

Grand Rapids Press

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Casino wanted

Many of us want a casino closer to us. Also, many of us are really sick and tired of big shots telling us most people don't want a casino. If that were true, I would sure like to know why you can go to these other casinos and have trouble finding a parking spot.

Many people are going to the new New Buffalo casino. How can people like John Helmholdt and Todd Boorsma say people don't want another casino ("Casino foes vow to block compact in Senate," Press, Aug. 9)? The fact might be that they don't have enough confidence that Grand Rapids' nightlife can hold its own against the casino. Whose fault is that?

Many of us just enjoy a day or night out playing slots. We don't all spend our life savings, but instead, what we might spend on a restaurant and movie, we put in a slot machine. Why not look at it this way: If you don't like casinos, don't go to them, but don't try to stop those who like to have that kind of fun.

The opponents may argue that I'm ignoring the crime which they claim follows a casino. I have not heard that Traverse City, Sault Ste. Marie, or Detroit have had more crime because of their casinos. Let Wayland have the casino and put 1,800 people to work.

-- R. DAVID CARPENTER/Park Township