



## Tracking Progress in the Lakeaway Area

From Staff Reports

Looking back across the decades of the Lakeway Area, the track of progress isn't exactly even, but it is never ceasing.

A community born in agriculture and a crossroads of the West grew into the 1900's and became a textile Mecca, a place essential to the fabrics and furniture.

As the area grew, Morristown became the hub of its wheel drawing residents from surrounding communities to work and study and shop and even to heal.

Today Morristown is a home to a vibrant, diverse industrial base that is key to a wide variety of businesses and industries that keep the country - and event the world progressing forward.

Each year the **Citizen Tribune** takes time to stop and reflect on the steps taken in the previous year, moving towards what our community will become next.

From retail commerce, to industry to healthcare to government, Morristown is part of the march forward through time, hopefully moving toward progress and the next step

towards improving ourselves while maintaining, preserving and protecting the parts of our past that we wish to carry forward.

Progress, a positive movement into the future, Growing Forward into the best versions of ourselves.

This section marks just a few of those steps taken from a cross section of our community highlighting the steps we've taken and looking ahead to the steps we will take.

Onward.  
Upward.  
Better,  
Stronger.







# SAFETY FIRST

New MFD Station No. 3 to serve community for decades to come

In the summer of 2025, the Morristown Fire Department finished a serious upgrade to its arsenal on the east end of the city; the new Station 3 and training facility on Thompson Creek road near Frank Lorino Park was handed over to the fire department and is fully operational.

The improved location was necessary after highway expansion plans were announced near the original Station 3; the new location improves capability, maintains access to important corridors and won't be impacted for the time it will take to construct the new highway expansion.

The large, 12 acre lot also houses a state-of-the-art training facility that can accommodate special requirements needed to maintain the MFD's various high-level certifications.

"This station is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the firefighters who serve our community, and it's a symbol of our commitment to their safety and well-being," Sonja Shannon, the station's architect said. "The advanced systems and technology incorporated into this station are in contrast to the exterior, which serves as a reminder of the department's history. It's important to this department not to forget."



One of the first design

decisions incorporated was a tower to house the original fire bell from 1893. Another early decision was the dedication of the training facility and classroom to the memory of Deputy Chief Tim Green, photographs and memorabilia throughout the station are additional reminders of the importance of that history."

The City worked in coordination with Shannon to design and build the 9,755 square foot facility. The station includes full living quarters with 4 bunk rooms, three engine bays, and study areas.

The City worked with East Tennessee Turf and Landscape, engineering firm Mattern & Craig, and General Contractor McSpadden Inc. to complete the project.

Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney spoke about the realities of what being a firefighter means and the kind of training it now takes to maintain a well-trained, modern fire department.

"Keeping the public safe from dangers, both real and potential disasters, in this day and time, requires what's often considered college-level training and study," he said. "That means identifying hazardous materials in an industrial fire, being prepared to protect innocents from possible tragic consequences, recognizing what a person in the midst of a medical emergency requires just to stay alive until a higher level of help is at hand... And I think we'll all agree that a bigger portion of time now is with educating and teaching the public about the value of fire prevention and fire safety."

The new station and training facility allows for all of those things.

The comprehensive fire training center includes a large training classroom that can double as an Emergency Operations Center and a fire training tower from Fire Training Structures, LLC. The tower contains a burn room, a reconfigurable maze, and a repelling wall, all of which allow firefighters across the region to get hands-on training.

"The main thing is our guys have a place to come in here," Battalion Chief

Keith Rouse said. "We have 192 hours of company training that we have to meet every year.

That's not counting our 18 hours of facility training or medical training or hazmat training. This is just fire-related training, so we're in this classroom a lot.

"We also host rookie school in the spring and fall with the Northeast Regional Training Fire Association. We have those guys for three weeks out of the 13 weeks. They're going to be in this classroom or on this training campus. So it's important to have a very nice facility, something for 20 years down the road."

Not many communities of Morristown's size exhibit the commitment to training and certifications that have been a hallmark of the MFD in recent years. That commitment means the heavy industrial base of the city and the surrounding community can rest easy that the unexpected can be handled.

"The inclusion of the training tower and classroom space in this project exhibit the Mayor and City Council's commitment to the continuous training and development of our Fire Department personnel – and to the general safety of the community," City Administrator Andrew Ellard said.

Rouse and other officials fondly remembered and referenced Deputy Chief Tim Green for whom the center is named in memorium.

"When you walk in the breezeway, the first thing you're going to see is Tim Green's picture, his plaque honoring him, Rouse said. "He was a training officer here for several years, and he promoted up to deputy chief. And we thought that was very important to put this whole training ground in the memory of Tim. And you're going to see a beautiful tribute in there for him. We're going to have a tree here as well for him. In time, it's going to be up here at the front. You all will see it."

Greene's family was present for the opening.

Now retired Fire Chief Clark Taylor said he was proud to have overseen and been a part of the group that has brought important projects like the training facility and recent hazmat certification into fruition.

"I'm extremely proud of the outcome and what this station, state-of-the-art classroom and training facility has transformed into," he said. "This station and training campus will serve this city for generations of firefighters to come."

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# Fashion Forward at The Girls & Me Boutique

Nestled in the heart of Morristown, The Girls & Me Boutique stands as a testament to resilience, creativity, and community spirit.

What started as a humble roaming vendor business has blossomed into a beloved storefront destination offering unique fashion and a personal touch.

The journey began in January 2002 with 4J Company, named after family members John, Janet, Julie, and Joni.

Janet initially sold pendants and necklaces to acquaintances in various offices and nonprofits. As demand grew, she expanded her reach by renting conference rooms to showcase her creations to a wider audience.

In 2008, a chance visit to Mildred's Florist led Janet to Millie's Boutique, which was up for sale.

After discussing with Julie, her partner in the roaming vendor journey, Janet purchased the Boutique in June 2008 and rebranded it as The Girls & Me Boutique.

Today, the store offers a diverse range of clothing—from casual to dressy, sporty to office wear—catering to adults seeking well-made, distinctive pieces not found everywhere else.

The Boutique's focus is on its customers. Market selections are thoughtfully curated based on their preferences and sizes.

When asked about the color of the season, the Boutique's answer is simple: it's the color that looks best on you. Each August, the Boutique proudly features an extensive selection of University of Tennessee apparel and accessories to help fans cheer on the Vol-



unteers.

Owner-operated and deeply rooted in local pride, The Girls & Me Boutique thrives on seasonal campaigns that infuse Morristown with festive energy.

From holiday promotions to spring showcases, every display reflects style and quality.

Customers often say that shopping here feels less like a transaction and more like joining a celebration of family and friendship.

"As we like to say," 'Come see The Girls at The Girls & Me Boutique' because even our staff is like family, hence they're our 'Girls.'

"Our Girls help us put the capital 'P' in Personal Touch."

The Boutique has also been a steadfast supporter of the community, participating in numerous fashion shows and vendor events benefiting causes such as the Rose Center, Noah's Arc, Serenity House, Se-

nior Citizen's Home Assistance Services Girls Night Out, Morristown-Hamblen Hospital Girls Night Out, and the American Heart Association. Whether responding to local needs or national disasters,

The Girls & Me Boutique has served as a collection point, helping neighbors near and far.

As Morristown grows, The Girls & Me Boutique reminds us that progress is not only about large developments but also about the dedication of small businesses weaving creativity, community, and hope into everyday life.

The boutique offers lay-away on non-sale items, hosts after-hours shopping events, and maintains an active presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Visit The Girls & Me Boutique at 2251 Sandstone Dr., Morristown, TN or call 423-585-0333. Boutique hours: Tuesday through Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-2



## Why Center of Strength isn't just a gym — It's coaching that changes everything

At Center of Strength, they believe fitness should add to your life, not overwhelm it. This isn't a place where you're handed a workout and left to figure it out.

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# Healthstar Physicians medical offices to open in Spring of 2027

Healthstar Physicians, P.C. is building a new medical office building at the corner of Merchants Greene and Veterans Parkway in the rapidly growing area on the west end of Morristown.

Surrounded by newly constructed healthcare facilities, retail, restaurants and hotels, the 79,166-square-foot facility offers a convenient location and will bring several of Healthstar's existing specialties together in a modern, patient-focused environment.

The new facility will feature Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Endocrinology, Orthopedics, Physical Medicine, and Podiatry, along with Laboratory and Imaging services, administrative offices, and shell space for future expansion.

The project strengthens Healthstar's presence in Morristown and

demonstrates its ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, accessible healthcare across the region.

"This facility reflects our investment in Morristown and our mission to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care close to home," said Mickey Brabson, CEO of Healthstar Physicians, P.C.

Healthstar, in partnership with Realty Trust Group, began planning in February 2024 and launched construction in October 2025.

The project is expected to be completed in spring 2027.

RTG is serving as master developer, project manager, and property manager. Project partners include Earl Swensson Associates as architect, The Christman Company as general contractor, First Horizon Bank as lender, and Land Development Solu-

tions for site work.

The master site also includes additional building pads for future complementary medical development adjacent to the Healthstar facility.

"This groundbreaking marks an exciting milestone for Healthstar and the Morristown community," said Michael Honeycutt, Executive Vice President at Realty Trust Group. "RTG is proud to support Healthstar in bringing this vision to life and deliver a new facility that will enhance access to care for years to come."

The new location will offer greater visibility and convenient access for patients.

The project reflects Healthstar's long-term strategy to strengthen community roots, expand access to care, and create a modern environment for healthcare collaboration.

# Charging Up: MU opens fast chargers at Exit 8 Weigel's

Drivers living, working, or traveling along Interstate 81 and US Highway 25E near Morristown now have a new, convenient option for charging their electric vehicles. Fast chargers are available at the newly installed site at Weigel's Travel Center off Exit 8.

Morristown Utilities hosted a ribbon-cutting event at the charging station on May 7, celebrating its partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, and Seven States Power Corporation.

This site is officially part of the TVA/TDEC Fast Charge Network, which aims to upgrade major travel corridors across TVA's seven-state region.

It's part of the even broader initiative of the National Electric Highway Coalition, aiming to enable long distance EV travel by placing fast

chargers along interstates and major highways throughout the United States.

The Fast Charge Network is attempting to place charging stations at practical intervals along the corridors across Tennessee and TVA Customer Relations Manager Chris Quillen said progress in the region is going well.

"This is the 53rd site in the Fast Charge Network," he said. The idea behind the Fast Charge Network is that wherever you're at in the Tennessee Valley, you're no more than 50 miles from a fast charger.

"One of the barriers, or hindrances, to people adopting electric vehicles is charging infrastructure. We've got gas stations all over, but we're just now starting to see these (fast chargers) pop up. We're at Strawberry Plains. There's one at Exit 30. There's one at the Pinnacle

up in Bristol. There's one downtown Johnson City. And we're working on one in Mountain City. So we'll have all the interstates and all the primary and secondary state routes covered with just a few more charging stations."

The site is unique in the region with four pull-through charging stalls utilizing the popular ChargePoint network allowing customers to use the app, credit card, or phone wallet to pay.

Seven States confirms the site recharges electric vehicles at speeds up to 350kW providing 17 miles of driving per minute of charging.

"The Seven States team is committed to relieving the anxiety some drivers have about electric vehicles due to the scarcity of charging stations along their route," said Betsey Kirk McCall, president & CEO of Seven States Power Corporation.

# MAHLE's \$10 million expansion bringing 50 new jobs

In the summer of 2025, foundational member of Morristown's industrial base announced an expansion in a move that comes with a \$10 million investment and nearly 50 new jobs.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and MAHLE GmbH officials made the announcement in a joint statement.

"Tennessee is leading the nation in attracting leading global brands like MAHLE thanks to our pro-business climate and highly skilled workforce. These nearly 50 new jobs will create greater opportunity for families in Hamblen County, and I'm grateful to MAHLE for its continued investment in our state," said Lee.

The company's continued investment will allow MAHLE to start production of electric compressors used on fuel-cell electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles and full electric vehicles.

"Starting the e-compressor production in Morristown, Tennessee, marks an important milestone for MAHLE as we further strengthen our footprint in the USA and our role as local employer. This extension is a great example of successfully transforming a production plant formerly fully dedicated to internal combustion engines by launching electrification products for future mobility – a clear investment in the plant's future," said Arnd Franz, Chairman of the Group Management Board and CEO, MAHLE.

The chairman of the Industrial Development Board of the City of Morristown, R. Jack Fishman played a lead role in originally bringing MAHLE to Morristown in the 1970s. He said he's thrilled to see another MAHLE expansion.

"Congratulations to MAHLE on the terrific news that they will again expand Morristown operations and create new jobs for our community," he said. "We appreciate their continued investment in Morristown and Hamblen County and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and be successful."

State Sen. Steve Southerland shared in his excitement.

"This investment by MAHLE is great news for Hamblen County. Creating nearly 50 new jobs and committing more than \$10 million in capital investment shows a strong vote of confidence in our community and workforce," he said. "I'm proud to support projects like this that move our region forward."

John Bradley, TVA senior vice president of economic development, congratulated MAHLE on its announcement.

"TVA and Morristown Utility System congratulate MAHLE on its decision to expand operations in Hamblen County. It's always an exciting day when we can celebrate a company's continued commitment to growth in the region," he said. "We are proud to partner with the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to support companies like MAHLE, and we celebrate this announcement together."

MAHLE will invest more than \$10 million and create nearly 50 additional jobs, which will bring the company's total headcount in Hamblen County to nearly 800 people.

"MAHLE's growth reinforces why Tennessee's automotive sector is thriving, and today's announcement wouldn't be possible without our strong local leadership. Thank you to our partners in Morristown and Hamblen County who have worked to set this community up for continued success, resulting in Hamblen County securing the second-highest number of projects statewide since 2024," said TNECD Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter

Founded in 1920, MAHLE is headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, and employs more than 67,000 people across the globe. Today, one in every two vehicles globally is equipped with MAHLE components.

"MAHLE continues to lead the way in innovation and growth, both globally and right here in Morristown and Hamblen County. As one of our community's strongest anchor employers, we are proud to call them partners," Hamblen County Mayor Chris Cutshaw said. "Their latest \$10+ million expansion, bringing nearly 50 new jobs to our area, is a testament to their ongoing commitment to sustainability, quality and economic development. MAHLE's legacy of excellence continues to grow, and we are excited to see their ever-expanding presence make a lasting impact on our local economy and workforce."

"What an outstanding example of what it means to invest in people, performance, and progress."

# Park Vista Apartments offer relief to housing problem

Housing supply is tight in Morristown and Hamblen County, but builders are moving to provide supply for that demand and the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting in a September for the new Park Vista Apartments at 1934 Shields Ferry Road.

The 12 unit building is right across the street from Wildwood Park, which has a newly upgraded playground and other park features. Built by Guzman Construction, the development represents an example of renewal in the city.

"It's been a good experience through the years (building and developing property) and we still give it the best that we can as a company," CEO Israel Guzman said. "We have four three-bedroom, we have four two-bedroom and four one-bedroom units (at Park Vista)."

Jorge Guzman, COO for Guzman Construction, said their team was committed to being good community partners in Morristown.

"We believe in every part of this community," he said. "We don't only develop certain places downtown. This community, we love Morristown. This is our home. This is the promised land. Morristown is the promised land."

Guzman said it was important to them to develop nice apartments in places a little further from where people might expect to see such investments. He said working people in communities all across the city should have nice places to live.



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# Clayton Supply nearly doubling headquarters in Hamblen County

Clayton Supply is investing in its Morristown facility with an expansion that will bring 90 new jobs, state and local officials announced.

The \$6.8 million expansion will nearly double its headquarters in Hamblen County and was announced in July of 2025.

The company’s current operation in Morristown, Clayton Morristown Lux Doors, builds doors for all 40 Clayton Home Building Group homebuilding facilities in the U.S.

“Clayton Supply has been a valued partner to Tennessee for nearly 70 years,” said Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. “As one of our state’s largest private employers, I’m grateful for the company’s continued investment in our skilled workforce and am confident Clayton Supply will continue to find success in Morristown in the years to come.”

TNECD Commissioner Stuart McWhorter credited local leadership – both with Clayton and local government - with the success.

“At TNECD, we strive to recruit companies that are not only the right fit for our state but also for our communities. Today’s announcement would not be possible without the exceptional leadership in Morristown and Hamblen County who have worked to set this community up for economic success, and I thank Clayton Supply leadership for their trust and investment in East Tennessee,” McWhorter said.

Clayton Supply is part of Clayton, a leading national single-family homebuilder dedicated to opening doors to a better life through attainable homeownership. Founded by Jim Clayton in 1956, the company’s portfolio includes a comprehensive range of modern manufactured and site-built housing.

“We’re proud of the longevity and growth of our operations at the Morristown facility. We opened in 2010 as a distribution and lamination center, launched Lux Doors 10 years later and now we’re continuing the momentum by expanding the Lux product line and lamination capabilities,” said Matt Stites, president, Clayton Supply Inc. “This growth, which we owe to the dedication of the Clayton Morristown team and support from the community, will support our vision to become a leading, single-family national housing brand that opens doors to a better life through attainable homeownership for families across the country.

Hamblen County Mayor Chris Cutshaw said he looks forward to seeing Clayton grow.

“Morristown and Hamblen County are very fortunate to have a company such as Clayton Supply in this community, and we are even more fortunate to see them expand their footprint here, providing more opportunities for employment,” he said. “It is truly an honor to have Clayton Supply expand their offerings, finding a niche in meeting the demands of customers through creativity and innovation plus downright ingenuity. I look forward to seeing them grow their potential and continue to be a valuable asset to our community.”

Morristown Mayor Gary Chesney offered his congratulations to the Clayton Supply team.

“The City of Morristown is pleased to congratulate Clayton Supply on its decision to expand its company here,” he said. “Clayton Supply’s new investment will see an impressive growth in its product capacity and the creation of new jobs for our community. On behalf of our entire city leadership team, we extend our thanks to Clayton Supply for its confidence in Morristown as the place to create a larger industrial footprint.”

John Bradley, TVA senior vice president of economic development, also offered congratulations.

“TVA and Morristown Utilities congratulate Clayton Supply on its decision to expand operations in Hamblen County,” he said. “It’s always an exciting day when we can celebrate a company’s continued commitment to growth in the region. We are proud to partner with the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Morristown, Hamblen County and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development to support companies like Clayton Supply and look forward to its continued success.

State Sen. Steve Southerland said the announcement is exciting for the community.

“Clayton is a family-owned business with more than 22,000 employees in 779 locations across the country. I am excited to announce that (Clayton Supply is) investing \$6.8 million in Hamblen County, which will create 90 new jobs,” Southerland said. “This investment is in addition to the company’s current operation in Morristown that produces interior doors for all Clayton Homes facilities in the U.S., and I thank all who have made this possible.”

State Rep. Jeremy Faison agreed.

“Clayton Supply has been an established community partner for many years, and it’s a great honor that they have chosen to invest further in Morristown,” Faison said. “This expansion will create dozens of quality jobs and help cement Hamblen County’s status as one of East Tennessee’s premier manufacturing centers.”

# Porter’s Tire celebrates Talbott expansion

A large crowd of family, friends and supporters joined the grand opening and ribbon cutting for a renewed Porter’s Tire Store in Talbott.

The family owned business, grown to 7 area locations, has expanded the store at 6012 W. Andrew Johnson Highway by adding a large metal building with room for all sorts of interior auto work and several new bays, and by renovating the office area and existing workspace.

“We’re so thankful that we’re able to do this,” company President Roger Porter said. “Hale Construction and all the partners that work so closely with them have really done a great job on the remodel. I think you’ll see it really is awesome.

“We appreciate Jessica at the bank with the financing and helping us with that. We appreciate everyone coming out today. We appreciate my brothers. I appreciate our employees that make this all possible. We’re just so grateful, you know, that we’re able to grow as Morristown grows.”



## Morristown Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 1494 breaks ground on a new facility

Big things are happening for the the Morristown Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 1494, broke ground on a new facility in June and things are looking up.

The new Aviation Learning Center is going to be a facility that will be an upgraded permanent facility for the EAA chapter, house workshops and support youth aviation education by providing STEM based learning opportunities.

“We’ll be able to bring all of our aviation and STEM-related activities under one roof in this building,” Chapter President Karen Hughes Collins said. “There’ll be an 80-by-80 hanger and then a 30-by-70 condition space with a nice front porch. We are looking forward to having that space and being able to expand our workshops and bring our airplane build over to our own space. “

Work has started on the facility and is moving quickly that will gather all of the chapter’s activities under one roof.

The construction machinery wound down for a moment so chapter leaders and local officials could give remarks at the Morristown-Area-Chamber-of-Commerce-organized event.

Morristown Mayor said that when he talks about Morristown, he’s got a list of things he brags about.

“At the very top of that list, Morristown Municipal Airport is right up there with the best things to brag about,” he said. “We also have a unique program that goes a long way in promoting future interest in flying with young folks. This (EAA) program introduces young people to fly and not only do you teach them how to fly small aircraft, they also teach them how to build it. The recently held Young Eagles program that was here a couple of weeks ago—it taught first-timers or showed them how to fly, got a lot of them off the ground for the first time.”

The mayor praised Hughes Collins as a driving force behind the chapter and a positive influence in aeronautic community in Morristown.

“The motivational force behind all of this is Karen Hughes Collins,” he said. “She recently became the President of the Tennessee Aviation Association. So she’s serious about that work and has helped motivate and fuel the drive to where we are for this program.”

Hughes Collins, in her remarks, described Chapter 1494 and their dedication to promote aviation in the community.

“We’re a local chapter of a national organization, and we were founded about 10 years ago,” she said. “Our home has always been Morristown. There are a number of the founding members that are still active with the chapter—there were about seven, I think, who helped found it. So that’s pretty cool that they’re still active.”

She described the chapter’s passion for developing the next generation of pilots and enthusiasts.

“I think we provide an overabundance of enthusiasm about our airport, aviation of all flavors, and other STEM-related topics — what does that look like on any given day?” Hughes Collins asked rhetorically. “Well, today it looks like this: it looks like inviting pilots and the local community to the airport breakfast every month. It looks like building the airplane that we talked about. It looks like free Young Eagle flights. It looks like private pilot ground schools and aviation day camps and workshops, flight scholarships, airport tours. It looks like going out to schools and talking to all different grades of classes. So it looks like a lot of different things.”

She thanked supporters of the airport and the EAA and mentioned Howmet Aerospace and a recent, large donation.

“Howmet just helped fund our workshops and our day camps with a \$25,000 grant,” she said. “So we are very grateful for that.”

Board Member Nelson Collins recognized R. Jack Fishman, chairman of the Morristown Industrial Development Board and longtime supporter of local aviation.

“Thank you, Mr. Jack Fishman,” he said. “We appreciate you so much. And this guy loves this city and has done so much for this city over all of his life. And I love this city, Jack—and I love you, my friend.”

Collins described the support from club members and others who raised funds by doing things like “folks that donated the sale of a plane.”





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of Morristown offers 24/7 emergency service, staffed by trained, licensed technicians who live and work in the same community they serve.

When they show up, it's not just a service call — it's a neighbor lending a helping hand.

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## Summertown Metals expanding Hamblen County facility

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter and Summertown Metals officials announced in the Summer of 2025 the company will expand for the first time outside of Southern Middle Tennessee, locating additional distribution and manufacturing operations in Morristown.

Summertown Metals is in the process of investing \$22.6 million and will create 170 new jobs in Hamblen County through the project.

Upon completion, the company will employ nearly 600 people across its facilities in Summertown, Hohenwald and Morristown.

“Tennessee is shaped by brands like Summertown Metals that call the Volunteer State home, and as companies continue to upskill and automate, Tennesseeans will be the ideal workforce to fill these new positions,” said Gov. Bill Lee. “I thank Summertown Metals for their continued investment in our state and look forward to the opportunity these new jobs create across East Tennessee.”

The company is adding to its new facility on property in the Lowland area, near Exit 12. The property is at the former site of the Enka ballfield.

Established in 1947, the American Enka Company, a rayon fiber producer, operated a 230-acre site until 1985 when it was acquired by BASF. Lenzing AG purchased the plant in 1992, then a company purchased and renamed it Liberty Fibers in 2002.

In 2005, the plant was closed. The former industrial site and its adjacent wastewater treatment plant have since been annexed into the City of Morristown.

## Masengill Landing adds housing options in the heart of Morristown

In a city starving for housing options, a bunch of opportunities are available in the Masengill Landing development between W. Economy Road and Walters Drive.

There’s a rarity of land ready for new homes near the heart of Morristown... near shopping, restaurants, recreation and work... and developer Michael Bunch said the homes good mix of solid construction, quality materials and uncommon convenience.

Contractor Moe Jones said the steel framing, concrete slab and other premium materials have been chosen for longevity and durability.

“There’s nothing in the house for termites to chew on and nothing really to burn but the furniture; they’re really strong structurally built homes,” he said. “(The materials should) save homeowners 30% on their insurance.”

“Masengill Landing is going to be a really a good asset to Morristown, with a good central location,” Jones concluded.

Travis Earls of RE/MAX Real Estate Ten are handling home and lot sales for the project. They will be available to discuss Bunch Development home builds as well as sales to buyers who are bringing their own builders.

Bunch said the homes in the neighborhood are going to be suitable for first-time homebuyers and retirees, and most things in between.

In addition to the Phase 1 lots and homes available for purchase, Phase 2 will be open for homebuyers.

The unique nature of the development has attracted attention from other communities that have visited to study the steel framing and potential positive impacts.



## OTICS USA celebrates 25 years of manufacturing excellence

OTICS USA is the first Japanese transplant company in the United States for OTICS Corporation and a growing leader in advanced manufacturing.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the company employs more than 500 people and has expanded its Morristown facility four times and its Kodak facility once, with potential for future growth.

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