full House Resorts, Inc., which develops, manages, and invests in gaming-related opportunities, and RAM Entertainment, L.L.C. a privately owned investment company.