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## "Fiberhood" - Henderson soon to be gigabyte community

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Photos courtesy Bramblett and Associates

Aeneas Internet recently began installing its Gigabit fiber to the premises (FTTX) network in Henderson. Initial phases of the project should be completed in the next couple of months, making Henderson one of the only cities in the state with such a high-speed Internet, and adding another tool with which to attract industry.

Aeneas Internet and Telephone recently selected Henderson to be its first "Gig City" all Gigabit fiber to the premises (FTTX) network. Construction is currently underway with completion some time this spring. The Henderson FTTX network will be the only one of its kind in West Tennessee and only the second in the State of Tennessee.

Henderson was chosen due to the fact it is a growing community recently ranked No. 8 as one of the "Best Cities for Young Families in Tennessee."

"Aeneas is based here in West Tennessee," says Aeneas CEO, Jonathan Harlan. "It's important to us that the people of our community have the same types of choices and options for high-speed Internet and telephone that other areas of the country have access to. We believe broadband should be available to everyone at a cost they can afford.

"Aeneas is investing in the economic future of Henderson" says Harlan. "There's great potential in Henderson and we want to see it realized. We believe a greater access to broadband and other communications technologies can have a real economic impact in this area."

According to Aeneas, fiber is up to 100 times faster than basic broadband, making all activity through the Internet almost instantaneous. The company is currently installing its fiber cables on utility poles. The company hopes to turn on the first customer in April or May, and will build slowly as customer demand warrants. Some of the first fiber was recently installed along North Avenue in Henderson. Plans are to lay fiber along Main as far east as First Farmers Coop, and then west towards Simmons Lumber. Cables will

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follow only White Ave., and south on Church. Extensions to the factories to the north are in the plans as well.

Henderson will then be only the only Gigabit City in West Tennessee, and only the second in the state behind Chattanooga. Google Fiber is currently being installed in Nashville.

Harlan calls fiber "part of the toolkit of success" for the community, along with great education, smart people, a good labor force and a great quality of life.

"It's not just download speed, but upload speed is very important also," Harlan said. "Businesses need to be able to recover quickly, daily, hourly or by the second backup up off-site. That is attractive to industry, typically only available in the big cities. Now they have no reason not to pick Henderson."

In 2010, Nashville was among the 1,100 cities that applied to be the first Google Fiber city, and that title went to Kansas City, which has been reaping the benefits since. It has attracted software developers from across the country to take advantage of the speed. The competition also causes other providers to upgrade their systems and speeds. The significantly increased Internet speeds allow more persons to work from home, and also is a benefit to the disabled.

Another business that benefits from fiber is the healthcare industry, where digital images can be transferred from doctor to laboratory and back more quickly.

For more about Aeneas Internet and Telephone visit [http:// www.aeneas.com](http://www.aeneas.com).

