

Horses galloped off

To the Editor:

A rousing thank you to the *Review's* front-page coverage for alerting the neighbors about the newest threat to our health, safety and sanity ("Back in the saddle?" Sept. 9). The four community groups surrounding the Stadium Complex had strongly protested the proposal for racetrack/slots at the former Navy Base.

As if it is not obvious enough, we cannot withstand another entertainment venue in our midst. The current traffic gridlock, pollution, parking and trash problems are well documented and already out of control. Even the Sports Complex fans have agreed with us that we need to continue to focus our energies on resolving our current traffic and parking issues while not adding more cars, trucks and buses to that mix.

We especially thank state Rep. Bill Keller for alerting us to the hearing, which we were not otherwise notified about, and for always being there for us and putting the community first, and our fellow community leaders, John Sfrisi and Ted Scairato, for assisting in this effort.

The wealthy applicants for this obnoxious use have temporarily withdrawn their application, but we will be preparing for their "Plan B." We have no doubt that there will be another attempt, in another form, to add a casino to our already-overwhelmed area.

Warning: Any attempt to add another entertainment venue in our area (no matter how big or how small) will be aggressively and successfully defeated. Don't even try it; take your plans elsewhere. We will not tolerate more pain so that others can become wealthier.

The **Sports Complex Special Services District Board (SCSSD)**, four communities and three teams are working well together under the direction of executive director Shawn Jalosinski. The communities and teams agree on the important goal of efficiently and effectively moving large numbers of fans in and out of our area while minimizing the negative impact to the surrounding neighbors. This is a complex and multilevel problem, and the solutions will be equally as complex and multilevel. Infrastructure improvements -- long overdue and long raised by us but previously ignored -- need to be addressed immediately.

We clearly have lots more work to do, but we cannot accomplish our goals while absorbing another venue that could attract up to 40,000 patrons a day.

--Judy Cerrone and Barbara A. Capozzi,
Sports Complex Special Services District Board

For more on this issue, see the story on page 17.