

Del Pointe : Pushing at legislative gates for a start

By Henry J. Evans Jr.

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‘ **Del Pointe** Now!’ That’s the new slogan developers of the proposed **Del Pointe** Resort & Racino say best fits what they think should happen and when.

“ It would be hard to find a time better than now for **Del Pointe** ,” said Preston Schell Thursday, June 19.

Schell and partners are set to begin construction of the harness racing track and video lottery – slots – casino on a site just north of Millsboro adjacent to Route 113.

The only thing standing in the way is the lack of a piece of legislation that would allow a fourth slots casino in the state.

Schell said House Bill 194, if passed and signed into law, would give **Del Pointe** the immediate go-ahead.

Introduced earlier this month by primary sponsor Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, D- Rehoboth Beach, Schell said HB 194 was supposed to come out of the House Gaming & Parimutuels Committee for hearing Tuesday, June 23.

However, as of press time, that hearing had been canceled.

Schell said public support for **Del Pointe** is strong judging from the turnout at two public events – one in Millsboro, June 16, the other in Wilmington, June 17 – where **Del Pointe** supporters learned what they could be doing to help make the racino a reality.

Schell said those at the Sussex and New Castle County meetings represent a grass-roots movement aimed at getting legislators to support **Del Pointe** legislation.

Schell said critical components of the project are already in place and the need for the facility couldn’t be more urgent.

“ It’s the right economic condition, the right project and it has a credible developer. The taxpayer needs it, and the state economy needs it. But Delaware’s taxpayers need it most,” he said. Schell said ‘ **Del Pointe** Now!’ is the cure for Sussex County’s lack of foreseeable but sorely needed employment opportunities.

He said **Del Pointe** would create 6,000 construction-related jobs and more than 2,000 permanent jobs when the racino became operational.

The resort would include lodge-style hotel accommodations, a water park, indoor sports complex, multiscreen movie theater, restaurants and retail shops – amenities Schell said families could enjoy without ever entering any of **Del Pointe**’s gambling venues.

Diane Donohue, president of the Delaware State Education Association, said **Del Pointe** is among a list of 22 items endorsed by State Workers United for a Better Delaware.

The coalition’s list aims to eliminate the need for proposed 2.5 percent state employee pay cuts.

The coalition released the alternative pay cut list Wednesday, June 17.

Donohue said she's in favor of the racino, and it made the list because "I'm supportive of anything that generates revenue for Delaware."

She said **Del Pointe**'s potential to generate \$ 75 million a year for the state, plus \$ 20 million **Del Pointe** developers have offered the state to allow the project to move forward – is significant.

"Because it's a revenue generator how could we not include it on the list?" Donahue said.



Preston Schell