



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Henderson Libraries Celebrates 80 Years of Service to the Community**

**Henderson, NV** – It's hard to believe but 2024 commemorates Henderson Libraries' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday! Now that this community institution is an octogenarian, let's revisit its past through some key historic dates while we look toward its future.

- **September 10, 1942** – The only Henderson library was the Basic Magnesium, Inc. Technical Library. The BMI employee newsletter featured an article about a donation of non-technical books for BMI employees to borrow.
- **July 22, 1943** – The first public library, complete with 75 books bought and donated by the Las Vegas Retail Merchants Association, was established in Henderson at the Basic Townsite.
- **January 22, 1944** – Henderson District Public Libraries was founded by petition for the formation of the Henderson School District, approved by the Board of County Commissioners per letter by Roger D. Folly, District Attorney.
- **August 1, 1946** – Henderson District Public Library opened, according to the Henderson Herald, and was governed by a board of directors appointed by the Railroad Pass School District.
- **1950** – The first summer reading program took place!
- **1956** – Henderson District Public Library became a county library district.
- **1958** – Book circulation reached over 33,000 books and Henderson's population reached 17,000 residents!
- **1960s–1980s** – Henderson Libraries continued to grow and serve the city's rapidly expanding population.
- **1989** – The James I. Gibson Library opened at 280 S. Water Street and was hailed as a symbol of Henderson's arrival in the modern world of libraries.
- **1990s–2000s** – Multiple locations opened (and a few eventually closed) during these years: Pittman Library, Lydia Malcolm Library, Galleria Library, Paseo Verde Library, Green Valley Library.
- **2010s** – Heritage Park Library opened and James I. Gibson Library relocated to 100 W. Lake Mead Parkway.
- **2020s** – West Henderson Library opened and the Green Valley Library underwent a major renovation.

"We're so proud to be part of the Henderson community and continue to evolve to best serve our population," says Henderson Libraries Executive Director Marcie Smedley. "It's hard to comprehend just how much has happened in 80 years but we can't wait to see what the next 80 will bring!"

Established in 1944 as a single library in Downtown Henderson, Henderson Libraries operates five locations in Henderson, providing free access to materials, programs, and services to meet the diverse and varied needs of the community throughout Southern Nevada. For more information, please visit [hendersonlibraries.com](http://hendersonlibraries.com).

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\* See <https://hendersonlibraries.sobeklibrary.com/HL00009128/00001?search=time+%3dcapsule> to learn even more about Henderson Libraries' history.