

History of Gaming on the Saginaw Chippewa Reservation

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is a federally recognized Indian tribe under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Tribe traces its roots to three bands of Chippewas that once inhabited most of the northeastern and southern portions of the lower peninsula of Michigan.

The Three bands were known as the Saginaw, Swan Creek, and Black River Bands of Chippewa. However, our traditional name is Anishinabe. Our language is referred to as Ojibwe, which is also referred to Chippewa. Tribal members were relocated to the center of the state from the Saginaw Bay area under the treaty of 1855.

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe officially started Bingo in the Tribal Gym on April 25, 1981. Adult residents of the reservation volunteered to work at the weekly Saturday night session. The volunteers became very organized in the operation of bingo and their knowledge grew from their personal ambition and interest in the game. With the reward of success in April 1984 it became known as the Saginaw Chippewa Fundraising Program employing thirty-seven of our Reservation Tribal Members.

With the ongoing pride and interest of the members who were now employed full time, the business thrived and expanded beyond the capacity of the gym. Bingo began taking reservations for its popular Sunday games, as there wasn't enough room for all who wished to attend.

In 1987 gaming expanded the business to include games of Blackjack or 21. The Tribal Center could not expand any further as the demand for the games grew, therefore the card games (Blackjack and Poker) moved into the renovated old pallet building down the road. Soon that building became known as the Card Room.

In the summer of 1990, the Tribal Council agreed that slot machines should be considered part of our gaming business. That fall the side rooms at the Tribal Center were renovated and wired electrically for the preparation of slot machine installation.

With the persistence, dedication and perseverance of the Tribal Members living on the small Reservation, the business thrived and eventually became known today, as the famous Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, which is the most prestigious of all.

In 2007 the Tribe started hiring for their newest adventure, Saganing Eagles Landing. This casino is located just south of Standish, Michigan and holds over 800 slot machines. This is located on part of the Tribe's Saganing Reservation.