

The News-Sentinel

Subscriber Services

Journal Gazette

Subscriber Services

FortWayne.com

FORT WAYNE'S HOME PAGE



Current: 73°

76° / 51°

[Complete Forecast](#)



\$170,000 Mortgage as low as \$656/month GET UP TO 5 FREE QUOTES *Click for details

CLICK YOUR STATE	AL	AK	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT			
IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	MD	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO
NC	ND	OH	OK	OR	PA	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT

Search Recent News Archives Web for

Welcome **Guest**

[Sign Up](#) | [Sign In](#) | [Member Benefits](#)

FortWayne.com

[Journal Gazette](#)

[News-Sentinel](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Apartments](#)
- [Local Shopping](#)
- [All Classifieds](#)
 - [Create an Ad](#)
 - [Find an Ad](#)
- [Dating](#)

News

- [Breaking News](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Photos](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [State](#)
- [Weird News](#)
- [World](#)

Sports

[Entertainment](#)

[Business](#)

[Living](#)

[ONLINE EXTRAS](#)

[Discussion Boards](#)

[Maps & Directions](#)

[Newspaper Ads](#)

[Past Articles](#)

[RSS Headlines](#)

[Yellow Pages](#)

[SITE SERVICES](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Public Notice](#)

THE DAY IN PHOTOS



» [Today's photos](#)

» [Photo Gallery](#)

**WE'RE GROWING...
SEE HOW.**

FORT WAYNE NEWSPAPERS
THE JOURNAL GAZETTE & THE NEWS SENTINEL

PRESS PROJECT

[Back to Home](#) > [News](#) >

[Local](#)

Posted on Thu, Sep. 14, 2006

[email this](#)

[print this](#)

Friday, Sep 15, 2006

Groups push for legal video gambling

Say cut in profits has reduced charitable aid

By Rebecca S. Green

The Journal Gazette



Clint Keller/The Journal Gazette

Jim Erdly, right, owner of the Kimmell Inn, speaks at a meeting to try to form a coalition to legalize electronic gaming.

BLUFFTON – Local tavern owners and leaders of area fraternal organizations such as the American Legion and AmVets posts hope to see the state legislature make a move to legalize Cherry Masters and other electronic or video-gambling machines.

Toward that end, the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association is hosting a series of meetings around the state to form a coalition in favor of legalizing electronic gaming and inform those working in the bar industry how they can address this issue with their respective legislators.

The first of those meetings was in a smoky meeting room at the American Legion Post 111 in downtown Bluffton on Wednesday afternoon. And some of those in attendance said the decrease in revenue from the electronic gaming devices has caused them to reduce the amount of money they give to local charities.

Don Marquardt with Timbers Casual Dining and Lounge in Angola, and state president of the bar owners' group, told the group of about 20 gathered in the Legion hall that the Indiana Excise Police had largely left bars and restaurants with Cherry Masters and other video gambling machines alone under the 16 years of Democratic control of the statehouse and the governor's mansion.

But he said the past few years, under a Republican administration, had brought about an increase in enforcement.

“(Gov.) Mitch (Daniels) said legalize ‘em or enforce the law,” Marquardt said.

The machines, while popular, are illegal in Indiana. Recent months have seen area businesses' machines confiscated, such as those at the American Legion Post 330 in New Haven.

Michelle Becerra of TJ's Bar and Grill in Decatur spoke specifically of the declining pool of money available for her bar to donate to area charities because of the loss of revenue from the gambling

machines.

Wayne Lovelady, another in attendance at the meeting, agreed.

“A lot of your Legions support needy families at Christmas,” he told Marquardt, adding that area servicemen and women as well as other charities also benefited.

“It’s getting so we can hardly support them anymore,” Lovelady said. “(The public) thinks you’re greedy because of all this money (coming from the machines), but they don’t see what we’re giving out.”

Marquardt said he had had conversations with state legislatures, such as Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Howe, who although opposed to expanding legalized gambling had listened to what the the beverage association had to say.

However Stutzman, who chairs the House Public Policy and Veterans Affairs Committee, has said he would not likely hear any bill legalizing video gaming and is opposed to expanding gambling.

Marquardt also mentioned Rep. Win Moses Jr., D-Fort Wayne, and Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, as being possible proponents of measures to legalize the machines.

Moses compared the situation to Prohibition, when banning alcohol made the industry go underground.

Meeks and Moses said legalizing the machines would allow the state to ensure fair payouts while collecting a share of the money.

Another meeting in the series was scheduled for Wednesday night at the American Legion Post 499 in Fort Wayne. Additional meetings are scheduled throughout the month around the state.

rgreen@jg.net

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Is YOUR credit score stopping you from getting the home YOU want?

Your interest rate: 9.29%

Your credit score: 600

Your credit score: 850

FIND OUT INSTANTLY!

The advertisement features three house-shaped icons: a red one with 'Your interest rate: 9.29%', a blue one with 'Your credit score: 600', and a green one with 'Your credit score: 850'. Below these is an orange button with the text 'FIND OUT INSTANTLY!'.

Ads by Google

[Visit Fort Wayne Indiana](#)

Family Fun from A to Zoo. Getaways, shopping, special offers.
www.visitfortwayne.com

[The Fort Wayne Guide](#)

Quickly and easily find everything in Fort Wayne of interest. Free!
fortwayne.parfaloo.com

[Research Fort Wayne](#)

Surveys, focus groups and more. Phone (260) 485-2442
www.indianaresearch.com



Visit other Real Cities sites

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)
[About FortWayne.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright](#)
| [About the McClatchy Company](#)

