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# Judge-execs: N.Ky. ready for growth


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Northern Kentucky is ready to recover from the Great Recession, officials told a Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce crowd July 13.


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Campbell County Judge-executive Steve Penderly said Northern Kentucky is poised for growth across the area.

"We've done the kinds of things we need to put ourselves in a position to foster it when the economy turns around and certainly we're poised for growth in Campbell County," he said during the chamber's State of Northern Kentucky Address program at Receptions in Erlanger.

Penderly mentioned construction of a new justice center that is under way. Construction has also started on an improved U.S. 27 south of Alexandria. Last November, a new county administration building opened.

Penderly said Northern Kentucky University continues to grow, noting construction is under way on Griffin Hall that is the future home of NKU's College of Informatics. Last December, a Kroger Marketplace store opened at the Newport Pavilion development. He said much more retail is scheduled to go out there and Target is expected to break ground this month.

Penderly said last spring the General Assembly provided funding for construction of a Ky. 9 extension along the west side of Newport. He said the Ovation and Manhattan Harbour riverfront developments once completed will each have an assessed value

of nearly \$1 billion.

Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore said growth is still happening in the county but not as fast as it was. He said job creation is probably the most important issue the county is working on these days.

"And we know government doesn't create jobs but what we can do at the government level is keep government out of the way," he said. "We can keep taxes low. Yes, we need to focus on

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infrastructure (such as) our roads, water and sewer and we're doing that."

Moore said Boone County and the "region are poised for greater things."

"We are ready for economic recovery or we're ready for what happens if economic recovery does not happen," he said.

Kenton County Judge-executive Ralph Drees mentioned the county's new jail in Covington that will be completed in September. Grant County Judge-executive Darrell Link said Interstate 75 in Grant County has been widened to three lanes.

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