There's something for everyone in one of the nation's fastest-growing cities.

Henderson
There’s something for everyone in Henderson! one of the nation’s fastest-growing cities

BY MIRANDA MILLION
WAS HIS PAST?

In a blazing hot afternoon, several friends all gather for a game of cards inside the cool Aces Motel Bar. The 1950s-style establishment is owned and operated by a local Henderson family. The bar is known for its retro decor and lively atmosphere.

Henderson is one of the nation’s fastest-growing cities. Developers are buying up swaths that struggled with disinvestment for years. Henderson as a whole—from the historic core to the fast-growing west, to the luxury homes of Anthem—is booming.

Last year, the U.S. Census ranked Henderson the 12th-fastest-growing city in the country and the fastest-growing city in Nevada, having gained 20,000 residents between July 2017 and July 2018. Total population now exceeds 300,000.

But even as the city grows and neighborhoods evolve, quality of life remains at the forefront of planning in Nevada’s second-largest city, said Assistant City Manager Stephanie Garcia-Vause. “Whether it’s the number of acres of parks per capita, access to trails and bike trails, or jobs near housing, all of those components are important to us in terms of making [this] community livable,” Garcia-Vause said.

WEST HENDERSON: A RETURN TO MANUFACTURING ROOTS?

Henderson’s birth and early development centered around the Basic Magnesium plant, which produced magnesium for the U.S. Military during World War II. The plant employed up to 14,000 workers during the war, many of whom lived in government-subsidized housing constructed near what would become downtown Henderson.

Basic Magnesium closed in 1944, but some workers stayed, and state officials opted to make the outpost a permanent city. After housing other industrial and manufacturing uses for some time, BMI now lists 7,500 people living in residential units, local businesses and community halls, breathing new life into the area.

Although Water Street and west Henderson are perhaps seeing the biggest changes right now, make no mistake—Henderson as a whole—from the historic core to the fast-growing west, to the luxury homes of Anthem—is booming.

By Miranda Wilson
Weekly Staff Reporter

Henderson Chamber of Commerce, said of the city manager. “Everybody wants to be out there now. It’s the cool place to be,” he said.

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WATER STREET, REMAGNED

One of the oldest parts of the city, downtown Henderson Water Street has been experiencing a renaissance. The center of Henderson throughout the mid-20th century, Water Street saw disinvestment through every half a century, downtown struggled to compete with the expansive box stores in new, master-planned neighborhoods, residences and big-box stores in new, master-planned communities.

Development interest slowly returned to downtown after the city began beautifying and improving the area over the past 20 years, said Garcia-Vause. Home to local businesses and isolated mid-century homes, downtown struggled to compete with the expensive neighborhoods, residences and big-box stores in new, master-planned communities.

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ALL about brunch
If there’s one thing Henderson does well, it’s the daytime repast. With four spectacular restaurants within a 4-mile radius, it is an embarrassment of Benedicts.

Craft Kitchen (10940 S. Eastern Ave. #107, 702-728-5828) can be habit-forming with its fresh pastries and coffee, but linger over weekend brunch for special menu items.

The Stove (11261 S. Eastern Ave. #200, 702-625-5216) has Insta-ready interiors and dishes that don’t need a filter.

Kitchen Table (1716 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway #100, 702-478-4782) has an expansive menu, and the space is so cozy you’ll inevitably make friends with other diners, while Served (1770 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway, 702-263-0136), a stone’s throw from Kitchen Table, takes a global approach to brunch.

–Genevie Durano

When it comes to dining choices, southeast residents have loads of options for every meal and occasion.

SWEET FAVORITES
When it goes down well, how about sweets you can only find in this corner of the Valley? Start at Saga Pastry + Sandwich (10345 S. Eastern Ave. #100, 702-260-0860), where the national cakes of both Sweden and Norway are represented, as well as a Danish sweet roll called a semla.

Friendly Donut House (856 S. Boulder Highway, 702-568-6196) is as old-fashioned (and glazed, filled and sprinkled) as they come, while Chef Flamme’s Bake Shop (7 S. Water St. #B, 702-566-6500) is a European-style bakery in the heart of downtown Henderson that makes crisp breads and pastries from scratch every day.

Freed’s Bakery (9815 S. Eastern Ave., 702-456-7762) may now be TV famous, but it’s still a thrill to practically mash your face on the case as you pick out tiny treats by the pound.

DATE NIGHT DESTINATIONS
For a night of romance, check out Todd’s Unique Dining (4350 E. Sunset Road #102, 702-259-8633) for fresh seafood flown in daily. Pasta Shop (2525 W. Horizon Ridge Parkway, 702-451-1893) is so good anything you’ll find on the Strip but tucked away in a cozy shopping alcove.

Hank’s Fine Steaks & Martinis (702-617-7075) at Green Valley Ranch is a throwback to an era when dining out meant dressing up, and it even offers certified Kobe beef on the menu.

Blume (3145 St. Rose Parkway #120, 702-444-7820) in Seven Hills is a new contender for most romantic spot with its French-Italian-influenced cuisine and royal blue velvet seating.

THIRD WAVE COFFEE
Coffee is an important beverage for Hendersonians. Chemex, pour-overs and nitro brews are standard offerings, while bean sourcing and roasting are taken to a whole new level.

Motherko Coffee Roasters (702 N. Green Valley Parkway, 702-460-9688) is the original third-wave purveyor, while new additions Dark Moon Coffee Roasters (1004 E. Eastern Ave. #107, 702-620-8381) and Zen Coffee Bar (700 S. Water St., 702-348-5060) will ignite the java scene.

PUBLIC WORKS COFFEE BAR (314 S. Water St. #110, 725-223-3900) in downtown Henderson is in a league of its own. The public-facing front of TSK Architects, Russian constructivism and Bauhaus influences are evident throughout, from the logo to the furniture to the color scheme.
Viewing of nine birding species migrate through Southern Nevada. There's an exhibit center with a timeline of our region, history-, and in 1998, the then-mayor also hosted chocolate factory's 35th anniversary. Visitors can respond to mass tragedy—likely still活着在 Henderson favorite were a lion. The Ranch will host a tour with a trainer or pay to see a lion. The Ranch is home to more than 300 creatures.

Dundie M. Chocolate Factory In 2006, portions of the Henderson-favorite were remodeled in honor of the chocolate factory’s 30th anniversary. Visitors can purchase gifts at work in a self-guided tour and window that allow real-time viewing. Outside, the three-acre botanical cactus garden is home to more than 400 varieties of cacti. The garden opens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during winter holidays. It’s fit with festive lights and serves as a community gathering spot. The factory also hosts chocolate tasting classes, some with wine.

Clark County Museum This sprawling 30-acre site is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Southern Nevada. There’s an exhibit center with a timeline of our region, history- and in 1998, the then-mayor also hosted chocolate factory’s 35th anniversary. Visitors can respond to mass tragedy—likely still活着 in Henderson favorite were a lion. The Ranch will host a tour with a trainer or pay to see a lion. The Ranch is home to more than 300 creatures.

The Lion Habitat Ranch makes it even easier to enjoy real-time viewing. Outside, the three-acre botanical cactus garden is home to more than 400 varieties of cacti. The garden opens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during winter holidays. It’s fit with festive lights and serves as a community gathering spot. The factory also hosts chocolate tasting classes, some with wine.

big scary gym Don’t let the name intimi- date you. This gym pro- vides approachable fitness solutions for all. There’s a six-week weight-training academy, classes in light- ning- and youth boxing. Help is on the way via a self-guided tour and windows that allow real-time viewing. Outside, the three-acre botanical cactus garden is home to more than 400 varieties of cacti. The garden opens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during winter holidays. It’s fit with festive lights and serves as a community gathering spot. The factory also hosts chocolate tasting classes, some with wine.

Bath and Body Works is opened in honor of the chocolate factory’s 30th anniversary. Visitors can purchase gifts at work in a self-guided tour and window that allow real-time viewing. Outside, the three-acre botanical cactus garden is home to more than 400 varieties of cacti. The garden opens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during winter holidays. It’s fit with festive lights and serves as a community gathering spot. The factory also hosts chocolate tasting classes, some with wine.

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