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NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE NEWS UPDATE

New Children's Museum Gives Downtown Additional Cultural Clout



Photo courtesy of the DISCOVERY Children's Museum

Symphony Park took another step toward becoming the cultural center of Southern Nevada in early March with the opening of **DISCOVERY Children's Museum**, which is located at the Donald W. Reynolds Discovery Center adjacent to The Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

The museum helps redefine Las Vegas as a city that values culture, the arts and its children, noted **Linda Quinn**, CEO of DISCOVERY Children's Museum.

Three stories tall, the museum's 58,000-square-foot building is home to nine themed exhibition halls totaling 26,000 square feet, which feature all-new interactive exhibits focusing on science, arts and culture, and early childhood development. The new museum also houses a 5,000-square-foot traveling exhibition gallery, large enough to accommodate major shows from the nation's leading hands-on museums. For more information, visit www.DiscoveryKidsLV.org.

More Free Parking Downtown

Plans are in the works to provide more free parking in downtown Las Vegas by removing 125 parking meters. These free spaces will be located throughout the downtown area.

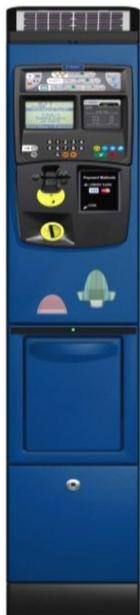
In addition, the Las Vegas City Council recently approved a plan to remove outdated downtown parking meters, replacing them with new multispace meters that will be more convenient to use. The new meters will cover about six spaces each and will accept credit and debit cards as well as coins. Approximately 233 of these new meters will be installed this summer, replacing 1,216 outdated single-space meters.

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A large crowd gathered downtown on Fremont Street to celebrate the March 6 opening of the **Fremont Country Club**. The new club occupies a portion of the ground floor in the brick building that once housed a Sears, but also sat vacant for a number of years. (Photo by June Johns)

Free Parking, continued...



The new meters (pictured at left) will be installed downtown in an area between Charleston Boulevard and Alta Drive west of Interstate 15. These 100-percent solar-powered meters will enable users to print receipts. In addition, once installed, these technologically advanced meters will allow residents and visitors to use mobile device apps to determine where on-street parking is available in real time.

Parkeon, a company that provides parking management devices for more than three million parking spaces in more than 3,000 cities and 50 countries, was awarded the \$1.45 million installation contract. Funding for the contract comes from the Parking Enterprise Fund, which is separate from the city's general fund.

Parkeon was chosen through a competitive bid process.

Upgrading parking technology is the second phase of a long-term parking plan that is being undertaken by the city. The city also wants to support existing businesses by tailoring parking options for customers, employees and residents; examining shared parking options supporting new development; and creating flexible parking arrangements for special events.

Last year, the city created a "one-stop-shop" for parking services under the Economic and Urban Development Department to make it easier for customers to navigate the system. Previously, parking-related functions, including enforcement, finance and more, were spread throughout various city departments.

Sidewalk Construction/ Improvements Help Renew Downtown Neighborhoods

City staff is currently busy constructing and improving sidewalks in older neighborhoods throughout Wards 3 and 5. City officials want to make these areas more maneuverable, enhance safety and appearances, and ensure compliance with federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

The \$9.6 million project is being financed in phases with funding supplied by a federal government Community Development Block Grant and city of Las Vegas room taxes.



Sidewalk improvements in Ward 5
(Photo courtesy of the city of Las Vegas)

The first phase provides upgrades and improvements to areas bounded by Owens Avenue, I-15 and H Street.

Neighborhoods around Charleston Boulevard, Maryland Parkway, Carson Avenue and Ninth Street are also receiving these improvements. This phase I work is anticipated to be completed by mid-April.

Work will include installing new sidewalk ramps and upgrading existing ones, as well as sidewalk repair. There should be minimal impact to traffic and pedestrians while this work is being done.

School "Campus" at LV City Hall

In a model believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, the **Las Vegas City Council** recently entered into a partnership with the **College of Southern Nevada** (CSN) to establish a college presence at Las Vegas City Hall. The partnership is designed to create training and educational opportunities for residents, particularly in the downtown area, and to provide workforce training.

The city agreed to provide half of the third floor of City Hall for 20 full-time employees in the college's Division of Workforce & Economic Development. CSN would be responsible for \$5,000 in rent per month, which covers utilities, maintenance, parking and initial support in setting up IT systems.

Under the agreement, CSN would develop workforce training and academic courses for city employees and residents, targeting the downtown community due to its proximity to City Hall. CSN would also offer consulting services to businesses interested in coming to Las Vegas, developing specific programs to meet their needs.

The CSN Division of Workforce & Economic Development is the non-credit, self-supporting arm of the college that develops customized training programs to meet the needs of Southern Nevada's employers and workforce. The entrepreneurial division provides residents with new career skills, adult education (GED and ESL), personal enrichment and workforce training.