

VIPAS

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what fun

THE VEGAS REAL ESTATE STORY INCLUDES NEW DISCOVERIES, NOT-SO-TERRIBLE UPGRADES, AND A DINER'S HIGH DESIGN—IN NEON, OF COURSE. BY TONY ILLIA

The newly opened Discovery Children's Museum in Symphony Park is anything but child's play. Designed by Lucchesi, Galati Architects—the leading firm behind the Springs Preserve—the three-story, 58,000-square-foot, \$50 million museum has nine interactive exhibition galleries, including Water World, Toddler Town, Fantasy Festival, and Young at Art. Children can also explore a 70-foot atrium tower called the Summit, which allows them to climb through the roof and look out over the city. Before its move, the nearly 23-year-old institution (discoverykidslv.org), formerly called Lied Discovery Children's Museum, was housed in the Antoine Predock-designed Las Vegas Library, across from Cashman Field. The museum has attracted more than 2.1 million visitors since 1990, includ-

Despite its name, Terrible's is pretty darn good—and Affinity Gaming recently spent \$7 million to make the 327-room hotel and casino even better (terriblescasinos.com). The just-completed renovation and expansion (PJ Becker & Sons Construction was the general contractor) upgraded the two-level, 60,000-square-foot casino with some 500 new slot machines, plus a remodeled bar and a William Hill Sports Book, "in an effort to enhance our guests' overall experience," says General Manager David Nolan. The players' club and registration desk were combined to create a comprehensive guest service center, while a 20-guest hospitality suite was added on the third floor. The 330-square-foot guest rooms received new furniture, bedding, carpeting, and bathroom sinks. Each room now features a desk, a table with two upholstered chairs, and a 42-inch flat-screen television.

come to Downtown. Inside the three-story, 300,000-square-foot Neonopolis (neonopolislv.com), the 5,308-square-foot, 24-hour restaurant marks a new concept for the chain, with a full-service bar and even a wedding chapel. The restaurant franchise signed a \$12.5 million, 20-year



lease on the space, and Peterson Construction was the general contractor. "The diner was the original social network in the sense that everyone, from all walks of life, was welcome," says James Wines, architect, author, and founder and president of the architecture and design firm SITE. The canary-yellow ribbon-wrapped restaurant employs the social network principle in its architecture, with free-flowing interior spaces and a photo booth that allows diners to share their pictures via social media.

Galleria at Sunset—Henderson's only

enclosed shopping mall—is getting a major renovation (to be completed this fall), including a trendy H&M store (galleriaatsunset.com). RTKL Associates is steering the \$7 million makeover of the 1 million-square-foot retail, dining, and entertainment center at West Sunset Road and US Route 95, across from Sunset Station Hotel & Casino. The 17-year-old mall, built on 45 acres in 1996, last received significant changes more than a decade ago. This time the Y-shaped, dual-level Galleria will see improvements to its common areas, including the 11-vendor food court and central space, with landscaping, palm trees, fountains, and new seating.

Caesars Entertainment has announced a concept for its new hotel on the Strip: Gansevoort Las Vegas, in partnership with nightlife impresario Victor Drai (caesars.com). Replacing Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon, the boutique hotel will be the fourth from Gansevoort, the New York-based luxury hotel group. It will feature 188 Parisian apartment-style guest rooms, including 19 suites, as well as a reopened Drai's After Hours in its original location, plus a rooftop beach and nightclub conceived by Drai. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to once again reinvent and reinvigorate the nightlife scene," he says. The property is expected to open in 2014. **V**

TOP: The new Denny's on Fremont Street has a bar and wedding chapel.
ABOVE LEFT: Victor Drai.
ABOVE RIGHT: The trendy retailer H&M will open a store at Galleria at Sunset in Henderson this fall.

RIGHT: The rooms at Terrible's have new furniture and flat-screen TVs. BELOW: The new home of the Discovery Children's Museum.