

Central Kentucky

MARKET REVIEW 2017-2018



Global Spotlight on Lexington

Leaders focus on increasing
foreign direct investment



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David Coyle photo

Central Kentucky

MARKET REVIEW 2017-2018

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On the Cover: Billions of dollars are injected
into Central Kentucky by foreign investors.
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Saint Joseph East



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Attracting Big Investment

Central Kentucky's quality of life and business environment has foreign investors spending billions of dollars



Left: Historic Manchester Farm, located in the heart of the Bluegrass next to Keeneland Race Track, is one of the most recognizable and widely photographed farms in Kentucky.

Below: Since 1936, Keeneland has pulled in millions of visitors to Central Kentucky to enjoy Thoroughbred racing alongside the die-hard fans who call the region home.





Above: The Kentucky River weaves through Frankfort past the State Capitol building and the Governor's Mansion.

Left: An ice skating rink is set up every winter in Triangle Park in Lexington, directly across from Lexington Convention Center.

Right: Kentucky Ballet Theatre has been Central Kentucky's premier professional ballet company for nearly 20 years.

Below: As part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of Man o' War, the Kentucky Horse Park hosted a 5K and 10K race in summer 2017.



Sally Horowitz photo



Above: The Lexington Farmers Market operates year-round in Cheapside Park downtown.



Jim Shambhu photo



Above: Whitaker Bank Ballpark in north Lexington is home field of the Lexington Legends minor league baseball team.

Left: The 10-acre Town Branch Park and Town Branch Greenway plans were unveiled in summer 2017. The Greenway connects 22 miles of protected bike and pedestrian paths, including the Legacy Trail and Town Branch Trail. Construction of the Greenway will begin in 2018.



David Coyle photo

Above: The second-largest city in Kentucky, Lexington is the epicenter of the stunning Bluegrass region, home to a thriving business environment and a top-notch quality of life.

Right: In the last 10 years, downtown Lexington's dining and cultural scene has undergone great rejuvenation.

Below: The Boone Tavern Hotel in Berea was recognized in 2017 by hotel price-comparison platform HotelsCombined as the Best Hotel in Kentucky. HotelsCombined's Recognition of Excellence awards recognizes independent hotels/accommodations only, shining the light on boutique hotels, bed and breakfast inns, and resorts.





Magnus Lindquist photo

Above: Toyota is one of Central Kentucky's primary employers.



VisitLex photo

Above: Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill comprises 3,000 acres of discovery in the spirit of the Kentucky Shakers, especially crafts.

Right: Central Kentucky's horse farms are open more and more to visitors in unique ways, including foot races like the Perfect 10 Miler, which runs through the famous Mt. Brilliant Farm. Runners can dash alongside beautiful Thoroughbreds.

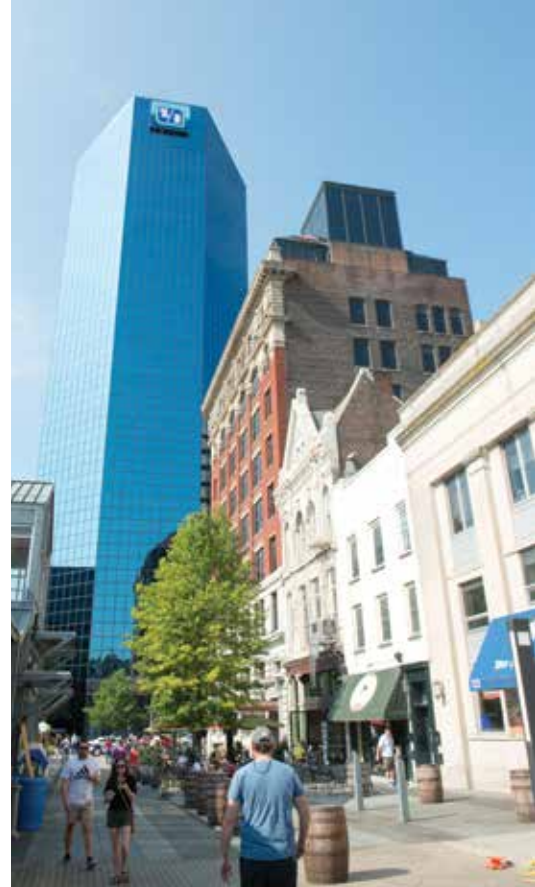
Above: The Kentucky Horse Park offers visitors a chance to see, touch and experience the Horse Capital of the World's most famous residents up close. Opening in 1978, the park is responsible for millions of dollars in tourism spending every year.

Right: Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort is considering a \$42.6 million expansion of its Frankfort facilities and upgrading its bottling operation. The iconic distillery has created fine bourbon whiskey for more than 200 years and also is a popular destination for tours and special events.





Above: Griffin Gate Golf Club is set on 250 acres near the heart of downtown Lexington, Blue Grass Airport and Interstates 64 and 75.



Right: Lexington's urban core is a bustling business and entertainment hub.



David Coyle photo

Above: The Bluegrass region's varied geography and temperate climate are ideal for outdoor enthusiasts.

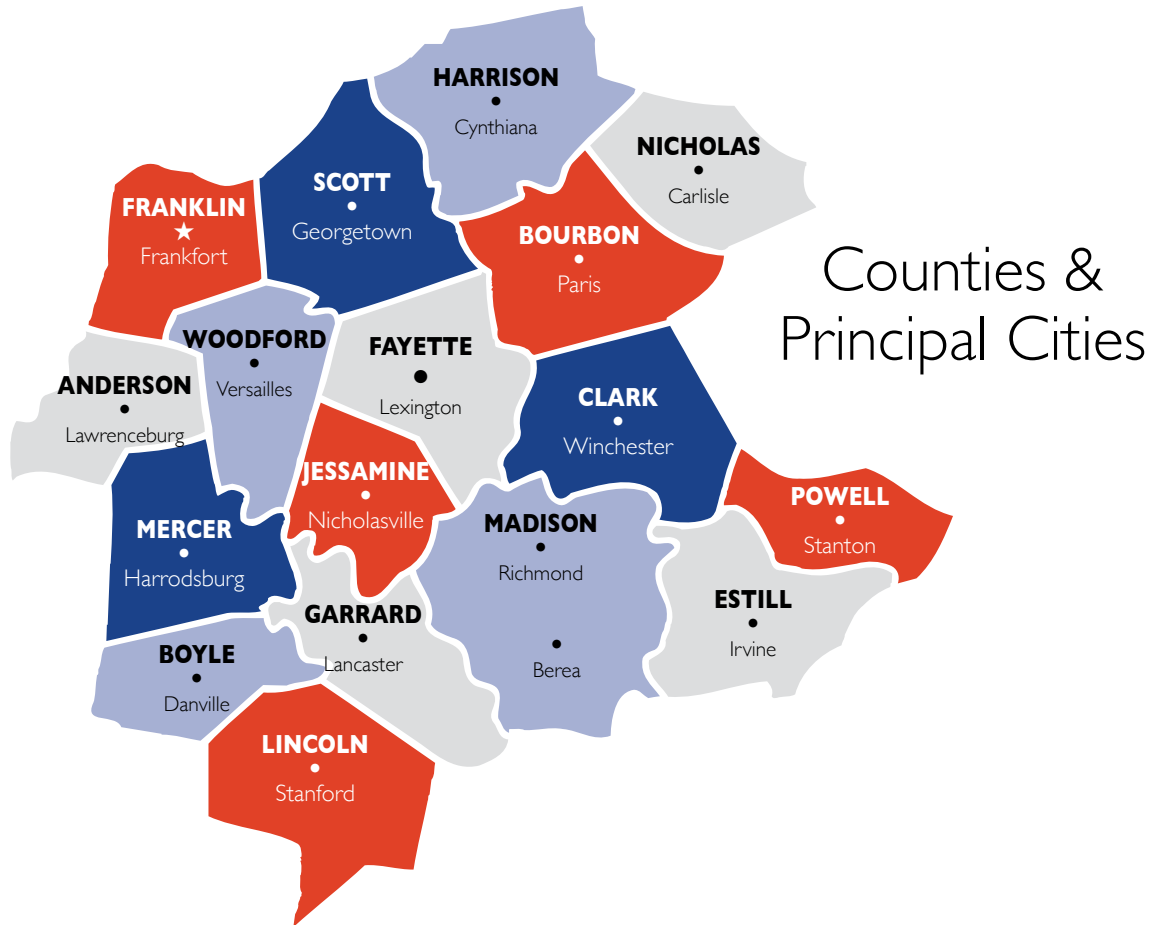
Right: Bourbon County's last remaining covered bridge, Colville Bridge, was constructed in 1877 and is a fascinating historical site.

Below: For the past four years, Moontower Music Festival has brought local and national music acts to Lexington.



Kim Blackburn photo

The 17-County Bluegrass Area Development District of Kentucky



Population

	Actual					Estimated		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	2020	2025
Anderson	9,358	12,680	14,571	19,111	21,421	22,909	22,821	23,617
Bourbon	18,476	19,393	19,296	19,360	19,985	20,319	20,090	20,027
Boyle	21,090	25,054	25,641	27,697	28,432	29,983	30,550	31,232
Clark	24,090	28,294	29,496	33,144	35,613	37,200	36,206	36,507
Estill	12,752	14,478	14,614	15,307	14,672	14,457	14,059	13,654
Fayette	174,323	204,415	225,366	260,512	295,803	320,756	333,580	354,318
Franklin	34,481	41,861	44,143	47,687	49,285	50,366	50,386	51,123
Garrard	11,579	10,852	11,579	14,792	16,912	17,352	17,476	17,571
Harrison	14,158	15,157	16,248	17,983	18,846	18,758	18,751	18,674
Jessamine	17,430	26,736	30,508	39,041	48,586	55,533	56,126	60,271
Lincoln	16,663	19,030	20,045	23,361	24,742	24,407	24,324	24,035
Madison	42,730	53,557	57,508	70,872	82,916	91,101	91,774	95,773
Mercer	15,960	19,019	19,148	20,817	21,331	21,400	21,389	21,255
Nicholas	6,508	7,112	6,725	6,813	7,135	7,042	7,070	6,997
Powell	7,704	11,171	11,686	13,237	12,613	12,063	11,753	11,192
Scott	17,948	21,898	23,867	33,061	47,173	55,270	63,984	67,570
Woodford	14,434	17,754	19,955	23,208	24,939	26,257	26,953	27,421
Totals	459,684	548,461	590,396	686,003	770,404	825,171	847,292	881,237

Source: Kentucky State Data Center (ksdc.louisville.edu)

In the business of success

A city and region of superlatives in economic development



LEXINGTON sits at the epicenter of a region that serves as a health care, retail and cultural center for both Central and Eastern Kentucky. Whether you're seeking employment or looking to start a business, Lexington is among the top cities in the nation both for job opportunities and entrepreneurs. Lexington was recently named among the Best Places for Business & Careers (Forbes), Cities With The Lowest Cost Of Living (Niche), the Fastest Growing Rate of Startups (FiveThirtyEight), and the Best Cities to Start a Business (HeroPay).



Bob Quick,
CCE,
President/CEO,
Commerce
Lexington Inc.

Situated in the middle of downtown, Commerce Lexington was named the nation's 2016 Chamber of the Year.

We know the right doors to open.

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Kentucky



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accountants | lawyers | market research | commercialization | executive mentoring | real estate

Lexington is literally in the middle of everything. Its central location and excellent transportation system have been major factors in its growth and development. Not only is Lexington 600 miles from 50 percent of the U.S. population, it sits at the crossroads of two major interstates, north-south I-75 and east-west I-64, giving companies here a logistics advantage.

Because of relatively low utility costs, Lexington has remained a very affordable place to do business. This was certainly a contributing factor when the city was named No. 8 among Cities with the Lowest Startup Costs (Smart Asset).

A diversified economy

Lexington and the surrounding area's robust economy is due in large part to its diversification of employment opportunities. No single employment sector comprises more than 17 percent of the labor force in the metro area. Jobs are dispersed among government, education and health care, retail trade, manufacturing, professional and business services, and construction. Because of these diverse opportunities, Lexington's

unemployment rate is typically lower than the rest of the state and nation.

The University of Kentucky, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Fayette County Public Schools, and Eastern Kentucky

University are among the major employers within the Lexington MSA. Citizens also enjoy strong employment opportunities in equine related businesses, health care,

retail and services. Principal manufactured products include automobiles, automobile parts, peanut butter, cutting tools, heating and air conditioning equipment, paper cups and products, software, sunroofs, and military equipment.

With an abundance of colleges and universities in the area, it's not surprising that Lexington has one of the Most Educated Workforces in America, long ranking in the top 15 in adults with degrees. Nearly 70,000 students are enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the Bluegrass, graduating over 16,000 annually. According to U.S. Census data, Lexington ranks as the 11th-most educated city in the country in percent of population with a bachelor's degree, and ninth for those who have attained an advanced degree.

Lexington and the surrounding area's robust economy is due in large part to its diversification of employment opportunities. No single employment sector comprises more than 17 percent of the labor force in the metro area.

The combination of so many higher education institutions and global companies located within the region, along with the area's famed equine and bourbon industries, gives Lexington an international flavor all its own. The eight counties of the Bluegrass Region are home to 21 percent of the foreign-owned facilities in Kentucky or 99 facilities with ownership from 18 different countries, providing full-time employment to over 23,900 people.

Whether you're coming here to live, work, start a business, or play, you'll find the Bluegrass to be welcoming and full of charm and hospitality. Find out how Commerce Lexington Inc. helps businesses grow at CommerceLexington.com or LocateInLexington.com. ●

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#1 Chamber of the Year 2016

—Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives

**#9 Percentage of Population with an
Advanced Degree**

—US Census Bureau

**#11 Percentage of Population with a
Bachelor's Degree**

—US Census Bureau

#24 World's Smart Cities

—National Geographic

One-stop startup shop for business

Local leaders partnering with universities and private sector to spur more economic growth

THE Bluegrass Business Development Partnership is a “one-stop shop” to provide assistance and resources to businesses in the Central Kentucky region. The BBBDP is a collaboration among the City of Lexington, the University of Kentucky and Commerce Lexington Inc. Each BBBDP partner brings a variety of strengths to the table in assisting businesses from small startups to large Fortune 500 corporations to connect them to resources throughout the state.



Shawn Rogers,
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Eric Hartman,
Director,
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Kentucky
Innovation
Network

One BBBDP success story is MosquitoMate, a biotech company founded on technology developed at UK. MosquitoMate produces a chemical-free,



non-GMO pesticide that is based on the manufacturing and release of male mosquitoes to combat the mosquito population. Each BBBDP partner played an integral role in assisting this budding startup.

As a spinout company of the university, the BBBDP partners from UK have had an essential role with MosquitoMate's development. SBDC has provided assistance with grant requests from the state and federal government, cultivated strategic partners and provided advisory services for the business.

A longtime client of the Kentucky Innovation Office and the UK Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship, MosquitoMate received assistance in developing its commercialization plan as well as funding requests from the state's Commercialization Fund, Enterprise Fund and SBIR/STTR Matching Funds programs.

With this support, MosquitoMate transitioned from research and development to a commercialized product. Commerce Lexington Inc.'s economic development team assisted with its selection process for expansion. They introduced the company to service providers for marketing and commercializing its product. Dr. Stephen Dobson, president of MosquitoMate, was invited to speak at the chamber's 2016 (Washington) DC Fly In, emphasizing

Dignitaries cut the ribbon to MosquitoMate's new production facility in Lexington. Participants include (from left to right): Terry Samuel, Chief Operating Officer of KSTC; Dr. Jimmy Mains, Co-Founder of MosquitoMate; Mayor Jim Gray; Dr. Stephen Dobson, Co-Founder of MosquitoMate; Dr. Eli Capilouto, President of UK; Dr. Corey Brelsfoard, Chief Scientific Officer of MosquitoMate; and Carla Blanton, Board Chair of Commerce Lexington Inc.

the importance of the university and federally funded research.

Beyond assisting individual companies, the BBBDP is active in organizing and sponsoring entrepreneurial initiatives such as SPARK; 5Across pitch competitions; the Awesome Fellowship; the RunJumpDev gaming development collaboration; and Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW).

Lexington's GEW was a part of a worldwide celebration of innovators and job creators, whose startups bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. During last year's GEW, BBBDP showed the impact of the entrepreneurial community on the regional economy by announcing that 137 companies raised more than \$65.3 million in capital funds, produced revenues exceeding \$177 million and created 307 new jobs in fiscal year 2016. The 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Week will be held Nov. 13-19. ●

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Solving problems

University of Kentucky researchers tackle health, energy and agriculture for the win-win

UK Sports Medicine Research Institute focuses on injury prevention, performance optimization

The University of Kentucky recently opened its Sports Medicine Research Institute, spearheaded by the UK College of Health Sciences and supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense.

The 10,000-s.f. SMRI facility, part of the UK Nutter Training Facility on campus, will conduct research into injury prevention and performance optimization for professional and collegiate athletes, the tactical athletes of the U.S. military, and physically active people of all ages in Kentucky and beyond.

“Our research and scholarly endeavors offer the brightest hope for transformation and change for our Commonwealth and the broader world we serve,” said Dr. Eli Capilouto, University of Kentucky president.

“This sentiment fuels the work of this university, and it fuels the work of the Sports Medicine Research Institute.”

Capilouto held the institute up as an example of the university's efforts to collaborate across disciplines in addressing the challenges and disparities that face the commonwealth, noting that seven UK colleges are involved in the work of SMRI, in addition to personnel from UK HealthCare.

There is no similar facility within 400 miles of Lexington.

A Velotron Bike Ergometer assesses lower body power and aerobic capacity. Equipment at the University of Kentucky's SMRI benefits military and civilian athletes of all types.



SMRI is outfitted with sophisticated equipment to assess biomechanical, physiological, musculoskeletal and neurocognitive health and is supported by a team of eight core faculty, staff and research assistants and 40 affiliate faculty. In addition to its Lexington location, SMRI operates a facility in Camp Lejeune, N.C., where its team works directly with MARSOC – the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

A biomechanics laboratory conducts motion analysis studies using 14 cameras and a dual-force plate system in the floor, like the technology used to make video games and animated movies. Equipment shaped like a horse simulates realistic movement for jockeys and other equestrians.

An Equine Race Trainer at the University of Kentucky's SMRI simulates 3D motion capture technology similar to that used for video game development to better understand the demands of the equestrian athlete, injury prevention for over-use injuries and aid in developing return-to-ride protocols after injury.

There is also a neurocognitive lab that uses virtual reality to assess visual acuity, reaction times and balance, which are critical measurements for concussion recovery.

Other equipment is designed to measure oxygen consumption, workload and metabolic costs, physiological stress and the influence of sleep deprivation/fatigue, all of which are important contributors to musculoskeletal strength, endurance, operational performance and injury risk.

Scott Lephart, dean of the UK College of Health Sciences and SMRI founder, leads the \$4.2 million Department of Defense grant that helped launch the institute. He said that the military can adapt from lessons learned in athletics and vice-versa.

“The elite warriors of the U.S. military are expected to be at peak performance in extremely dangerous and unpredictable situations, and there's no room – either financially or personally – for them



to sustain a preventable injury,” said Lephart, who is also UK Endowed Chair of Orthopaedic Research. “Our research with athletes both military and civilian is mutually beneficial, and it will result in strategies for injury prevention and performance for every walk of life.”

Mitch Barnhart, UK Director of Athletics, noted that the SMRI was not just a valuable resource for UK athletes, but for professional and youth athletes across Kentucky and nationally.

“This is yet another example of the power of partnership on our campus,” Barnhart said. “By working together, we are creating cutting-edge resources for athletes both here at UK and beyond. The efforts of SMRI will help minimize injury and maximize athletic performance in sports ranging from football to NASCAR and from basketball to horse racing.”

UK receives U.S. Department of Energy funding to further groundbreaking rare earth element research

The U.S. Department of Energy values University of Kentucky's rare earth element research so much that it recently awarded UK researchers two projects totaling \$12 million to develop and test REE recovery systems. It was part of \$17 million DOE provided for four such projects.

UK by the Numbers

ASTeCC Campus Incubator

- 24 companies located on-site and 1 virtual company
- 11 faculty R&D labs
- 5 university centers
- 56 graduate companies since 1994

IP Development, Patents, Licenses in FY 2017

- 54 disclosures
- 19 full patent applications, 20 provisional patent applications
- 601 worldwide patent assets
- 40 new patents
- \$2.39 million in gross patent revenue
- 117 total active license and option agreements
- 13 new licenses and options, including 8 to start-up companies

University of Kentucky sees increase in grant funding for FY 2017

- Grant & contract awards to UK totaled **\$331.3 million**, an increase of **\$14.8 million** from FY 2016
- Federal agencies awarded UK **\$178.3 million**, **53.8%** of UK's total awards
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants totaled **\$113.9 million**
- National Science Foundation (NSF) grants totaled **\$14.5 million**
- State agencies awarded UK **\$90.7 million**
- Industry awarded UK **\$18.1 million**

UK's novel REE research is born out of innovation and collaboration. Recipients of the two UK awards, the Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) and the College of Engineering's Department of Mining Engineering, continue to be at the leading edge in the hunt to recover rare earth elements from coal and coal byproducts.

REEs are a series of 17 chemical elements found in the Earth's crust. Due to their unique chemical properties, REEs are essential components of technologies spanning a range of applications, including electronics, computer and communication systems, transportation, health care and national defense. The demand for REEs has grown significantly in recent years, stimulating an interest in economically feasible approaches for domestic REE recovery.

Each UK project received \$6 million and is expected to be completed by 2020. The projects fall under two areas of interest: (1) bench-scale technology to economically separate, extract and concentrate mixed REEs from coal and coal byproducts, including aqueous effluents; and (2) pilot-scale technology to economically separate, extract and concentrate mixed REEs from coal and coal byproduct solids.

UK CAER will work on the project awarded to Physical Sciences Inc. of Andover, Mass. The project will use coal fly ash physically processed near Trapp, Ky., as its feedstock. The fly ash is a byproduct of combusting Central Appalachian bituminous coal in a power plant boiler. The select portion will be shipped to a Pennsylvania location for subsequent processing to produce the final rare earth product. In addition, researchers will evaluate recovery of other useful materials from the fly ash.

Jim Hower, a principal research scientist at CAER and a research professor in UK's Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, and Jack Groppo, a professor in UK Mining Engineering and principal research engineer at CAER, will serve as co-principal investigators on the grant.

UK's Department of Mining Engineering will oversee the second project, which builds on a pilot led by mining engineering Professor Rick Honaker. The research will use two sources of coal preparation (coal washing) byproducts as feedstock for recovery of REEs. The team will also recover dry, fine coal from the feedstock material. The first location for installation and testing of the pilot plant will be at a coal preparation plant in Perry County, Ky., that processes



With two major grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, UK researchers are developing and testing ways to recover rare earth elements from coal.

Central Appalachian bituminous coal. The second location for testing of the pilot plant will be at a coal preparation plant that processes Illinois Basin bituminous coal near Nebo, Ky.

Department of Mining Engineering faculty members Groppo and Assistant Professor Josh Werner are co-principal investigators on this project, which will also receive assistance from the Kentucky Geological Survey.

UK researchers unraveling the powerful psychological impact of branding

Branding's power can improve athletic performance. That is one of the interesting findings University of Kentucky marketing faculty in the Gatton College of Business and Economics are uncovering via the consumer related research they conduct.

Aaron Garvey, an assistant professor of marketing, researches consumer behavior, looking at the psychology of how consumers act, think and feel. One of his studies published in the Journal of Consumer Research reveals that brands can improve human performance through purely psychological means that are unrelated to functional differences in a branded product's materials, craftsmanship or design. In other words, consumers who strongly believed that a branded product would improve their athletic performance did perform better.



Aaron Garvey, Assistant Professor of Marketing



Coldstream by the Numbers

Coldstream Research Campus, Fiscal Year 2017

- 51 organizations
- 2,100 employees
- 22 buildings, 3 owned by UK
- 1.37 million square feet of floor space
- 91% available space occupied

Located at the intersection of I-75 and I-64, the 735-acre Coldstream Research Campus is a premier location for research and development businesses.

“In our research, we examine whether the mere belief that a particular brand is effective at enhancing performance can actually result in better performance outcomes, while holding product functionality constant,” Garvey said. “That is, we examine if brands can induce a placebo effect upon performance.”

Another of Garvey’s studies shows that putting eco-products in the hands of consumers represents a dual-edged sword. On the one hand, it encourages environmentally responsible behavior among consumers who are already prone to engage in it, while at the same time decreasing environmentally responsible behavior among consumers who are already less environmentally conscious.

Consumers who already embrace green living will see an initial eco-product purchase as a reminder of their commitment to the environment, Garvey said. But that’s not the case with everyone.

“For those who aren’t typically inclined to go green, purchase of an eco-product leads these less environmentally invested consumers to avoid further eco-product purchases,” Garvey said. “They feel they’ve done their good deed and don’t seek out environmentally friendly products in their next immediate purchases.”

These findings lead Garvey and his research colleagues to recommend marketing eco-products in a way that promotes ongoing environmental responsibility.

Meanwhile, new research by Adam W. Craig, assistant professor of marketing in UK’s Gatton College, finds new parallels between idealized body images in advertising and consumer spending.

The study, titled “Costly Curves: How Human-like Shapes Can Increase Spending,” was published in the June 2017 issue of *Journal of Consumer Research*.

And shows how even subtle reminders of idealized bodies can encourage overweight consumers to overspend.

“In our research, we show that exposure to body cues (i.e., shapes) can have unintended consequences on seemingly unrelated behavior, such as spending,” write the authors. “We demonstrate that seeing a thin (vs. wide) human-like shape leads high-body-mass-index (BMI) consumers to make more indulgent spending decisions.”

The authors found that mere reminders of the thin-body ideal can cause overweight consumers to feel worse about their own abilities, including less capable of managing their spending impulses. In general, when consumers feel less capable, they tend to show lower motivation for control.

These findings suggest that consumer advocates should be wary of reinforcing the link between weight, self-control and financial achievement, as doing so can be counterproductive for consumers trying to control their behavior. The implications are particularly important given the negative consequences such messages could have on consumer debt and spending.

UK’s Research Building 2: Bridging health gaps in Kentucky

Construction is underway on a new collaborative research facility dedicated to addressing health disparities in Kentucky.

This \$265 million building (funded half from the state of Kentucky, half from university resources, including private gifts) is scheduled to open in summer of 2018. By investing in this state-of-the-art research facility, the University



Adam Craig,
Assistant
Professor of
Marketing

of Kentucky is investing in the health of citizens of the commonwealth.

Two unique areas of focus will distinguish the building:

Research that focuses on cancer, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases including stroke and substance abuse. These conditions have a major adverse impact on the health of those in the commonwealth, contributing to death rates from each disease that rank within the top 10 states of the nation.

Multidisciplinary research that approaches the problem from numerous fields and perspectives – health care researchers (both basic and clinical), public health, behavioral sciences, agriculture outreach and extension, economics and engineering – working in close proximity and collaboratively to develop solutions to these complex problems.

The design and focus of the building come with a specific scientific underpinning.

“We know that so much of discovery today – whether at the cellular or community level – happens at the intersection of disciplines,” said Lisa Cassis, UK’s vice president for research. “This facility is being designed to foster discovery and collaboration so that what happens in labs and in the course of basic research can be translated to answers and solutions at the community level.”

Specifically, the new facility also will focus work and attention on health disparities in Appalachia, a region with some of the most pronounced rates of chronic diseases in the country.

The new building will be linked to other major research space in the heart of the campus, the Biological Biomedical Research Building and the Lee T. Todd Jr. Building (formerly the BioPharm Building), further fostering collaborative and multidisciplinary

work. The connecting conduit building, serving as the spine of the complex, has been named the Appalachian Translational Trail, as it will house the nucleus of translational researchers who bring together all disciplines.

UK study: Ag generates \$2.3 billion annual economic impact in Fayette County

Agriculture and the businesses that support it are responsible for one in 12 jobs in Fayette County and \$2.3 billion in annual output, according to a study by the University of Kentucky's Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky.

"Fayette County's economy is diverse, with significant employment in manufacturing, professional services and health care sectors. Production agriculture alone is a relatively smaller industry," said Alison Davis, CEDIK director and agricultural economics professor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Fayette County, however, remains the leading producer of horses and ponies in the country. Additionally, Fayette County claims a larger share of agricultural activity than surrounding counties."

Traditionally, employment associated with agriculture has been confined to production. But the CEDIK study examined the total ag cluster, which is not only production agriculture but businesses that produce agricultural inputs, wholesale and retail businesses and service-based businesses that are dedicated to agriculture, such as veterinary, finance, recreation and transportation.

Study authors Davis and Simona Balazs maintain that including these types of businesses shows the true importance of the agricultural sector in the area.

When the agricultural cluster is defined to include companies with all their business related to agriculture in the county, it is estimated that 14,091 jobs are attributed to the cluster, with an additional 1,724 jobs directly and indirectly associated with the hospitality sector in Lexington.

"Without an agricultural base in the county, many of the supporting businesses that employ these workers would not exist," Davis said.

It is estimated the ag cluster contributes \$8.5 million to the local tax base through payroll taxes.

The horse industry plays a vital role in the local tourism industry,

with horse racing, farm tours and the Kentucky Horse Park drawing tourists from across the country. Study authors estimate that Keeneland generates \$51 million from out-of-county visitors for accommodations, restaurants, gasoline and other retail establishments. Based on an annual average of 250,000 tourists, the Kentucky Horse Park generates \$31.3 million for the same types of businesses.

In addition to the \$2.3 billion in annual output, the researchers found that the county's agricultural cluster generated more than \$1.3 billion in additional income, profits and dividends.

The researchers looked at the effect of a loss in production agriculture due to the increasing pressures on land use. They found that if production agriculture declined by 10 percent or \$54.5 million, there would be an overall additional decrease of more than \$26.5 million in output.

The Fayette Alliance, Fayette County Farm Bureau and Kentucky Thoroughbred Association-Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Inc. commissioned the study. The full study can be found online at <http://fayettealliance.com/16090-2/>. ●

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Central Kentucky attracts big money

Further growing foreign direct investment is the focus of regional leaders in 2017 and 2018

BY ABBY LAUB

CENTRAL Kentucky tuned up its economic engine long ago pursuing agriculture, bourbon, Thoroughbreds and universities, but the future fiscal pathway is expanding thanks in part to increasing direct foreign investment that's coming as a result of remarkable things already happening here.

"We are a university city with a highly educated workforce and access to world-class research and development opportunities," said Lexington Mayor Jim Gray on the rise in FDI in Lexington and Central Kentucky. "As a city, we invest heavily in quality of life to keep and grow that workforce, which drives so much of our economy."

This sharp focus on quality of life, fostering an educated workforce and a business friendly environment is complementary to 2013's unveiling of the Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement partnership among Gray, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organization in Washington, D.C.

The mayors and other leaders have ambitious goals for prosperity in the region, knowing that 21st century metropolitan aspirations depend on local partnerships as well as international engagement. Central Kentucky is checking all of the boxes

The heavy hitters

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and Commerce Lexington Inc. point out some notable businesses who are either hallmarks of foreign direct investment, or those that are leaders in the software and IT sectors.

- **Piramal:** Indian investment
- **HP now OpenText:** Canadian investment
- **Toyota:** Japanese company
- **Lexmark:** Chinese investment via acquisition
- **Evolva:** Swiss acquisition
- **Sumitomo:** Japanese investment
- **MakeTime, Fooji, Base 10:** Lexington-based software and IT companies
- **Florida Tile:** Italian Investment
- **KITO:** Japanese Investment
- **LBX:** Japanese Investment
- **Link-Belt:** Japanese Investment
- **Schneider Electric:** French Investment
- **Stantec Consulting Services:** Canadian Investment
- **Clark Material Handling Co.:** South Korea investment
- **DormaKaba:** German investment via merger with Swiss-owned company that existed here



Magnus Lindquist photo

to ensure foreign investors give serious consideration to the region.

The BEAM Global Trade and Investment Plan proposes strategies to "marshal the power of FDI in service to the region's broader goals for advanced industry activity, diverse employment opportunity, and continuous adaptation in a competitive world."

Increasing and nurturing foreign direct investment is a top priority of Commerce Lexington. In fact, Lexington was recently ranked No. 7 best city for FDI strategy according to Business Facilities magazine.

"Our team, alongside the Mayor's Office, works closely with Louisville and the BEAM region on increasing FDI in our region," said Bob Quick, president/CEO of the award-winning Commerce Lexington Inc. "Foreign-owned companies, as well as U.S.-based companies, are drawn to Lexington because of the low cost of doing business. Our greatest attribute, though, is our educated workforce. According to the U.S. Census, Lexington is ranked No. 11 most educated city in terms of the number of bachelor's degrees. When advanced degrees are accounted for, we are ninth in the country for most educated city. This is attributed to our strong academic institutions throughout the region."

Toyota recently invested another \$1.3 billion, reaffirming its position as Central Kentucky's largest foreign invested company.

Quick also noted local logistical advantages when wooing FDI. Situated at the crossroads of Interstates 75 and 64 and "within an hour's drive of three major airports provides quick access for our companies to over 50 percent of the U.S. population. Having the UPS ground hub in our city, as well as proximity to the UPS Worldport and DHL, allows our companies to reach international markets within 24 to 48 hours."

Look no further than Central Kentucky's flagship manufacturing operation, Georgetown-based Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, as evidence that the Bluegrass means big business. At 8.1 million s.f., Toyota's largest vehicle manufacturing plant in the world, TMMK has an annual capacity of 550,000 vehicles and 600,000 engines.

Toyota, recently recognized by Fortune magazine as a Top 10 company that's changing the world, just completed its \$1.33 billion Reborn project. Already one of the world's leading automotive plants by efficiency, productivity and technology, TMMK's overhaul

“We have seen an increase in the number of international companies that are considering Lexington and the region for investment. We believe we will continue to see an increase in international investment through mergers and acquisitions.”

— Bob Quick, President/CEO,
Commerce Lexington Inc.

increases manufacturing flexibility with the replacement or refurbishing of equipment, adding new technology in multiple manufacturing areas, including stamping, body weld, paint, plastics, assembly and powertrain. A new paint shop will be constructed and fitted with new equipment and technology.

The Reborn project prepares TMMK for Toyota New Global Architecture, or TNGA, a new approach to the design and manufacturing of vehicles. The Georgetown plant is the first North American facility to use TNGA, starting with the 2018 Camry.

Toyota's massive growth and continued foreign investment signals the security its parent company has in the health of Central Kentucky's economy. Toyota Motor Corp.'s 1986 greenfield investment in Georgetown brought thousands of jobs and a mindset shift among Kentuckians about the economic benefits of foreign investment that continues today.

Award-winning chambers

Great business takes great support. In 2016, Commerce Lexington named Chamber of the Year in the large chamber category (Category 4) during the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' (ACCE) annual convention in Savannah, Ga.

And in August 2017 the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce was named State Chamber of the Year at the annual conference of the Council of State Chambers. Pennsylvania was named first runner-up. Entries are judged in six categories: public affairs, political action, communications, membership development, membership services and organizational development.

The Kentucky Chamber highlighted the success of its business agenda during the 2017 General Assembly, the creation of the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center and being the first chamber in the country to create its own news bureau with a professional reporter to produce state government news content for a business audience. The news site, KyChamberBottomline.com, also serves as the Frankfort bureau of *The Lane Report*, Kentucky's premier business magazine.



Building on what is here

Massive greenfield investments are less common, and today most FDI comes via U.S. merger and acquisition activity. The continued investment in existing companies is proof that the region's strategic plan is working.

“With strong leadership in our region, companies and organizations see the value in investing in their current operations because of the quality of life, low cost of doing business and educated workforce,” Quick noted. “We are also fortunate to have a diverse economy; Lexington weathered the recession much better than most cities because of our diversity.”

He speculates that further growth is on the way, mostly through M&A rather than greenfield sites.

“We have seen an increase in the number of international companies that are considering Lexington and the region for investment,” Quick said. “We believe we will continue to see an increase in international investment through mergers and acquisitions.”

And although Lexington is the main economic force of Central Kentucky, it's worth noting that city and Fayette County leaders see their smaller neighbors as assets rather than competition. It's obvious through some of the other major companies around – like Alltech in Jessamine County, the soon-to-open More Than A Bakery in Woodford County, Corning Inc. in Mercer County, to name a few – that the wealth is spread proportionally.

“Lexington is part of the regional economic development group called the Bluegrass Alliance, which covers eight counties in Central Kentucky,” Quick said. “Lexington is the urban core and the

Central Kentucky officials work hard to support and cultivate a spectacular regional quality of life to ensure that people want to live here, move their businesses here and keep them here.

cultural, financial and commercial heart of the region, but being part of a larger region of over 600,000 people within a 30-mile radius is an important attribute. When companies are considering a new location, they do not recognize county lines, so marketing our entire region, the available workforce and different quality of life options in the region's counties makes it easier to recruit companies here. For all projects, we market and submit buildings and sites in Lexington and the surrounding counties.”

Smart growth and leaders who mean business

Long-time local business leaders and residents also can get behind the pro-business attitude that attracts FDI.

Linden Long, a Lexington native who has owned Long Construction Management (LCM) for 15 years, notes the fine balance between promoting growth while preserving the historical significance of an area. Long, a company that focuses on design-build construction projects in the commercial and light industrial markets, sees the region taking positive steps to achieve growth with historic preservation.

“For some it seems difficult to have one without inhibiting the other,” said Long, who got his start 30 years ago working for Mayor Gray's family company, Gray Construction, which

The auto manufacturing sector is Kentucky's biggest recipient of direct foreign investment. Many of its 400-plus supply operations are foreign owned.

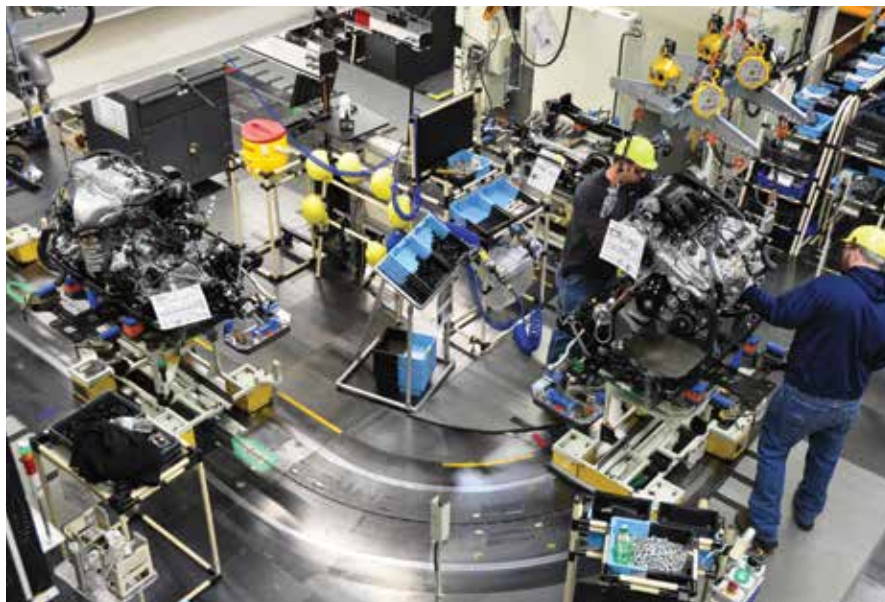
had a significant role building TMMK's original plant. "I believe our current government officials are doing as good a job as I can remember at maintaining and promoting a good balance between the two.

"Mayor Gray certainly understands what it takes for a small business to grow and thrive. Our governor, Matt Bevin, came into office with an agenda of bringing new business to Kentucky and to make doing business within our state easier and more streamlined. I have been quite impressed with how he has attacked that goal with a vengeance."

Long cited Kentucky's recent switch to becoming a "right to work" state and eliminating "bureaucracy that makes



Linden Long,
Owner,
Long
Construction
Management



trying to do business in the state of Kentucky difficult" as important steps forward in attracting more investment.

"I have seen first-hand opportunities that have opened up because of his initiative," he said. "But neither Mayor Gray or Gov. Bevin are working to help business with a blind eye to the history of Kentucky and the things that make Kentucky great. Things, like horse racing, beautiful horse farms, bourbon, craft beer and the list goes on and on. So, yes, we're telling businesses we want them to grow or to locate here in Kentucky, but we want them to come and embrace who we are in Kentucky and take full advantage of all we have to offer."

He added that business and political leaders in Central Kentucky are getting rid of an "us versus them" mentality, and the strategy is working.

At the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, also known as Think Kentucky, reducing red tape is a major objective. Secretary Terry Gill also cited Central Kentucky's prime logistics, skilled labor force, abundant industrial suppliers, a bevy of manufacturing suppliers in-state, existing office space and temperate climate as major draws.

"Central Kentucky offers a skilled labor force sourced from one of the state's most populated metropolitan statistical areas, robust workforce-development resources, labor pools that include high-tech, advanced manufacturing and white-collar expertise and a high quality of life," Gill said. "At the same time, companies selecting Central Kentucky benefit from our low costs for industrial power and low costs of living relative to major metros nationwide."

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Wil James,
President,
Toyota Motor
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TMMK is Toyota's largest vehicle manufacturing plant in the world, with annual capacity to produce 550,000 vehicles and 600,000 engines.

Since 1988, over 11 million vehicles have rolled off Toyota's assembly lines in Georgetown, where full-time employment tops 8,000. TMMK manufactures the Camry, Camry Hybrid, Avalon, Avalon Hybrid and Lexus ES 350, as well as four-cylinder and V-6 engines.

In 2017, TMMK announced a \$1.3 billion investment for plant upgrades and to introduce Toyota New Global Architecture.

Automotive dollars... for starters

The biggest FDI growth sector now is automotive manufacturing.

"There's strong investment across multiple industries in the Bluegrass region this year, but the numbers show the greatest quantity in automotive-related projects," Gill said, citing Toyota first. "Among those, we're seeing more expansions and reinvestments in Central Kentucky than completely new plants."

Other examples include \$71 million in investments and 110 new jobs across three projects in Madison County, a 31-job, \$2 million investment by Hitachi Automotive Systems in Harrodsburg, and a \$7.5 million expansion at Pilkington North America in Woodford County. Adjacent to the Bluegrass, Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville is receiving a \$900 million "lightweighting"



The long-sought Newtown Pike Extension now easily connects downtown and the University of Kentucky to Interstates 64 and 75.

Key infrastructure

Making business run smoothly is at the forefront for city planners. Traditional infrastructure improvements are happening all over Central Kentucky – most notable of late including the widening of New Circle and completion of the Newtown Pike Extension. Multimodal accommodations also are a clear focus, providing safe and reliable transportation networks for all users including bicycles and pedestrians.

Work continues on the overhaul of Lexington's sewer system, an unprecedented environmental investment.

And, being a University City, LFUCG officials believe communications infrastructure is of equal importance. Mayor Gray started the gigabit project, with a goal of bringing ultra-fast internet speeds to Lexington businesses and residences. Lexington is pioneering this effort, making fiber optics fuel for the economic engine.

investment, readying it to produce the aluminum-intensive Expedition and Lincoln Navigator. And Tower Automotive plans a \$20 million investment in Shepherdsville, creating 35 jobs.

"In other industries, Corning (maker of iPhone Gorilla glass) in Harrodsburg is receiving a \$200 million investment from Apple toward research and development, and Lexington's startup, tech and biotech scenes continue to grow," Gill said. "Global demand for bourbon keeps our distilleries in expansion mode. Wild Turkey in Anderson County, Buffalo Trace in Frankfort and Peristyle in Woodford County announced new investments this year."

The Cabinet team is constantly working to solicit more FDI, Gill said, noting that many of the enticing factors, like access to workforce training and logistics, support Kentucky's goal to become the engineering and manufacturing hub of excellence for the nation.

Other notable factors in recruiting business – from at home or abroad – Gill said include the state's push in "reinvesting in workforce development and bolstering apprenticeships, repealing the prevailing wage law, passing charter schools, P3 and right-to-work legislation, instituting a governmental red-tape-

Industry Expansions Announced in 2017

FACILITY	CITY (COUNTY)	INVESTMENT
Wild Turkey Distillery	Lawrenceburg (Anderson)	\$5,209,500
Adkev, Inc.	Danville (Boyle)	\$15,650,000
Denyo Manufacturing Corp.	Danville (Boyle)	\$8,676,000
Wilderness Trace Distillery	Danville (Boyle)	\$9,910,000
Infiltrator Water Technologies	Winchester (Clark)	\$11,341,048
MosquitoMate Inc.	Lexington (Fayette)	\$535,040
Alltech Inc.	Nicholasville (Jessamine)	\$21,000,000
Asahi Bluegrass Forge Corporation	Richmond (Madison)	\$11,000,000
Asahi Bluegrass Forge Corporation	Richmond (Madison)	\$40,000,000
Novelis Corporation	Berea (Madison)	\$2,335,000
Richmond Auto Parts Technology Inc.	Richmond (Madison)	\$20,000,000
Corning Incorporated	Harrodsburg (Mercer)	\$200,000,000
Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas Inc.	Harrodsburg (Mercer)	\$2,043,782
Thoroughbred Aviation	Georgetown (Scott)	N/A
Minova USA	Georgetown (Scott)	\$300,000
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky	Georgetown (Scott)	\$1,330,000,000
Peristyle LLC	Milville (Woodford)	\$9,260,335
Pilkington North America	Versailles (Woodford)	\$7,500,000
Total		\$1,694,760,705

Data courtesy Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Data for Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford counties.

reduction campaign and outlining plans for state pension and tax reform."

Still largely under the radar, the Cabinet has received a jump from prospect businesses and consultants now that its right-to-work box is checked, he said.

Middle market growth

Despite high-profile large acquisitions and investments, its middle market companies that are the most representative of the trend of increased investments. According to the latest report from Middle Market Power

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Owned by a Japanese parent company, Link-Belt Cranes is a leader in the design, manufacture and sales of telescopic and lattice boom cranes and a market leader in crane design.

Index from American Express and Dun & Bradstreet, Kentucky ranks 16th for growth in number of middle market companies from 2011-2017. Kentucky has an estimated 2,177 middle market companies (\$10 million-\$1 billion in annual revenues), which make up 1 percent of all firms in the state according to the latest.

The newest report in the series finds that the middle market is an increasingly important sector. While middle-market firms make up less than 1 percent of all U.S. businesses, they contribute about one in four dollars and employ 27 percent of workers in the private sector. According to the study, middle market firms were responsible for 51.7 percent of the 51.8 million new U.S. jobs created since 2011.

Lexington-based, Link-Belt Cranes is a prime example of a middle-market company making big waves in the community. Link-Belt is a leader in the design, manufacture and sales of telescopic and lattice boom cranes and a market leader in crane design and product quality standards, partly due to its focus on continuous improvement and employee empowerment. The company's core production base and center for worldwide operations is its 770,000 s.f. manufacturing facility in Lexington.

In 1986, the Link-Belt Construction Equipment Co. was formed as a joint venture between FMC Corporation and Japan-based Sumitomo Heavy

Industries. Today Link-Belt is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Heavy Industries, and President/CEO Melvin Porter explained that the acquisition in the 1980s came at a time when construction equipment manufacturing was experiencing a downward turn and a lot of other business went under or experienced takeovers.

"SHI saw the long-term benefits of being in the marketplace and invested in the company, and in '89 took full ownership," he said. "Over time, there is probably less and less of what I would consider a direct influence as far as their personnel and staff on site ... Before, all of the presidents have been Japanese, and they've come from various divisions of SHI. We also probably had on site a handful of other Japanese engineering and production and design engineering and accounting people – but not what I could consider the significant influence you may see in other Japanese companies here in Central Kentucky where you have a number of them on site in the various structure of the business."

Instead, he noted, SHI recognized the need to have domestic management in the upper echelon in its North American companies, including Link-Belt.



Link-Belt CEO and President Melvin Porter

Education turns the economic engine

The highly educated workforce of Kentucky makes it easy for foreign investors to turn over the reins, and that SHI and others rely heavily on the local knowledge. Porter cited Central Kentucky's numerous universities, especially University of Kentucky, as being major economic drivers and providing a great pipeline of professional staff, but that like countless of other manufacturers, skilled workers for the shop floor are in demand.

"We're struggling with the same issues of everyone in manufacturing – how to attract and retain younger people who are coming into the workforce for some reason with a negative connotation of working on a shop floor," he said. "Really, the wages are good and it's not sitting behind the desk all day."

Porter noted that when he was in school, schools had shop classes and the emphasis was not on test scores and pushing everyone into college in a one-size-fits-all manner.

"Providing them an alternative career path is good," Porter said. "There's no doubt it's hard work ... and it's also getting more technical in nature. Diagnostics and other things require laptops and programming and trouble shooting. It does require technology skills and a great skills set, but we also still

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Terry Gill, Secretary, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development



Vivek Sarin, Executive Officer, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

Lexington and Central Kentucky is the Horse Capital of the World, drawing visitors, business and residents with its high quality of life and plentiful attractions.

have a lot of welding and assembly work – trade skills that will never go away.”

This type of feedback is precisely what Central Kentucky educators are listening to and acting upon.

The Academies of Lexington were recently created in partnership with Commerce Lexington, the Business and Education Network, and Fayette County Public Schools. The academies are based on a framework developed by Ford Next Generation Learning.

FCPS district spokeswoman Lisa Deffendall explained that the educational model relies heavily on feedback from a steering committee of educators, communities and industry partners.

“Schools have to come along on their own since it’s site-based learning,” she said. “At the same time, the new principal at Bryan Station (High) had already talked about how to develop smaller learning communities and better connect kids to a pathway to their future.”

This year, Bryan Station, Bates Creek High and the new state-of-the-art Frederick Douglass High School embraced the smaller learning communities that begin with students in ninth grade with a freshman academy.

“Every student deserves to be known well, and deserves to have the opportunity to find their path,” Deffendall said, explaining that the schools will be broken up into wings and a team of teachers will work with specific kids. It will allow students in specific academies to be strategically exposed to guest speakers, career fairs, site visits and other workforce development tactics.

“We have student teachers who in their senior year of college do their student teaching and realize they hate working with kids all day,” she said. “So instead, let’s have some kids who want to be teachers doing some tutoring while in high school ... So many kids have no idea what they want to study in college.”

The strategy is working, as evidenced by results at Bryan Station, which brought its academy online last year.

“Bryan Station started a freshmen academy last year and had amazing success,” Deffendall said. “There were almost no office referrals for freshman last year. Normally you have about 150 freshmen fail and have to repeat, and they only had 20 last year.”

Local business is able to get involved in the model and expose students to different career pathways.

David Coyle photo



“Even if my career is stay-at-home mom, there’s still a pathway to get there,” Deffendall said. “Everyone needs a career, but some require college, some trade school, some internships, some tech school. Depending on the pathway, if you hate it you can switch. Schools are not locking kids into it; they’re trying to help kids discover their future. Even if you discover something you don’t want to be, that’s still helpful.”

Graduating students from Central Kentucky high schools – who will either head straight into their careers equipped with the proper tools, or who will head to college and become a part of the region’s highly educated workforce – is crucial for local employers like Link-Belt and other investors who want to move to the area and be sure there are people ready to take the jobs they will create.

Quality of life is a major factor

The rankings say that college graduates are wise to stay in Lexington. In its third annual study, Lexington ranked No. 7 in best U.S. cities for new college graduates by SmartAsset. Lexington moved up 11 spots from last year’s ranking. Reasons cited are low unemployment, affordable rent, strong earning potential and a quality entertainment and dining scene.

Quality of life is what Porter also feels helps draw investment to the Bluegrass.

“It offers a good quality of life, and there are a lot of things to do,” he said. “It checks a lot of the boxes for people. Central Kentucky as a whole is a good place to live and raise children.”

Gray echoed similar thoughts.

“Fifty years ago, people moved to where the jobs were,” he said. “Today, jobs move to where the people are, where the talent is. And talent moves to where there’s a premium attached to quality of life. Throughout our city we work hard

“Fifty years ago, people moved to where the jobs were. Today, jobs move to where the talent is. And talent moves to where there’s a premium attached to quality of life.”

— Jim Gray, Mayor, City of Lexington

to create the environment that attracts companies with good jobs to Lexington, and encourages local companies to grow. That environment includes a focus on quality of life and place, a compelling and lively central business district, excellent parks, bike trails, a lively arts and cultural community and excellent education opportunities.”

He noted that Central Kentucky protects its beautiful farmland, which is its “international signature” and is a welcoming region that embraces diversity.

To successfully continue down the road with foreign investment, constant improvement is always needed, “in workforce, suitable spaces, and available technology,” Quick said. “Our economic development is working on several initiatives to make these areas stronger.”

Improving education also is at the forefront, as is the Comprehensive Land Use plan for 2018.

“Our team is advocating for more jobs land within Fayette County,” Quick said. “Having a properly zoned business park will provide opportunities for new and expanding companies to locate in Lexington and create more jobs for our citizens.”

Community leaders continue to understand patterns of investments, sectors and countries of origin and work to create an FDI roadmap to keep the dollars flowing into Central Kentucky. ●

In May 2017, Valvoline Inc. opened its new 162,400-s.f. company headquarters in Lexington. The \$35 million facility is on Valvoline Way and houses the majority of the company's 700 employees.



Where businesses succeed

Lexington and its surrounding counties are supportive home to many major headquarters

THANKS to its highly educated workforce, progressive business culture and location within a days drive of two-thirds of the nation's population, Lexington and Central Kentucky boast a vigorous and influential business scene that is home to dozens of national and international headquarters.

See our list of the companies that are headquartered in Central Kentucky:

- A&W Restaurants
- Ale-8-One Bottling Co
- Allen Co Inc.
- Alliance Coal LLC
- Alltech Inc.
- Apollo Oil LLC
- Appalachian Regional Healthcare
- ArchVision
- Asphalt Institute

- Associations International
- Big Ass Solutions
- Bluegrass Hospitality Association
- Brock-McVey Co., Inc.
- Central Bank & Trust Co.
- CLARK Material Handling Co.
- Contours Express
- Corrisoft
- Council of State Governments
- Creative Lodging Solutions
- Delta Natural Gas Co.
- Denham-Blythe Co, Inc.
- Dupree Mutual Funds
- East Kentucky Power Cooperative
- Ecampus.com

- Fazoli's Restaurant Group Inc.
- Florida Tile
- Fooji
- Gall's Inc.

Headquartered in Lexington, Lexmark International, Inc. won three Manufacturing Leadership Awards from Frost & Sullivan's Manufacturing Leadership Council in 2017 for outstanding achievement in three categories: Collaborative Innovation Leadership, IoT in Manufacturing Leadership and Supply Chain Leadership.



Link-Belt Cranes is a leader in the design, manufacture and sales of telescopic and lattice boom cranes, with headquarters in Lexington. Its core production base and center for world operations is its 770,000-s.f. manufacturing facility in Lexington. With major expansion plans over the last 10 years along with continuous improvement philosophies, this facility has emerged as the most modern crane facility in North America.

- Gray Construction
- Greer Companies
- Hinkle Contracting Co. LLC
- iHigh.com
- Innovative Mattress Solutions
- Intech Contracting LLC
- International Spa Association
- Investors Heritage Capital Corp.
- Kentucky Bancshares Inc.
- Kentucky First Federal Bancorp
- Kinetic Technologies LLC
- Laura's Lean Beef Co. LLC
- LBX Co. LLC
- Lexmark International
- Link-Belt Construction Equipment Co.
- Lockmaster
- Mason & Hanger Corp.
- Mountain Enterprises Inc.
- Nally & Gibson Georgetown
- National Tour Association
- NetGain Technologies Inc.
- Phi Gamma Delta
- Phoenix Transportation Services
- PlanGraphics Inc.
- Point Six Inc.
- Prestress Service Industries LLC
- R. J. Corman Railroad Group
- Rhino Resource Partners LP
- SIS Holding Co. Inc.
- Tempur Sealy International
- The Forcht Group
- The Race for Education
- Tower Communication Group
- Toyota Tsusho America Inc.
- Valvoline
- Webb Companies



Equine sector headquarters

- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- American Farriers Association
- American Hackney Horse Society
- American Hanoverian Society
- American Saddlebred Horse Association
- American Saddlebred Museum
- Association of Racing Commissioners International
- Brooke USA
- Breeders' Cup LTD
- Carriage Association of America
- Central Kentucky Riding for Hope
- Certified Horsemanship Association
- Equestrian Events Inc.
- Equine Land
- Conservation Resource
- Friesian Horse Association of North America
- High Hope Steeplechase
- Kentucky Equine Education Project
- Kentucky Horse Council, Inc.
- Kentucky Horse Park Foundation
- Kentucky Horse Racing Commission

- Kentucky Mountain Horse Saddle Association
- Kentucky Thoroughbred Association/Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
- KWPB-NA
- Maker's Mark Secretariat Center
- National Horsemen Benevolent and Protective Association
- National Thoroughbred Racing Association
- National Walking Horse Association
- North American Riding Academy
- Paso Fino Horse Association
- Racetrack Chaplaincy of America
- The Jockey Club
- The Jockeys Guild
- The Pyramid Society
- United Professional Horsemen's Association
- United States Dressage Federation
- United States Hunter Jumper Association
- United States Polo Association
- United States Pony Clubs Inc.
- US Equestrian Federation ●

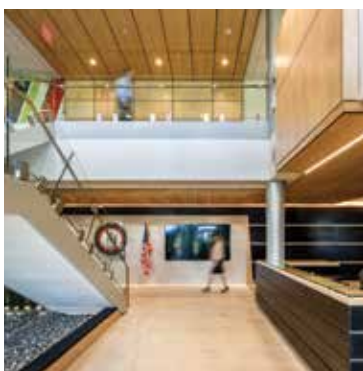


Above: Founded in 1980 by Irish biochemist and entrepreneur Dr. Pearse Lyons, Alltech is a leading global biotechnology company whose mission is to improve the health and performance of people, animals and plants through natural nutrition and scientific innovation. It is headquartered in Nicholasville and has facilities all around Central Kentucky.



Omni Architects photo

Above and right: Headquartered in Lexington, the Council of State Governments (CSG) is one of the nation's leading associations of public officials. CSG has called Kentucky home since 1969, when the organization moved from Chicago to its current location. It recently underwent a significant remodel by Lexington-based Omni Architects. Omni Architects was honored by Commerce Lexington's Salute to Small Business Awards Program as the Legacy Award Winner for 2017.



Omni Architects photo



Above: Luxury mattress producer Tempur-Pedic is headquartered in Lexington. Net sales in the second quarter of 2017 totaled nearly \$660 million.

Bluegrass products globally popular

Central Kentucky plants make iPhone glass, Toyotas, Jif, bourbon, Tiffany rings and more

BY ABBY LAUB

CENTRAL Kentucky may be better known for “making” the world’s top Thoroughbreds and a large percentage of its increasingly popular bourbon, but Lexington and its surrounding counties also boast other major manufacturing facilities, most notably Toyota’s largest plant outside Japan, its 8.1 million s.f. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky.

More than 11 million cars have rolled off its lines. In 2015 TMMK began production of the Lexus ES sedan; and the facility celebrated the 30th anniversary of its groundbreaking in 2016. In 2017, TMMK – already one of the world’s leading automotive plants by efficiency, productivity and technology – underwent a \$1.33 billion upgrade to increase its manufacturing flexibility.

“This investment is absolute proof the Kentucky Toyota plant is not only a leader in manufacturing under the Toyota umbrella, but throughout the world,” said Gov. Matt Bevin. “It directly points to the hard work and dedication of the plant’s employees, as well as Toyota’s commitment to our commonwealth. This project further distinguishes Kentucky as we work toward widespread recognition as an engineering and manufacturing hub of excellence in North America.”

The upgrade project prepared TMMK for Toyota New Global Architecture, or TNGA, a new approach to the design and manufacturing of vehicles. The Georgetown plant became the first North American facility to use TNGA, starting in June 2017 with the 2018 Camry.



With an annual production capacity of 550,000 vehicles and more than 600,000 engines, TMMK team members produce the Camry and Camry Hybrid, Avalon and Avalon Hybrid, Lexus ES 350, and four-cylinder and V6 engines, axles and steering and engine components.

Indirectly, TMMK helps fosters a number of regional businesses, such as nearby Webasto Roof Systems, which has a vehicle sunroof and components production facility in Lexington and 1,100 employees. A recent study completed by the Center for Automotive Research indicates that every Toyota job in Kentucky creates nearly three more across the commonwealth.

A diverse manufacturing landscape

Other than TMMK, Central Kentucky hosts a vibrant and diverse scene of manufacturers. This is facilitated partly due to the fact that more than 40 percent of the population 25 years or older in Lexington has at least a bachelor’s degree – a statistic that ranks the city as the 13th most highly educated in the nation. And 17 percent of the population has an advanced degree.

Lockheed Martin, the Maryland-based global security company, employees about 1,100 workers at its Bluegrass Station facility in eastern Fayette County. Trane Lexington, which manufactures residential, commercial and industrial air heating and cooling parts and systems, employs about 1,000 workers at its facility. Lexington-based Big Ass Solutions, which produces low-energy,

Corning Inc. in Harrodsburg received \$200 million from Apple’s new Advanced Manufacturing Fund as part of the company’s commitment to foster innovation among American manufacturers in May 2017. The investment will support Corning’s R&D, capital equipment needs and state-of-the-art glass processing. Corning’s 65-year-old Harrodsburg facility has been integral to the 10-year collaboration between these two innovative companies and will be the focus of Apple’s investment.

high-volume industrial ceiling fans – employs nearly 700 workers at its plant and research headquarters.

At its 500,000-s.f. Lexington facility, Link-Belt is a world leader in crane manufacturing. Its annual CraneFest event draws attendance from around the world.

On the horizon, a new advanced manufacturing food production company, More Than a Bakery, broke ground in summer 2016 on a \$57 million, 250,000-s.f. facility in Woodford County.

Bourbon is one of the most recognizable products globally made in the Bluegrass, and its popularity only continues to grow, producers are trying to keep up.

In the summer of 2017, the historic Buffalo Trace Distillery announced it is considering a \$42.6 million expansion of its Frankfort facilities and upgrading its bottling operation.

And in Danville, Denyo Manufacturing Corp. announced plans for an \$8.6 million expansion to its facilities and operations. The project will include the construction of an additional building and purchase of new equipment. It is



One of Lexington’s most prominent manufacturing businesses, Big Ass Solutions launched a new business called Haiku Homes introducing cutting edge residential technology.

expected to add 90 new jobs to Danville-Boyle County's tax base. The new 63,000-s.f. facility, which is expected to be operational by October 2018, will be constructed on the current Denyo campus for fabrication of sheet metal components used in generator and air compressor assembly.

"We welcome the news of Denyo's continued growth. It is remarkable that Denyo's only operation in the Western Hemisphere is located and expanding right here in Danville, when it could choose to operate anywhere to serve the North American market. This is a testament not only to our community's strong support of local industry, but also to the quality and productivity of our workforce," said Danville Mayor Mike Perros in a press release.

Here are more manufacturing operations in Central Kentucky:

3M

Post-it products, Scotch Tape
Cynthiana
Ceramic inserts for bullet proof vests
Lexington
Cynthiana – mmm.com

Ale-8-One Bottling Co.

Soft drinks
Winchester – ale-8-one.com

Alltech Inc.

Natural animal feed additives
Nicholasville – alltech.com

Alltech's Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co.

Beer, bourbon and other spirits
kentuckyale.com

Audio Authority

Media switches
audioauthority.com

Barrel House Distillery

Moonshine, rum, vodka
barrelhousedistillery.com



Above: In the heart of Lexington, Kentucky, is Alltech Lexington Brewing & Distilling Co., is on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and is one of only a handful of joint brewing and distilling operations in the world.

Big Ass Solutions

Industrial ceiling fans
bigassfans.com

Buffalo Trace Distillery

Bourbon
Frankfort – buffalotrace.com

Bulleit Distilling Co.

Bourbon
Lawrenceburg – bulleitbourbon.com

Carhartt Inc.

Work clothing
Irvine – carhartt.com

Caterpillar Inc.

Tractor components
Danville – cat.com

Clark Material Handling Co.

Forklifts
clarkmhc.com

Corning Display Technologies

Glass processes & products
technology
Harrodsburg – corning.com

Country Boy Brewing

Craft beer
Lexington & Georgetown –
countryboybrewing.com

Denyo Manufacturing Corp.

High-output diesel generators
Danville – denyo.co.jp/english

DormaKaba

High-security locking solutions
dormakaba.com

Florida Tile Inc.

Porcelain & ceramic tile
Lawrenceburg – floridatile.com

Four Roses Distillery

Bourbon
Lawrenceburg – fourrosesbourbon.com

Georgia-Pacific

Dixie Cup cups & plates
gp.com

Highbridge Spring Water

Bottled water
Wilmore – highbridgesprings.com

Hobart

Commercial dishwashing equipment
Danville – hobartcorp.com

International Paper

Corrugated boxes
internationalpaper.com

Jim Beam Brands

Bourbon
Frankfort – jimbeam.com

J.M. Smucker Co.

Jif peanut butter
jif.com

Johnson Controls Inc.

Automotive foam pads
jci.com

Kinetic Technologies

Animal, human supplements
kinetictech.net

Laura's Lean Beef

Natural beef products
laurasleanbeef.com

Lectrodryer

Liquid dryers
Richmond – lectrodryer.com

Link-Belt Construction Equipment Co.

Telescopic & lattice boom cranes
linkbelt.com



Above: Located in Lexington, Jif Peanut Butter is the largest peanut butter production facility in the world.

Right: Toyota's 2017 Reborn project was a \$1.33 billion overhaul to increase manufacturing flexibility.

Lockheed Martin

Military operations logistics support
lockheedmartin.com

Lore Brewing Co.

Craft beer
Danville – lorebrew.com

Lucas Equine Equipment

Stall components, farm gates
Cynthiana – lucasequine.com

Mingua Beef Jerky

Paris – mingua-beefjerky.com

Nacco Materials

Handling Group
Lift trucks
Berea – nmhg.com

Neogen Corp.

Food & animal safety products
neogen.com

Old Kentucky Candies

oldkycandy.com

Osram Sylvania

Fluorescent/tungsten halogen lamps
Versailles/Winchester – sylvania.com

Parker Seal

Engineered o-rings
parker.com

Pittsburgh Glass Works

Windshields
Berea – pgwglass.com

Q-Lighting Inc.

Commercial lighting solutions
q-lighting.com

Quillin Leather & Tack

Equine halters & equipment
Paris – quillin.com

Rebecca Ruth Candy Factory

Frankfort – rebeccaruth.com

Red Wing Shoe Co.

Work boots
Danville – redwingshoes.com

RockTenn

Paperboard folding boxes
Nicholasville – rocktenn.com

Rocky Top Log Furniture & Railing

Log furniture & railing
Lancaster – rockytoplogfurniture.com

Rogers Windows

Windows
rogerswindows.com

Ruggles Sign Co.

Commercial signage
Versailles – rugglessign.com



Sargent & Greenleaf

Security locks
Nicholasville – sargentandgreenleaf.com

Schneider Electric

Square D electrical safety switches
squared.com

Sharp's Candies

Lexington – sharpscandies.com

Sherwin-Williams

Automotive Finishes Corp.
Automotive coatings/finishes
Richmond – sherwin-automotive.com

Tiffany & Co.

Luxury jewelry
tiffany.com

Tokico Inc.

Brake & suspension systems
Berea – tokicousa.com

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky

Automobiles, engines
Georgetown – toyotageorgetown.com

Trane Commercial Systems

Air systems
trane.com

Trim Masters Inc.

Automotive interior trim
Nicholasville/Harrodsburg

Unicomp

Keyboards
pckeyboard.com

US IOL Inc.

Intraocular lenses
usiol.com

Vermont Castings Group

Fireplaces, wood-burning stoves
Paris – vermontcastings.com

Wausau Paper

Paper towels & tissues
Harrodsburg – wausaupaper.com

Webasto Roof Systems Inc.

Automotive sunroofs
webasto.com/us

Weisenberger Mills

Baking products
Midway – weisenberger.com

West Sixth Brewing Co.

Craft beer
westsixth.com

Wild Turkey Distillery

Bourbon
Lawrenceburg –
wildturkeybourbon.com

Woodford Reserve Distillery

Versailles – woodfordreserve.com ●

Equine tourism off and running

Curated tour organization and Man o' War events put visitors up close where they like it

BY ALLISON ANTRAM

In an August 2017 Chicago Tribune article, writer Patti Nickell recounted her unique and “giddy” experience in Lexington, getting to meet the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years, American Pharoah. She raved, “What better way to quench the public’s thirst for all things equine than to show them the rarefied atmosphere of Thoroughbred raising and racing in the Horse Capital of the World?”

Central Kentucky’s signature equine industry is starting to show off some rippling, horse-related tourism muscles. The list of attractions surrounding the graceful, four-legged steeds continues to grow in Central Kentucky. Each year brings in new wave of industry excitement and experiences to cater to visitors, who equate to more inbound dollars from people who don’t even necessarily want to be involved in breeding, betting or sales.

An important recent development is Horse Country Inc., an organization of farms, clinics and even a feed mill that are open to the public for visits. Horse Country curates unique visitor experiences, such as getting to meet the legendary American Pharoah.

“It’s fun to see how delighted people are when they select a nursery, clinic, feed mill or aftercare location,” Executive Director Anne Hardy said. “We have the ability to tell the story from foaling barn to finish line ... and beyond!”

VisitLex photo



Although still a start-up, Horse Country’s ability to tell visitors a story is expanding its business. Hardy reported ticket sales trending 30 to 40 percent ahead for 2017 versus 2016. It continues adding both new experiences and new members to offer tours.

The success of Horse Country captures the appeal of the equine industry, as it has “hosted guests from 16 countries in addition to the United States, and we’ve seen U.S. guests from all 50 states,” Hardy said. “Most of them stay for two to three days and are also engaging the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and other equine-related attractions like Keeneland and the Kentucky Horse Park.”

VisitLEX reports that “information on visiting a horse farm has been the number one request of those planning their trip to town.”

“Over the last five years, we’ve seen growth across all aspects of the hospitality industry,” said Mary Quinn Ramer, president of VisitLEX.

“We know that today’s travelers crave authenticity, and ... there is no surprise that many visitors want an authentic equine experience while visiting Lexington.”

One of the more prominent equine attractions is the Kentucky Horse Park, which reports nearly 1 million annual visitors and generates more than \$3.2

million from the 200 events it hosts each year. Getting “up close and personal” with the horses makes their experience stand out.

Enduring star appeal

“The Kentucky Horse Park is the world’s only park dedicated to man’s relationship with the horse,” said Executive Director Laura Prewitt. “It is also one of Kentucky’s largest working horse farms, and one of the nation’s leading competition facilities.”

Park visitation generated nearly \$131.4 million for Kentucky’s economy in 2016 alone.

This year, however, has an entirely different appeal, as the Kentucky Horse Park celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Man o’ War.

“Man o’ War is an American icon, born in Kentucky, who would go on to capture the country’s imagination as well as 20 of 21 starts in his racing career. Visitors can celebrate the life of this great racehorse by visiting his beautiful grave site at the Kentucky Horse Park and marveling at the recently-restored statue that marks his burial ground,” said Prewitt. “Many people don’t realize

Jim Shanahan photo



The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of history’s most famous racehorse, the one and only Man o’ War. To celebrate his 100th anniversary, the Kentucky Horse Park created a year-long Man o’ War celebration. Pictured here is an all-new mural by Agustin Zarate. The 30-foot mural is in the heart of downtown Lexington and is one of many public murals around the city.

that he's actually buried here at the Kentucky Horse Park."

The various promotions have boosted attendance by 11 percent from last year.

The 100-year anniversary has piqued visitor interest in other local businesses and farms as well.

Held every May, the Horse Capital Marathon also benefits from the celebration, as the race runs past more than 75 horse farms including Mount Brilliant Farm, which is not only a runner favorite, but was also home to Man o' War.

Horse Capital Marathon President Bob Baney noted that during this unique race, "runners are literally never out of sight of a horse farm for 26.2 miles, so we get lots of comments about the beauty and scenery.

Many major draws to see

Central Kentucky's equine industry, while holding consistent and prominent tourism interest, continues to grow and evolve, offering more unique experiences that delight and inspire visitors.

Formerly the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, the Kentucky Three-Day Event is a nearly 40-year tradition in Central Kentucky. Sport horse enthusiasts come from around the world to celebrate the prestigious event.

Other iconic Central Kentucky equine attractions like the newly remodeled Red Mile and the always popular Keeneland continue to draw more visitors and contribute to overall spending in the Bluegrass.

Keeneland's 2017 Fall Meet, from Oct. 6-28, will present six Grade 1 races among 17 graded stakes worth \$5.325 million and will showcase many of the nation's top contenders aiming for the Breeders' Cup World Championships during its signature Fall Stars Weekend on the first three days of the season.

Keeneland's 2017 Spring Meet celebrated exceptional racing, enhanced food and hospitality offerings, one-of-a-kind special events and robust attendance. Average daily attendance of 16,816 was just above with a 2016 Spring Meet average of 16,387. Average daily on-track wagering of \$1,177,932 was up from \$1,123,431 in 2016.

Fasig-Tipton

Thoroughbred, Standardbred sales
fasigtipton.com

Festival of the Horse

Parades, entertainment
Georgetown
festivalofthehorse.org



Central Kentucky is well known for its horses. Horse racing may dominate much of the conversation, but the competition sport horse industry is alive and well in the state. With an annual membership of more than 44,000, the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA), based at the Kentucky Horse Park, is recognized by the national governing body of equestrian sport, the United States Equestrian Federation, as its national affiliate for the Hunter and Jumper disciplines. As a competition-based sport organization, the USHJA supports a nationwide community of equestrians with a passion for the hunter and jumper disciplines by providing competitive opportunities, educational programs, year-end awards, and grants and scholarships to support members. USHJA offers localized opportunities through its zone structure, which divides the country into 12 geographic areas. USHJA includes both national and international membership, hundreds of whom call Kentucky home, and thousands more make Kentucky a summer destination to enjoy Hunter/Jumper competition series, national championships, and other local and national competitions. Visit ushja.org for more information.



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boonecenter.uky.edu
Contact: holly.clark@uky.edu

EQUINE

The Red Mile in Lexington is the second oldest harness track in the world, simulcasts 364 days a year, hosts numerous horse sales, and features instant racing.

Keeneland

Thoroughbred racing, sales
keeneland.com

Keeneland Library

Collection of racing archives
keeneland.com

Kentucky Three-Day Event

Prestigious equine competition
kentuckythreedayevent.com

Lexington Junior League Charity Horse Show

Historic Saddlebred event
lexjrleague.com

The Red Mile

Harness racing
theredmile.com

Tattersalls

Standardbred sales
tattersallsredmile.com

EDUCATION

Asbury College Equine Studies

Wilmore – asbury.edu

Georgetown College Equine Scholars Program

Georgetown –
georgetowncollege.edu/equinescholars/



Kentucky Equine Management Internship Program

kemi.org

Kentucky Horseshoeing School

Richmond – kentuckyhorseshoeingschool.com

Midway College Equine Studies

midway.edu/majors-programs/undergraduate-
programs/equine-studies/equine-studies/

North American

Racing Academy

Equine workforce education
bluegrass.kctcs.edu/NARA.aspx

The Race for Education

College scholarships
raceforeducation.org/programs/scholarships#

University of Kentucky

Ag Equine Programs

www2.ca.uky.edu/equine/

EQUINE RESCUE & ADOPTION

Kentucky Equine Humane Center

Nicholasville
kyehc.org

Old Friends Farm

Georgetown
oldfriendsequine.com

RESEARCH

Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center

University of Kentucky
www2.ca.uky.edu/gluck/

VETERINARY CLINICS

Hagyard Equine Medical Institute

hagyard.com

Lexington Equine Surgery & Sports Medicine

Park Equine Hospital

parkequinehospital.com

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

roodandriddle.com

Woodford Equine Hospital

Versailles – parkequinehospital.com ●

you belong here.

Recently named as one of the Top 25 Must-See Buildings in Kentucky by the American Institute of Architects, The Club at UK's Spindletop Hall enjoys prestigious status as a social Club in Lexington housed in a gorgeous, classical mansion. The beautiful grounds are extensive with multiple pools and many other recreational spaces. Featuring fine Dining at Roxie's, space for Corporate meetings, the perfect setting for Weddings and other Special Events, and the championship-caliber Barracudas Swim and Dive Team, Spindletop offers something for everyone. Members may take advantage of the Club's membership in the Association of College and University Clubs that allows reciprocal privileges at nearly 80 Clubs around the world. Other perks to enjoy are discounts at the University Club of Kentucky and Daily Dining at her Sister Club on campus, the Hilary J. Boone Center.

*Listed on the National
Register of Historic Places.*



Contact

membership@spindletophall.org

859.255.2777

www.spindletophall.org

Membership subject to approval



Education leans into career-readiness

Central Kentucky schools at all levels focus instruction on preparing next generation's workforce

BY ROBIN ROENKER

CENTRAL Kentucky is home to some of the state's most highly rated public and private K-12 schools, and more than a dozen public and private colleges and universities offering world-class higher education and career training. In classrooms at every level, from pre-K through professional certification and graduate degree programs, educators in Central Kentucky are devoted to preparing the next-generation of career-ready Kentuckians.

In east Lexington, Fayette County Public Schools, the state's second-largest school district, opened its new \$81.4 million Frederick Douglass High School on Winchester Road during the 2017-18 school year and welcomed a total district enrollment of nearly 42,000 students.

And with the introduction in its Bryan Station, Frederick Douglass and Bates Creek high schools of a new career-based educational structure – dubbed Career Academies – FCPS Superintendent Manny Caulk says the district is transforming its approach to education with career-readiness as a driving goal.

The Career Academies allow students to learn in smaller, hands-on, project-based learning communities focused on a particular career interest or path.

"They transforming teaching and learning, transforming how we do school, and transforming our business



After preparing in their classrooms for a day in the simulated town, Biz Town students get to work soon after arriving at Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass. The fifth-graders launch businesses, discuss loans and banking, deposit checks, and work at their assigned jobs. These students are "employees" for the day at Forcht Bank, one of 14 companies that sponsor storefronts for the program.

and civic engagement," Caulk says in a promotional video. "For students, in particular, it would help them connect the rigor in the classroom to make that learning more relevant to the work they're going to be doing."

Echoing this focus on career-training, Bluegrass Community and Technical

College in early 2017 opened a \$24 million Advanced Manufacturing Center campus in Georgetown, designed to prepare students for in-demand careers in Kentucky's booming automotive and manufacturing sectors. The new facility will teach skills that allow some 1,200 students to find jobs with major Kentucky manufacturers like Toyota, 3M and other partnering agencies while they earn their degrees at BCTC.

With the launch also of the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program, announced in early 2017, access to career-training has become even easier – and far less expensive – for many residents across the state. Central Kentucky campuses of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and Sullivan University are all participating in the program, which allows Kentuckians who have a high school degree or a GED but who haven't obtained an associate's degree to receive tuition-free higher ed training for in-demand fields like healthcare, construction, business and advanced manufacturing.

From its inception, career-oriented education has been a hallmark at Sullivan

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

moreheadstate.edu

Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on regional engagement. MSU aspires to be the best public regional university in the South through a commitment to academic excellence, student success, building productive partnerships, improving infrastructure, enhancing resources, and improving enrollment and retention. MSU has 135 undergraduate and 70 graduate degree programs in four colleges: Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Business and Technology; College of Education; and College of Science. Morehead State offers one of only five space science programs in the country.



Dr. Joseph A. Morgan, President, Morehead State University

CRAFT ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit residential high school for academically exceptional Kentucky students. It is housed on the campus of Morehead State University, consistently ranked as one of the safest campuses in the Commonwealth. A college-level curriculum allows students to finish high school while also completing up to two years of university coursework. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level. Study is focused on a core of math and science courses and supplemented by electives in the arts and humanities. Additionally, we offer unique, project-based STEM+X courses that enrich our students' educational experiences and help them develop competencies in entrepreneurship and innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.





Omni Architects photo

Eastern Kentucky University is experiencing an incredible period of growth both in enrollment and physical facilities. Two years ago EKU introduced a plan to launch the most comprehensive campus upgrades at Eastern in more than 50 years, including Brockton Hall. In conjunction with Martin Hall, it is funded by a public-private partnership and will offer 1,096 beds in suite-style rooms. Both halls also will provide classroom space, computer labs and recreation rooms. The new residence halls are set to open in fall 2017.

University, where the school's business and IT certification programs and its hospitality studies program – ranked one of the best in the nation – are among its most popular course options.

"We get quite a few (hiring) inquiries looking for graduates from our hospitality program, not only our culinary arts program but also our hotel and restaurant management programs as well," said David Keene, executive director of Sullivan University's Lexington campus. "Certainly, the chef is going to be the number one type of graduate (employers) are looking for. But they're not just looking for a chef, they're also looking for that trained person who can run the operation as well," Keene said, noting Sullivan's degree programs cater to employers' needs for well-rounded, job-ready applicants.

At Morehead State University, the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics – a dual-credit residential high school launched in 2015 – allows some of Kentucky's brightest students to get an early start on their higher education and career training. Program participants study also at Morehead State while finishing their final two years of high school. The high school diploma they receive is accompanied by at least 60 college credit hours.

It is modeled on the Gatton Academy at Western Kentucky University, which has been named the best high school in the United States multiple times. Craft

SULLIVAN UNIVERSITY

2855 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 276-4357



David Keene,
Executive
Director,
Sullivan
University
(Lexington)

Sullivan University offers numerous certificates, diplomas, and degrees in career-orientated programs, ranging from business, pharmacy, human resources, technology, supply-chain management, culinary and baking and pastry arts, hospitality studies, conflict management, nursing, allied health sciences and legal studies. Sullivan University has campuses in Louisville and Lexington, an extension at Fort Knox, and Centers for Learning in Northern Kentucky and Louisville, as well as an online division.

Academy's first graduates in May 2017 earned over \$5.5 million in college scholarship offers.

"Our graduates were accepted into the crème-de-la-crème of engineering programs across the country, including MIT, Virginia Tech, Cornell, Georgia Tech, UC-Berkeley and more," said Carol Christian, the program's director.

Because hands-on, applied research is central to the Craft Academy

ARE YOU A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WHO'S READY TO **CHANGE THE WORLD?**

The Craft Academy is a dual-credit residential high school at Morehead State University. This unique institution allows you to take courses with a specific focus on developing your knowledge and interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers combined with a range of courses in arts and humanities for a well-balanced education.

At the Craft Academy, what shapes you isn't limited to the classroom or the MSU campus. There are also opportunities for you to participate in study abroad and summer research projects to get the most well-rounded and beneficial experience possible.



**INVENTING.
IMAGINING.
IMPACTING.**

www.moreheadstate.edu/craft-academy

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.



Housed on the campus of Morehead State University, the Craft Academy for Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit residential high school. Morehead students build "CubeSat" satellites that are launched into orbit among other things.

experience – some students were part of an exomedicine experiment on the International Space Station, another studied ancient Mayan ruins as part of an archeological dig in Mexico – Craft students are able to get a jump-start on their chosen career paths, Christian said.

As more students realize the importance of career-driven, higher education training, many Central Kentucky colleges and universities have recorded substantial facilities and enrollment growth. In mid-2017, Centre College in Danville – regularly ranked one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges – announced plans to work with Hastings + Chivetta, a St. Louis-based architectural, planning and engineering firm, to develop a comprehensive campus master plan to outline its planned growth for the decades ahead.

At the same time, Campbellsville University broke ground on a new building at its Conover Education Center in Harrodsburg, which will offer additional classroom space, offices and a multipurpose chapel in order to meet the



demands of the growing enrollment at its Mercer County satellite campus.

And, in 2017, the University of Kentucky completed the final phase of its \$450 million undertaking to construct

more than 14 new residence halls, the largest revitalization of campus housing in the nation. It's a drop in the bucket of the several billion in overall spending that's happening this decade at the school. ●

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Ample bank assets support growth

'Balanced mix of economic drivers' tapping credit lines in a well equipped financial sector

BY ROBERT HADLEY

CENTRAL Kentucky's economy is having another strong year, aided by manufacturing job growth and good performance in healthcare and other sectors, but crucially it is all supported by a well-equipped financial infrastructure that is able to serve businesses of all sizes as they grow more comfortable using their credit again.

That financial services infrastructure is considered key to both last year's robust economic performance and its expected continuation throughout 2017 and beyond.

"We're really fortunate to have a balanced mix of economic drivers for the area," said Todd Ziegler, Central Kentucky market president for Republic Bank & Trust Co. "The manufacturing (sector) is growing, we continue to have good health care activity, the service industries are really good, logistics and automotive impact have been positive lately. The balance of the economy in all of those ways has all had an influence on a nice year, economically."

"I see lines of credit usage moving up," Ziegler said. "For a time, (credit) balances were at the lower end of the average, but today they're a up a little higher – no doubt about that."

Republic Bank is the state's largest state-chartered financial institution, with \$4.8 billion in assets. Outside its Louisville home base, Republic serves



Lexington's downtown serves as a major financial center for most of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

customers in Central Kentucky through five Lexington branches, supplemented by offices in Georgetown, Shelbyville and Frankfort.

The Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions released its 2016 annual report on July 31, 2017, and it paints a picture of a healthy banking sector. The department oversees 133 state-chartered banks, according to the report, with assets ranging from \$23 million to as high as Republic's \$4.8 billion. Together, assets at all Kentucky banks totaled \$50 billion.

Those assets are able to support the lines of credit needed as businesses expand into the future, whether by hiring more workers or upgrading their facilities.

"Central Kentucky businesses have great access to capital because of a strong banking community, including local and regionally based institutions – with a commitment to investing in the region," said Bill Craycraft, Lexington market president for City National Bank.

Circumstances were different as recently as two or three years ago, when the post-recession conservatism gripping many businesses left them reluctant to access their lines of credit. As a result, expansion was either stagnant or financed by revenue as the economy stuttered back to life.

Today, bankers say the rising employment and overall good economic health have caused businesses to loosen their purse strings.

Luther Deaton, chairman, president and CEO of Central Bank, agreed that

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City National Bank is a \$4.1 billion regional bank providing financial services to businesses and consumers through 86 offices across four states, including 12 in Kentucky. In 2017, City bolstered its Kentucky network by adding a new branch in King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland and welcoming Mortgage Specialist Mitch Florence to its Lexington team. One of the top 150 public banks in the United States, City is one of the highest-performing banks in the industry.



Bill Craycraft,
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solid growth, particularly in the housing market.

"A strong economy with a growing population and very low unemployment is leading to growth in residential single family, multifamily and rental unit new construction," Gooch said. "The local economy is driven by small business, auto-industry related job growth and certainly strong health care and the University of Kentucky. We see this in surrounding communities of Richmond and Scott County as well."

Pikeville-based Community Trust Bank operates 70 branches across the state as well as branches in West Virginia and Tennessee. In Central Kentucky, the bank's notable branches include those in Lebanon, Campbellsville, Danville, Versailles and Greensburg. The KDIF Annual Report lists the bank with \$3.9 billion in assets.

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Employment pushing housing up

Kentucky's labor force is hovering at just over 2 million since January (according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics), and its average unemployment rate this year of 5 percent. While the state figure isn't as good as the 4.5 percent national average for the same period, Fayette County's average joblessness rate is under 4 percent.

Manufacturing employment is especially healthy, with year-over-year increases for the

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first five months of 2017 ranging from 1.5 to 3.1 percent, according to the BLS.

For banks, it means more activity and customers, whether for deposit accounts when workers relocate for jobs, loans for new homes, and the above-mentioned lines of credit for businesses supporting the increased retail commerce.

John Gohmann, regional president of PNC Bank, Lexington, predicts the low unemployment rates will spur competition among businesses.

"Our local economy remains on sound footing for 2017," Gohmann said. "A tight labor market and favorable mix

PNC is Kentucky's largest bank, with 21 branches throughout the state. PNC competes to win in the middle market, and is one of the leading credit providers to middle market companies across the country. PNC is in the top five syndicators of middle market loan transactions for each of the last five years.

of jobs will lift wage growth. The jobless rate is projected to average a low 4.2 percent even as the workforce expands. This rate of unemployment will be low enough to generate wage pressures."

Craycraft credits the automotive sector, as well as education and healthcare, as drivers for low unemployment.

"We would be remiss in not mentioning the ongoing economic impact of Toyota, which has been a catalyst for growth throughout Kentucky," he said. "We think this is augmented by the aggressive attitude community leaders demonstrate in soliciting new companies to locate in our region."

The only downside of having an influx of workers and businesses competing with rising wages is the impact on home prices, especially in Fayette County's saturated market.

"Here in Fayette County, there's not a lot of land left to be developed,"



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John Gohmann,
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Ziegler said. "For the middle- and higher-priced homes, inventory has been lighter than demand and it has driven the prices up pretty good in a low-rate environment."

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In fall 2016, WesBanco acquired Your Community Bank and now operates 172 financial centers throughout Southern Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, including three in the Lexington, Kentucky area. During February 2017, WesBanco Bank was again named to Forbes magazine's list of Best Banks in America.

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Today's lawyers are tech savvy

Files, documents and court records may be cyber, but legal smarts is still the killer app

BY ROBERT HADLEY

KIOSKS are replacing fast-food workers, driverless vehicles could trim the transportation workforce, and videoconferencing is threatening to make routine doctor's office visits a thing of the past.

But how has the automation revolution changed the legal profession?

As The Lane Report has written about, computerized video technology is standard operating procedure to record trials and present evidence to juries across Kentucky. Genesis of today's system can be traced to 1982, when Madison Circuit Judge James Chenault was the first to use video recording technology in lieu of traditional court transcriptions.

Today, digital video preserves Kentucky courtroom proceedings and has made the art of electronic presentation more or less essential to most litigators' arsenal of skills.

But other less outwardly visible technical advancements are quietly changing the legal profession.

Charles Byers, chief information officer of the state's Administrative Office of the Courts, said CourtNet 2.0, an online system of court records, is the linchpin in a number of projects planned for the commonwealth.

"The Kentucky Court of Justice continues to tackle multiple technology projects on the path towards moving from paper to electronic court records," he said. "To approach paperless transactions in a traditionally paper-heavy



The Fayette County Circuit Court sits next to the District Court in downtown Lexington's Courthouse Plaza.

world has required statewide network, security and computing upgrades, the implementation of an enterprise content management system for secure storage, the development of a replacement case management system, and wireless access for all courtrooms."

James Frazier III of McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland PLLC said his firm has implemented a number of technical advancements.

"We've upgraded everything about the way we do business internally to take advantage of technology where it can improve our delivery to clients," Frazier said.

MMLK uses digital document management and communication, web-based tracking of deliveries, an IT firm to maintain hardware and software, and online records to monitor billable time.

"While these changes have resulted in savings through efficiencies for clients, we only consider upgrades that enhance our client experience, which cannot be outsourced," he said. "Using the latest technology while keeping the human touch remains top-of-mind."

Rather than researching cases from scratch, the stockpile of briefs, memos and other legal byproducts from cases can be stored in a firm's document database and readily referenced when similar issues are dealt with. The fact that

"While these changes have resulted in savings through efficiencies for clients, we only consider upgrades that enhance our client experience, which cannot be outsourced. Using the latest technology while keeping the human touch remains top-of-mind."

— James Frazier III, McBrayer

documents are on a firm's servers rather than in a paper file makes them much more accessible.

For example, boilerplate documents that can be borrowed from one case to another are often able to drive efficiencies in the courtroom preparation process.

David Brennan, dean of the University of Kentucky College of Law, said tech-savvy lawyers have an advantage.

"The ability of software to read and comprehend legal documents can generate powerful results for attorneys who are willing to learn and capitalize on these advancements," Brennan said.

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David Owen, a member with the Lexington office of law firm Dickinson Wright, said that despite the ease of searching past documents a firm has compiled, the core skills of being a lawyer remain intact.

"The practice of law at any significant level requires the lawyer to evaluate the specific facts and tailor a solution," Owen said. "Accordingly, those databases

would be very likely to be misused by an attorney who did not have experience in the discipline required."

Soft market for jobs at firms

Although newly minted attorneys raised in today's high-tech world may find the use of computers familiar and comfortable, there's one thing they may have trouble finding: a job.

The Central Kentucky Market Review for 2015 documented Central Kentucky's somewhat soft job market for new attorneys, blaming the dearth of jobs on technological shifts and the recession. Today, although things are somewhat improved, jobs for candidates with J.D. in hand are not guaranteed.

"The job market for UK Law's recent graduates has not changed significantly over the last year or two," Brennen said.

Most of UK's law grads, he said, take one of three career tracks: private practice, state and federal clerkships, or government jobs.

At MMLK, Frazier attributes the market changes to consolidation among firms and "lateral hires," or filling open positions with internal candidates.

"Even in entry-level candidates we look for proven, practical legal experience that may include moot court participation or judicial clerkships – anything that provides an indication that these individuals have a working knowledge of the practice of law beyond the standard legal education," Frazier said.

The tight job market may also reflect

McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie & Kirkland PLLC, was founded in 1963 and has provided successful representation to businesses and professionals throughout the nation.

dispute resolution trends. Many clients find it more cost effective to arbitrate cases rather than bring them to trial.

Jason Ams, an attorney with Bingham Greenebaum Doll's Lexington office, said the trend toward arbitration, which became popular a few years ago, appears to be cyclic.

"Both litigation and arbitration have pros and cons, in terms of expenses," Ams said. "It's hard to say whether arbitration is growing or receding (permanently). It's still a strong component of dispute resolution. We certainly see it a lot."

Timothy Dunn, an attorney with BGD's Lexington office, said, "I do think firms tend to be pretty selective and strategic on who they are hiring compared to maybe a decade ago. At the larger firms there's an emphasis on gaining a more practical understanding of the legal practice early on."

Toward that end, Dunn said BGD offers a training course on how to develop a legal practice and establish a referral network to fill its workloads.

"It explains practically, 'how do I get certain things done with the legal world outside doing research and writing memos,'" he said.

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James H. Frazier, III,
Managing
Member,
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The McBrayer law firm is proud of its strong growth with a team of more than 60 of the best and brightest lawyers in the community. The firm's primary focus continues to be giving its clients affordable, quality legal counsel that consistently yields positive returns. Our diverse practice includes healthcare, banking regulations, employment, corporate, litigation, intellectual property, medical malpractice defense, professional liability, real estate, estate planning and government affairs, to name a few. While the McBrayer firm continues to expand to meet all the needs of our client base, this growth is strategic in nature to guarantee that our clients always receive the personal and responsive attention they deserve.

McBrayer is more than a law firm; charitable and community involvement are key pillars in the organization. In addition to offices in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Greenup and Washington, D.C., the firm is recognized for its exceptional lobbying group, MML&K Government Solutions.

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Getting bigger and better

Central Kentucky's health care systems are investing hundreds of millions in outcomes

BY SUSAN GOSSELIN

THANKS in large part to expansions in Central Kentucky, the state's health care industry, like much of the nation, is growing, and it is not showing signs of slowing down anytime soon.

In fact, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly a third of the projected increase in the state's jobs in the 10 years between 2012 and 2022 will be in the healthcare and social assistance sector. Broken down to the state level, BLS projects an increase of 25 percent in Kentucky, an employment spike that translates to 13,300 new jobs for health care support occupations and 25 percent, or just over 19,990 jobs, for health care practitioners and technical professions.

That growth, according to a recent report from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, is driven by demographics and health care access. By 2030, the institute projects that Kentucky will have 1.3 million people age 60 and over, a population increase of more than a quarter over the state's 60-plus population in 2010.

The organization traces increased demand to the improved healthcare access brought about by the Affordable Care Act, which dropped the number of uninsured in Kentucky from around 20 percent in 2013, to 12 percent now. In fact, Kentucky is second best in the nation for reducing its rate of uninsured.

"We have to keep expanding to keep up with the demand," said Dr.



Eric Monday, executive vice president for finance and administration at UK Healthcare. Our patient load has grown by 95 percent in Lexington since 2003. That translates to roughly 38,000 patients discharged and 1.5 million outpatient visits to our UK Health clinics and outpatient diagnostic centers in 2016 alone. We've made a lot of investments to expand our facilities and upgrade our capabilities to address that growth."

It's a Kentucky-centric strategy.

"We are doing it because we believe no citizen should have to go outside the commonwealth for things like cardiac surgeries, transplants or advanced cancer

Opening in 2010 and unlike any women's facility in the state, The Women's Hospital at Saint Joseph East is a 60,000-s.f. state-of-the-art hospital operated by KentuckyOne Health dedicated exclusively to the health and well-being of women in central and eastern Kentucky. KentuckyOne Health is of the largest and most comprehensive health systems in the Commonwealth, has more than 200 locations, including multiple Central Kentucky hospitals, physician groups, clinics and primary care centers.

treatment, among other things." Monday said. "If the demand is growing, we intend to grow with it."

Fighting the health disparities

UK Health's commitment to access can be seen in two major projects in Lexington: RB2, a \$265 million research building slated to open in 2018; and Pavilion A, a \$532 million, 550,000-s.f. addition to the UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital.

RB2, under construction on the east side of the medical campus on Virginia Avenue, is designed to bring together collaborative researchers from multiple discipline to focus on cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and substance abuse – all issues that rank Kentucky consistently in the top 10 states for disease rates. The research center will be multi-disciplinary,



UK HealthCare includes all UK hospitals and clinics. It has a team of more than 9,000 physicians and serves patients all across the state and region.



with researchers from the health care, agricultural outreach, economics and engineering disciplines working together to improve health outcomes.

The \$265 million building is being paid for with state funds and university resources, including private gifts. The facility is a modern take on research, with a healthy food choice restaurant, bicycle racks and interior “neighborhoods” designed to foster discovery and collaboration.

In patient care, the university has been busy since 2010 finishing out Pavilion A of the UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital in Lexington. The 12-story building is designed to “support patient care for the next 100 years,” according to its website. The last of the construction will complete a total of 1.2 million s.f., 512 beds, 27 operating rooms, diagnostic and interventional centers.

“Between 2011 and 2017, UK has spent \$2.2 billion on a transformation of

its campus. Of that, \$543 million of that has been on healthcare,” Monday said.

“Since 2004, we’ve added 6,100 new jobs just in health care. UK serves the place you go for more advanced care, and we are a magnet for the entire region.”

More focus on Central Kentucky

In May of 2017, KentuckyOne Health announced it will sell Jewish Hospital and associated facilities in Louisville to focus its operations on a smaller footprint centered in Central and Eastern Kentucky. The revamped structure of KentuckyOne Health is built around provider in Central Kentucky like Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Joseph East, Saint Joseph Jessamine, Saint Joseph Mount Sterling, Saint Joseph London and Saint Joseph Berea, as well as KentuckyOne Health Partners Clinically Integrated Network and KentuckyOne Health Medical Group provider practices.

The organization is committed to maintaining quality care and is investing in its Central Kentucky properties and has undergone leadership reorganization to help smooth the transitions. In February, KentuckyOne Health Cancer Care at Saint Joseph Hospital invested \$3 million in radiation oncology technology to shorten treatment time, improve patient comfort and reduce side effects.

“We are thrilled to have these new tools at our fingertips,” said KOH radiation oncologist Dr. Jacqueline Matar in a press release. “The improved accuracy means we attack the tumor, minimize side effects and get patients back to their normal routine sooner.”

Baptist Health Lexington, an award-winning 391-bed acute and skilled care facility, is also known for medical research and education. It is also one of the few hospitals in the nation to be designated a Magnet® hospital for nursing excellence three times by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In 2014 and 2015, the hospital was named the best in Kentucky by U.S. News & World Report. All hospital rooms are now private as part of a \$246 million expansion project including the North Tower.

Baptist Health building for tomorrow

Baptist Health, meanwhile, has been pouring investment into its facilities statewide toward making the 5 million patient encounters its system has each year more modern, flexible and innovative.

“We’re always thinking about how we can provide more value at less cost, how we make the health care treatment experience more flexible and effective, and how we can improve health care outcomes in the end,” said Patty Mason, corporate associate vice president of planning and business development at Baptist Health. “It’s about bricks and mortar, but it’s about systems of care, and whether we are treating them in the right setting,” she said.

One of the seven-hospital system’s biggest investments is \$400 million in the EPIC electronic records system, which allows physicians to seamlessly transfer patients records around to any hospital, outpatient center or physician’s practice in its network.

Its other big spend was on a \$246 million expansion of its North Tower at Baptist

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KentuckyOne Health, one of the largest and most comprehensive health systems in the Commonwealth, includes hospitals, physician groups, clinics, primary care centers, specialty institutes and home health agencies in Kentucky and southern Indiana.

KentuckyOne Health is dedicated to bringing wellness, healing and hope to all, including the underserved.



Bruce J. Tassin,
Market
President,
President,
Saint Joseph
Hospital



Clark Regional Medical Center is a 79-bed community hospital in Winchester and is part of Tennessee-based LifePoint Health. In 2015 it underwent a 45,000-s.f. expansion.

Health Lexington, featuring a cancer center, in-patient imaging and a new women's center, completed just last year. Over the last two years, the organization also paid \$18.7 million to expand and renovate its Emergency Rooms at Baptist Health Louisville, \$2.5 million to renovate the George & Beverly Rawlings Women's Center at Baptist Health LaGrange, \$19.1 million to redevelop the Ray & Eckstein Regional Cancer Center at Baptist Health Paducah, and \$20 million to redo the Emergency Rooms, Women's Center and Outpatient Diagnostics Centers at Baptist Hospital Richmond.

"Hospitals are changing," Mason said. "We're doing more outpatient procedures. We're working on ways to decrease readmissions with better outreach and education. And we're expanding the continuum of care to include more home care, skilled nursing and in-patient rehab. It's a whole new world of patient-driven strategies for us, and we're determined to make sure we're ready for what the future brings."

BOURBON COUNTY – PARIS

Bourbon Community Hospital
bourbonhospital.com

BOYLE COUNTY – DANVILLE

Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center
emhealth.org

CLARK COUNTY – WINCHESTER

Clark Regional Medical Center
clarkregional.org

ESTILL COUNTY – IRVINE

Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital
marcumandwallace.org

FAYETTE COUNTY – LEXINGTON

Baptist Health Lexington
baptisthealthkentucky.com/lexington

Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital
cardinalhill.org

Eastern State Hospital
ukhealthcare.uky.edu/ESH

**Lexington VA Medical Center
Cooper Division & Leestown Division**
lexington.va.gov

Saint Joseph East
SaintJosephEastKY.org

Saint Joseph Hospital
SaintJosephHospitalKY.org

Shriners Hospital for Children
shrinershq.org/Hospitals/Lexington

**University of Kentucky
Albert B. Chandler Hospital**
ukhealthcare.uky.edu

UK Good Samaritan Hospital
ukhealthcare.uky.edu/goodsamaritan

**The Women's Hospital
at Saint Joseph East**
TheWomensHospitalKY.org

"Hospitals are changing. We're doing more outpatient procedures. We're working on ways to decrease readmissions with better outreach and education."

— Patty Mason,
Corporate Associate Vice President of Planning
and Business Development, Baptist Health

FRANKLIN COUNTY – FRANKFORT

Frankfort Regional Medical Center
frankfortregional.com

HARRISON COUNTY – CYNTHIANA

Harrison Memorial Hospital
harrisonmemhosp.com

JESSAMINE COUNTY – NICHOLASVILLE

Saint Joseph Jessamine
SaintJosephJessamine.org

LINCOLN COUNTY – STANFORD

Ephraim McDowell Fort Logan Hospital
emhealth.org/index.php/locations/fortlogan

MADISON COUNTY – BERE A

Saint Joseph Berea
SaintJosephBerea.org

MADISON COUNTY – RICHMOND

Baptist Health Richmond
baptisthealthkentucky.com/richmond

MERCER COUNTY – HARRODSBURG

James B. Haggin Memorial Hospital
hagginhosp.org

SCOTT COUNTY – GEORGETOWN

Georgetown Community Hospital
georgetowncommunityhospital.com

WOODFORD COUNTY – VERSAILLES

Bluegrass Community Hospital
bluegrasscommunityhospital.com ●

Clark Regional Medical Center partnered with Wound Care Advantage to open a new outpatient wound care and hyperbaric center in 2017.



Hot markets driving development

Record breaking home sales fueling Central Kentucky's real estate boom in all sectors

BY SUSAN GOSSELIN

KENTUCKY'S real estate and construction industry is hot – so hot, in fact, that demand may have the power to reshape the communities we live in, experts say.

The inventory of homes for sale in spring 2017 was down to a 3.5-month supply, an all-time low, and approximately half the typical six-month supply, according to numbers from the Kentucky Association of Realtors. Total home sales in the state were up 5.4 percent from the same period last year.

Home sales have broken records. For the first time in 2016, more than 50,000 homes were sold, with total sales topping \$9 billion.

Existing homes are moving fast – reports of one-day sales above asking price are plentiful – but beyond that state construction employment in both the residential and commercial sectors is up 3.8 percent year over year, according to the latest statistics from the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics.

And that's driving the cost of housing up. In Lexington alone, the average price of a home rose from \$186,000 to approximately \$206,000, just from 2016 to 2017.

The new seller's market

Interviewees for this article cited a number of factors driving supply down and prices up, including downsizing baby boomers, a flood of Millennials finally entering the housing market, and cheap credit, among other things.

"It's a crazy seller's market right now," said Mike Wheatley, realtor and new Ball Home Sales manager for Milestone Realty.

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Judy Craft,
Principal
Broker



"There are just more people in the market for a house than there ever have been before. You have all this pent-up demand out there and only so much inventory. Realtors are not only selling houses faster, but houses are getting multiple offers, especially houses that are \$250,000 or less."

Ball Homes is one of the builders aggressively erecting new homes as well as luxury apartments, with most of its developments, rental or purchased, having waiting lists. The company currently has developments in Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Georgetown, Nicholasville, Georgetown and Versailles.

"Baby boomers are buying their final home, and they want that one-story living with all the amenities," said Judy Craft, principal broker at Milestone Realty Consultants in Lexington. "And first-time buyers want it all. They aren't settling. Because interest rates are in the 3 percent range, they are skipping the 1,400-s.f. starter homes, and moving straight to the 2,000-s.f. house loaded with upgrades."

New ideas in construction

While buyers on the residential side are going for upgrades like marble counters and hardwood floors, many commercial developments are going for a more old-fashioned approach: the mixed-use development.

An example this is the sprawling Summit at Fritz Farms in Lexington,

completed by Bayer Properties in 2017. It features a re-created open air, downtown-like shopping experience in a suburban setting, with 70 shops, 20 restaurants and class-A office space, as well as adjoining apartments and condos. Birmingham, Ala.-based Bayer saw success with a similar project, The Paddock Shoppes in Louisville 20 years ago, and saw the opportunity bring its special brand of "destination shopping" to Central Kentucky.

"In general, retail space exceeds demand," said David Silverstein, principal at Bayer Properties. "But we did extensive market research, and we found that Kentucky, and Lexington in particular, was largely underserved by specialty retail. Many people in the area had to go into Cincinnati and Louisville to shop. There's a lot of talk that malls are dead, but they aren't. There will always be a need for shopping, but the bar has been raised. In the future, I believe you will see a lot more developments like ours that are true destinations for the shopper – places where they can walk from their apartments, to their office, and out to eat, and shopping, all in one place."

Late in 2017 Bayer tops off a final piece of Fritz Farms, "The Barn," a pavilion that will house dozens of small food stands and

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Mike Dunn,
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operators. "It's a chance to let the smaller business person get into prime retail space affordably. It's a new way of thinking about this kind of restaurant space. And we think diners will love the choice and the excitement the Barn will offer."

Not a lot of lots available

While most in the construction industry are cheered by the relative strength of the market, they are quick to note structural barriers that are continuing challenges. Ongoing urbanization means that larger cities, like Louisville and Lexington, are growing faster than the local market can provide housing.

For instance, a recent housing survey completed by Urban Partners for several Fayette County area local government agencies concludes there would be a



Above: Last summer More Than A Bakery LLC broke ground on its new facility in Versailles. The investment of more than \$57 million is set to be complete in 2017 and will create more than 300 jobs.

Right: Developer Dudley Webb anticipates that the long-awaited Centre Point project in downtown Lexington should be complete by spring 2018. The project is an entire city block in the heart of downtown and includes shopping, hotels, office space, residences and more. The \$40 million parking garage construction is well underway.



shortage of more than 4,000 affordable rental units through at least 2025. It is a consequence of the city's rapid population growth – more than 20 percent over the past 15 years, the report said.

Even more distressing for the area is scarcity of developable land, experts say.

"Fifteen years ago, new homes used to be about 30 percent of construction starts, but now it's 8 percent" Wheatley said. "That's because in the Fayette County market there's only 90 acres still available for residential home construction. So the prices of lots go way up to \$60,000 or \$70,000 (apiece). And that ends up making it pretty much impossible for first-time buyers to get in the market with a new house. It chokes off the supply of new houses all together."

The Marikka's Bier Stube restaurant rebuilding project on Southland Drive, a midcentury commercial area experiencing a wave of revitalization, is an example of the creative business approaches builders are using in



Left: Country Boy Brewing recently completed construction on a brewery and taproom in Georgetown's Lanes Run Business Park. It enables the company to increase its craft beer production by 25 percent each year.

Below: The Summit at Fritz Farm is a major retail, dining and residential development that just opened in the south end of Lexington. Pictured is The Barn; Kentucky's first and finest artisan food hall – bringing the best of Lexington's culinary scene to the heart of The Summit at Fritz Farm. The Summit has a total of 450,000-s.f. of retail and restaurants in addition to 306 multi-family residential units.



After fire ruined Lexington's historic Blue Grass Stockyards in January 2016, the company quickly began a new 232,000-s.f. \$12 million facility that opened in summer 2017.

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all categories. Long Construction Management, whose owner Linden Long grew up blocks away, got involved.

"Quite honestly, a 'plan spec' restaurant project is not a project we would typically go after," said Long, who got his start with industrial specialist Gray Construction. "Marikka's was working with a design firm, Burnworth Design, that specializes and has



Above: Lexington-based Long Construction Management was awarded the design and construction of a \$2.3 million, 25,000-s.f. new restaurant & bar for Marikka's on Southland Drive. The German beer garden's facility includes a restaurant, pub, and volleyball courts.

Right: Lexington's former courthouse, which was built in 1898, is in the midst of a \$30 million renovation into a mixed-used space including dining, office space, Lexington visitor center, events space and a bourbon bar. The top floor of the building will be leased as event space, with the ability to accommodate up to 300 people.



a great eye for creating inviting restaurant spaces. What we were able to do was to look at the plans and see ways that we could maintain the design integrity, but change the structure and other elements to add efficiencies and make the project more cost effective and easier to construct."

Long Construction approached the owners Doug Tackett and Doug Tackett

Jr. and architect with its ideas "and they were all in," Long said. "The new Marikka's will be a beautiful addition to the upgrades already done or being done on Southland Drive." ●

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Better highways, more flights

Central Kentucky can provide one-day delivery to two-thirds of the U.S. market

BY ABBY LAUB

By car, commercial truck, bus, railcar, aircraft, bicycle or on foot, Central Kentucky is an easily navigable location with the logistical advantage of being located within a day's drive or two-hour flight from two-thirds of the nation's population and markets.

Lexington is the nexus of major north-south corridor Interstate 75 and east-west corridor Interstate 64, and is within an hour of both DHL Express' global hub in Northern Kentucky and UPS Worldport in Louisville. Lexington is home to 70-year-old Blue Grass Airport, arguably one of the easiest-to-access in the nation with short wait times and easy flights with more added all the time; the airport is uniquely equipped to handle specialized equine travel.

A record number of passengers traveled through Blue Grass Airport in 2016. Those 1,309,765 passengers were a 5.5 percent increase over 2015, the third consecutive year the airport has set a record traveler number. There were a record 637,000 departures.

"We are fortunate to have such strong relationships with Allegiant, American, Delta and United (airlines) – all of whom have invested in our community and continue to support our local business and leisure travelers — as well as a business community that makes a commitment to fly from Blue Grass Airport," said Eric Frankl, its executive director.

In October 2016, Frankl was named was Kentucky Commercial Service

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Lextran, the public transportation provider in Lexington, connects people with jobs, educational opportunities and enhances quality of life by providing nearly 5 million trips each year. Organized in 1973 in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes, Lextran currently employs nearly 200 bus operators, mechanics, service and utility workers, customer service providers and administrative staff.

Lextran has a new environmentally friendly headquarters on Loudon Avenue. It introduced Compressed Natural Gas vehicles into its fleet. Lextran has taken delivery of five zero-emission fully electric battery powered vehicles.



Carrie Butler,
General
Manager,
Lextran



Airport Manager of the Year at the 40th annual Kentucky Aviation Association Conference in Owensboro.

To accommodate its growth, Blue Grass Airport will spend nearly \$35 million the next two to three years to complete upgrades, including additional hangars for private planes, parking and a new baggage system. Lexington-based Long Construction will complete the design-build hangar project.

The airport recently welcomed local retailer Cork & Barrel as its latest partner, a bourbon and fine wine retailer located post-security in the airport gate area. With more than 100 bourbons, passengers are traveling with the finest spirits from Kentucky's iconic distilleries.

In September 2017, Central Kentucky benefited from formation of the Kentucky Infrastructure Coalition in Frankfort to advocate for long-term, sustainable transportation investment. The coalition includes more than 30 organizations that represent manufacturers, farmers, economic development officials, engineers, local leaders and more than 40,000 transportation workers who understand that safe, reliable, efficient transportation is essential to Kentucky's economy.

Major road construction is already happening in Central Kentucky, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Lexington recently completed a \$34.6 million rehabbing and widening to six

Blue Grass Airport celebrated its 70th birthday and saw a record number of passengers in 2016.

lanes of an important piece of western New Circle Road (Ky. 4) from Versailles Road to Leestown Road. Versailles Road conveys traffic to Blue Grass Airport, Keeneland Racecourse and connects I-64 and I-75 to limited-access Blue Grass Parkway; its New Circle Road interchange was reconstructed for about \$13 million.

Further northwest on New Circle Road, the Newtown Pike interchange is being reconstructed, and the Newtown Pike extension past the west end of downtown to South Broadway opened in September. This long anticipated bypass of the central business district greatly eases travel from the Kentucky Horse Park and I-64/I-75 in the north to the University of Kentucky just south of downtown areas.

Georgetown Road also is being widened and enhanced, accommodating continuing rapid growth in Scott County, the home of Toyota's 8.1 million-s.f. vehicle manufacturing complex.

On the south side of Lexington, work just wrapped up on the years-long Clays Mill Road widening project. A heavily used 3.7-mile urban minor arterial, Clays Mill Road has added a middle turn lane, and improved pedestrian and bicycling features to relieve congestion without disrupting neighborhood character.

Eight miles south of Lexington, plans are advancing for the East Nicholasville Bypass in Jessamine County, which will be 7.4 miles and bypass north-south U.S. 27 to divert traffic away from downtown Nicholasville and connect the city with other nearby communities and industries.

Public transportation in Lexington is facilitated by Lextran, which operates a fleet of more than 70 buses, some of which are fully electric, and other vehicles that service about 900 stops in Fayette County.

In September 2017, Lextran received a \$1 million grant through the Federal Transit Authority's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program. The funds will be used to purchase battery-powered buses and on-route charging stations in coordination with the University of Kentucky's 'Blue Goes Green' program which seeks a zero-emissions campus for transportation.

"The awarding of this federal grant will help Lextran and the University of Kentucky to reduce emissions in and around campus which will benefit the community as a whole," Congressman Andy Barr said in a press release. "I am proud that my office was able to assist in this effort and I appreciate all of the hard work by Lextran and the University of

Public transportation in Lexington dates back to the late 19th Century. Beginning with city omnibuses in 1874 and the motor bus by 1938. Today, Lextran (The Transit Authority of Lexington) operates 65 buses and contracts a door-to door Paratransit service through Red Cross WHEELS. New zero-emission electric powered vehicles are now in service.

Kentucky to secure these funds that will be used to better our community."

The region also is committed to making itself more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. The former two-lane US 68 corridor in Jessamine County has turned into an almost exclusively bicycle path. On the north end of Fayette County, the popular Legacy Trail connects pedestrians from downtown Lexington via 12 miles of neighborhood greenspace and parks all the way to the Kentucky Horse Park.

AIRPORTS

Blue Grass Airport
bluegrassairport.com

Capital City Airport
Frankfort – cca.ky.gov

Cynthiana-Harrison County Airport
ky018.com

Georgetown-Scott County Regional Airport
georgetown – scottcountyaairport.com

Madison Airport
Richmond – madisonairportky.com



Stanton Airport

Stanton – airnav.com/airport/I50/

Stuart Powell Field

Danville – airnav.com/airport/KDVK

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tacair.com/jet-a-at-tac-air-lex

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Low cost, high service

Innovative power companies are the hallmark of Central Kentucky

BY ABBY LAUB

CENTRAL Kentucky's traditionally low energy costs create yet another appealing factor for both commercial and residential development and business.

According to a cost report released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in 2015, Kentucky's average retail price was listed at 7.26 cents per kilowatt-hour – lowest in the eastern United States and fifth lowest in the country.

The state's coal production is a big reason costs are so low. Only West Virginia and Wyoming topped Kentucky's coal output of 61.4 million tons in 2015. Despite still being third in production, Kentucky's coal numbers are down. Other natural resources are filling in U.S. energy needs with falling coal production influenced primarily by competition from newly cheap and plentiful natural gas as well as available inventory and environmental regulations.

Last June, LG&E and KU unveiled its 10-megawatt solar power generation array at its E.W. Brown Generating Station in Burgin in Mercer County. It is the state's first solar power facility, and KU officials estimate the 44,000 solar panels can produce 19,000 megawatt-hours of energy annually, enough to power 1,500 homes.

LG&E AND KU

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Named seven times as one of the top 10 utilities in the country for economic development by international economic development magazine, Site Selection, Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, continue to offer ideal conditions for doing business, even as the energy industry evolves. LG&E and KU maintain rates 15-25 percent below the national average and a diverse mix of generation sources of coal, natural gas, hydroelectric and solar.

LG&E and KU work with state and local economic development personnel, attracting new and expanding businesses to Kentucky. The utilities' economic development rate, coupled with sustainable offerings, incentivize business growth and development.



Victor A. Staffieri,
Chairman/CEO,
LG&E and KU



Another innovative undertaking LG&E and KU initiated recently is the state's first natural gas combined cycle generating unit, Cane Run 7, located on the Ohio River southwest of Louisville. The plant generates electricity through two gas turbines and additionally uses the exhaust heat from those units to generate more electricity via a steam turbine. The single NGCC unit replaced the bulk of 800 megawatts of coal-fired generation retired to comply with environmental mandates.

Last summer Kentucky Utilities earned top honors in customer satisfaction from J.D. Power market researching. The recognition came via the 2016 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Survey, which collected responses from interviews conducted in four phases – from July 2015 through May 2016 – with residential customers of 137 large and mid-size electric utility brands across the United States. The sampling represents 101,138 households throughout the nation.

Other utilities in Central Kentucky include Winchester-based East Kentucky Power Cooperative, a 16 owner-member cooperative. It was founded in 1941

As many retirements at the company and in the industry loom, LG&E and KU are taking a proactive approach to expanding the talent pool for positions that will be available soon. The utility company is part of the Junior Achievement (JA) of the Bluegrass BizTown program in partnership with Fayette County Public Schools.

and generates electricity for 530,000 commercial and residential customers in 87 counties. Columbia Gas services 135,000 customers in 30 counties.

Kentucky American Water, a subsidiary of investor-owned American Water, provides water to 128,000 customers in 11 counties, including Fayette. The company also is involved in bettering the communities it's involved in; in May 2017 it announced four Kentucky projects earned financial support from the 2017 American Water Environmental Grant Program. Projects coordinated by the City of Winchester, Friends of Parks in Fayette County, the Licking River Watershed Watch, and The Nature Conservancy received a share of grant funds totaling \$13,700. Since the grant program's inception in 2006, Kentucky American Water has awarded



more than \$187,000 in grant funds to area organizations making a difference to protect and preserve Kentucky watersheds and highlight the importance of water.

Lexington and Kentucky American Water currently are undergoing another round of projects to replace aged water mains. The upgrades will enhance hydraulic capacity in mains and eliminate discolored water caused by natural buildup in pipes that occurs over time.

The company also is investing \$1.5 million in a project designed to enhance water pressure and service for nearly 8,000 customers in southeastern Fayette County. Customers in the affected area will see, on average, an increase in their water pressure of 30 pounds per square inch (psi) over the next several months. In some cases that translates to enabling tasks such as filling bathtubs and the washing machine to go quicker. ●

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development recently approved a grant to East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) to help fund the construction of a solar farm in Clark County. EKPC is constructing a 60-acre solar farm on its headquarters property adjacent to Interstate 64 between Lexington and Winchester. When completed in late 2017, the \$18 million facility will feature 32,300 solar panels. EKPC is a not-for-profit cooperative providing wholesale electricity to 16 owner-member distribution cooperatives that serve 530,000 Kentucky homes, farms, businesses and industries in 87 counties.

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Staying one step ahead

Central Kentucky talent proactively manages operations, finance, tech and cyber security

BY ABBY LAUB

MODERN business needs rapidly change and evolve. Best practices in cyber security, for example, look completely different than they did just five years ago, and Central Kentucky's business service providers are equipped to handle the load.

"Clearly the biggest threat facing the businesses we serve is the risk associated with security incidents and breaches," said Integrity IT President Phil Miller. "The sheer volume of threats is increasing at such an exponential rate that it demands our attention. The reason these risks should be taken so seriously is the potential financial impact on the affected business."

Cyber security threats change quickly, Miller said, but can be managed by firms like Integrity IT and others in Central Kentucky. In fact, the sheer amount of technology services in the region is formidable.

"I think Central Kentucky has above average IT resources for addressing cybersecurity risk," he said. "By above average, I refer to both quantity and quality of resources. Each year I attend a national IT service providers conference called IT Nation, and this past year one of the big themes was the growing need for managed IT security services. The keynote speaker asked for a show of hands – from among the thousands of companies represented – of companies



that had established security consulting and managed IT security services. I was quite shocked to see that my hand was among a relatively small number of hands that went up.

"Central Kentucky has above average resources for addressing cybersecurity risk," he said. "A few other IT companies in our area have also gotten out ahead of the curve in offering these services."

Other notable Central Kentucky technology firms include SIS, Netgain, C-Forward, Coastal Cloud and Tactical IT Group.

Even industries that don't levy fines and penalties for security breaches need to consider businesses reputation, direct revenue production loss, data recovery costs, loss of customer data, and lawsuits.

Making companies run smoothly

Security is crucial, but there are other business services performed by Integrity IT and a local multitude of others like it that keep operations running smoothly in Central Kentucky. Ongoing hospital growth makes the healthcare market in Central Kentucky a key sector for IT firms.

"Our primary goal is to keep our customers up and running, anticipating

Integrity IT has specialties that include helping businesses run their operations smoothly through technology, creating software and installing cyber security.

"I think Central Kentucky has above average IT resources for addressing cybersecurity risk."

— Phil Miller, Integrity IT President

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Kentucky's healthcare sector is booming is due to its optimal location and workforce ranked among the best educated in the nation. Those factors also create a ripe high tech and start-up environment.

Every year Lexington sees growth in its startup and technology communities, said Bob Quick, president and CEO of Commerce Lexington Inc., which supports economic development as well as chamber of commerce functions.

"We attribute this to our strong entrepreneurial ecosystem and the

technological advances that spin out of University of Kentucky," he said. "Lexington is consistently ranked as a great place for startups, as well as being recognized as the 14th ranked city with the fastest growing rate of startups according to the U.S. Census."

UK faculty conduct hundreds of millions of dollars in research annually in addition to educating 30,000 students.

Business helping business

Lexington-based MakeTime, which connects CNC machine tooling shops and customers with small-batch and specialty jobs, is a great example of a successful new startup that is busy helping other businesses. In September 2017,

Since its founding in 1975, Omni Architects has been designing buildings that respond to clients' needs and aspirations while enhancing the lives of the people who use them. Omni was named the Commerce Lexington Small Business of the Year for 2017. One of its current projects is the new Georgetown campus of the Bluegrass Community and Technical College, which provides advanced training in Industrial and Mechanical Technical Programs along with transferable general education classes. Central Kentucky is full of architectural and engineering firms to serve businesses in the region.

MakeTime announced the launch of the MakeTime Shop Advantage Program.

The program is the first of its kind and is designed to make technology, sophisticated

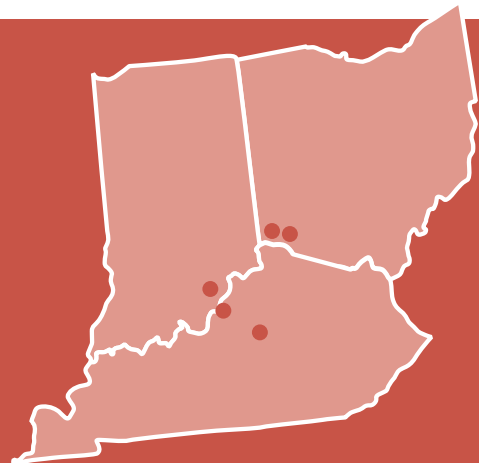


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hardware and business services more accessible to the U.S. manufacturing base, which contributes over \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy annually. Inaugural partners include global 3D design software giant Autodesk; the world's leading supplier of cutting tools and tooling solutions, Sandvik Coromant; multinational computer technology company Dell; supply-chain cost-reduction expert Transportation Impact; and manufacturing financing partner Manufacturers Capital, a division of Commercial Credit Group Inc.

Todd Pritts, chief product officer at MakeTime, said in a press release

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Phillip Miller,
President
Integrity IT



that manufacturers have historically experienced barriers to adopting new technologies and processes. MakeTime's program will help machine shops bridge the technology gap faster and facilitate a more productive American manufacturing workforce.

"MakeTime's mission has always been to refuel U.S. manufacturing," he said. "We started by building technology that makes it easier for manufacturers to get parts made with American suppliers, and now we can go one step further and provide American suppliers access to the tools they need to get ahead, and stay ahead, of the technology curve in the global manufacturing climate."

The Startup Advantage events at Base110 provide entrepreneurs with educational opportunities every month.

Oftentimes the key to getting startups off the ground is simply having a space to work, and leaders and fellow entrepreneurs in Central Kentucky are making this happen.

One of several stepping into that need is Base110, a modern co-working space in downtown Lexington, a spinoff of the popular tech-friendly Base163. Co-founder Tim Guthrie also owns OnTrack Management Group, which formerly operated at the UK Coldstream research campus. Guthrie himself needed a new

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office that was small and noticed move-in-ready space was difficult to find. So he helped make one happen.

"Our idea is to make this place and curate it around the creative and entrepreneurship community here in Lexington," Guthrie said. "Right now, folks are scattered and in 'silos.' If they're not in a group, they're in their house or employed in another part of the country but want to be here. We want to bring it all together and let Base110 be a hub of creative activity, whether it's arts or software development or business entrepreneurship."

Each shared office space in Lexington – Awesome Inc. and The Plantory are others – has a unique feel and set of offerings for new or small businesses, he said. Some are incubators, some are simply a community-oriented space in which to do business.

"We're not an accelerator like some of the other places are, but we do have opportunities for education, and our space is formal," Guthrie said. Prices and spaces to suit anyone in the "gig economy" range from \$49 per month all the way up to \$950 a month.

Part of the draw for opening businesses in Lexington is because people



As business moves services to cloud-based technology, several Central Kentucky firms are available to help customers make decisions about which parts of the businesses to move to the cloud or keep on premise.

To cloud or not to cloud?

Determining the extent of business IT services can be a challenging prospect for managers. Integrity IT President Phil Miller encourages companies not to necessarily give in to the marketing hype of cloud services. Cloud-based is simply a term that refers to applications, services or resources made available on demand via the Internet from a cloud computing provider's servers rather than being based on a computer in your offices. Think: easy access, anywhere.

There are many services like this to consider when hiring a technology firm, but the key is to boil down what you're trying to accomplish and the benefits you're trying to gain measured against the cost to accomplish those feats, Miller said.

"There's been an enormous amount of marketing around the cloud, and you've got these billion-dollar companies telling everyone that if you're not in the cloud you're doing something wrong," he said. "What most people don't realize, in almost every situation, our customers are already utilizing some type of cloud service whether it's hosted email or spam filtering. The biggest question is whether to take everything to the cloud; that's a very unique and specific question to every customer. I don't have a standard answer to that question for everyone. We ask them to help us understand how they operate."

He added that "going to the cloud" is not always cheaper and encouraged business owners to consider all of the factors of taking their business to the cloud, staying on premise, or a hybrid of both.



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simply want to live in Central Kentucky. A number work independently for companies based in other cities.

“A lot of people who have some experience with Lexington, they want to come back,” Guthrie said. “They come back and they’re bringing a company, or need to take care of parents or raise

a family here. This is an opportunity for them to plug in to this community that we’re working in and start something.

“There’s a lot more openness to nontraditional work. Whether you’re an entrepreneur or someone who’s looking to be in a place as opposed to having a job and going somewhere for a job. How do you

Coldstream Research Campus, in north Lexington, is home to 66 research and development companies, many with ties to University of Kentucky.

create a life that you want in a place you want to be? It’s a place and it’s not the job – it’s the place and the jobs come.”

Base110 and other shared-resource spaces are easy, low-barrier places to start a business, according to Guthrie.

And women helping women

Nancy Aichholz, CEO and president of Covington-based Aviatra Accelerators, also is interested in removing barriers for new businesses, specifically women whom she said traditionally are underserved in the startup game. Headquartered in Covington, Ky., Aviatra enables women to start and sustain businesses by giving them the resources they need to be successful. Aviatra aims to expand into the Lexington market in 2018.

Since 2010, Aviatra (formerly Bad Girl Ventures) has made a major dent, dishing out almost a million dollars in low interest loans, held dozens of educational seminars, served more than 1,600 women – about 1,000 of whom have gone into business on their own. The top five women between Aviatra’s Cleveland and Cincinnati markets had annual sales revenues in 2016 totaling \$68 million.

“We know we have a lot to offer the Lexington start-up and economic development ecosystem,” Aichholz noted. “Lexington is exciting because as a community it was built by entrepreneurs, start-up businesses that are now huge industries – bourbon, horses, tobacco farming.”

Another Northern Kentucky based firm expanding in Lexington is Covington-based C-Forward. C-Forward is dedicated to understanding an organization’s technology needs and goals, and delivering technology peace of mind through a personal and proactive approach.

In the research space, businesses have traditionally found great services at UK’s Coldstream Research Campus.



The Blue Grass Stockyards serves the agricultural sector in Kentucky and beyond.

Serving the farms of the Bluegrass

A 70-year Fayette County tradition, interrupted by a devastating fire in January 2016, is now back in business as of fall 2017 at the new Blue Grass Stockyards. It’s a \$600-million-a-year business with deep agricultural roots in the community.

“Blue Grass Stockyards is to cattle what Keeneland is to Thoroughbreds,” said Lexington Mayor Jim Gray at the September ribbon cutting. “It is the biggest cattle market group east of the Mississippi River. Because of its sales volume, it effectively sets the cattle price structure for the entire Eastern United States.”

In 2015, approximately 106,000 animals were sold at the Lexington market, plus another 50,000 sold on-line out of Lexington. Farmers were paid approximately \$200 million for that livestock. Altogether, at its seven locations in Kentucky and through on-line sales, the market sells about \$600 million in cattle each year.

The new stockyards is a one-stop shop for customers. Its 232,000-s.f. facility, located off I-75 near the Kentucky Horse Park, includes 40,000 s.f. of office and retail space. There’s a Regional Marketplace featuring more than 20 businesses, including Bromagen Commodities, a broker; the Chop Shop, a local meat market; a restaurant; clothing store; and all kinds of services cattle farmers need. There’s even an exhibit space.

This facility is crucial to farmers, whose services and products create a lot of economic activity in the region and beyond. A 2017 study that updates the findings of the 2012 landmark study “The Influence of the Agricultural Cluster on the Fayette County Economy” shows the agriculture cluster in Fayette County accounts for \$2.3 billion in annual economic activity. One in 12 jobs is directly or indirectly attributable to the agriculture cluster, resulting in \$8.5 million to the local tax base. The ag cluster generates an additional \$1.3 billion in income, profits and dividends. Services like Blue Grass Stockyards are crucial in keeping this engine turning.



“Coldstream is the location of choice for locally grown research and development companies and contributes to the city of Lexington’s vibrant entrepreneurial community, educated workforce, low cost of living and high quality of life.”

— George Ward, Coldstream
Research Campus Executive Director

Executive Director George Ward noted that Coldstream’s campus is quite literally the gateway to Lexington’s high-tech, higher education corridor with connections to downtown Lexington and UK. The once-prominent horse farm at the intersection of 1-64 and 1-75 has transformed into a 735-acre hub of innovation and creativity.

“Coldstream is the location of choice for locally grown research and development companies and contributes to the city of Lexington’s vibrant entrepreneurial community, educated workforce, low cost of living, and high quality of life,” Ward said. “Coldstream companies include those working in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, equine health and a variety of other business sectors. Many have ties to the University of Kentucky, including graduates of ASTeCC, UK’s high-tech business incubator. Others have licensed UK intellectual property or are clients of the (university’s) Von Allmen Center for Entrepreneurship.”

Coldstream’s mission is “Making lives better by creating new products, companies and high-tech jobs” and regardless of the company’s size, the No. 1 reason a company chooses to locate on a research campus is to have access to a talented workforce – namely university students and graduates. A second reason is to connect to a specific world-class researcher for sponsored research projects, Ward noted.

The largest companies with a presence at Coldstream include international firms like Komatsu, a Japanese heavy equipment manufacturer that recently purchased Joy Global; Piramal Enterprises, an Indian pharmaceutical company that purchased Coldstream Laboratories; and Open Text, a Canadian software and cloud computing company that purchased HP Extream, a business support software provider. These companies are continually growing and expanding operations.

“Summit Bioscience, a nasal spray pharmaceutical manufacturer, has grown from less than 40 employees to over 60 in the last two years and anticipates growth to 100 people by early 2018,” Ward said.

A reliable source of support

One of the largest providers of business assistance to existing or new Central Kentucky companies is Commerce Lexington Inc., which emerged in 2004 from a three-program merger between the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Lexington United and the Lexington Partnership for Workforce

Lexington-based MakeTime is a successful technology and software company that specializes in project manufacturing. In September 2017 MakeTime launched the MakeTime Shop Advantage Program, designed to make technology, sophisticated hardware and business services more accessible to the U.S. manufacturing base, which contributes over \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy annually.

Development. One of CLX’s most beneficial services might be its ability to connect expansion or location prospects with various local, regional and state incentive programs, such as the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority. And CLX is in the same building as The Bluegrass Alliance and the Lexington office of the Kentucky Innovation Network.

Other specialty networking groups include Bluegrass Biotech and the gaming-industry-focused RunJumpDev.

Another resource is Lexington-based Community Ventures, which was founded in 1993 and provides small and micro business support to a variety of companies, partly through mentoring and counseling. It also helps individuals own homes and live in vibrant communities. ●

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The Hilary J. Boone Center at the University of Kentucky and The Club at UK’s Spindletop Hall serve the University, Lexington, and surrounding communities.

The Boone Center is perfectly situated between the Singletary Center for the Arts, and the new Academic Science Building on Rose Street. With beautiful décor, as well as ample outdoor space that includes a courtyard AND gated terrace, the club hosts corporate functions, weddings, and more. Spindletop Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, it provides the fairytale setting for weddings in the classical mansion, as well as an ideal space for business events complete with complimentary high-speed internet and all other technological needs for meetings. With something for everyone, recreational opportunities abound in a perfectly serene environment for members, including swimming, tennis, basketball, Pickleball, croquet, and more, with upscale casual dining poolside and in Roxie’s, the member dining room.

Travelers spent \$2 billion in Fayette Co.

A driver of business, the thriving attractions of Central Kentucky do not disappoint

BY KATHIE STAMPS

THE Tourism Arts and Heritage Cabinet released survey statistics in May 2017 showing yet another uptick in tourism for Fayette County for 2016, with just over \$2 billion in total travel spending. The total for the 15-county Central Kentucky region was \$3.1 billion, with tourism employing 27,364 people (15,339 of those in Fayette County).

“As far as general business, we are an economic driver,” said Patricia Knight, vice president of finance and operations for VisitLEX. “People come in and leave their money here. Because of the hospitality industry and revenues generated, each resident’s tax liability is reduced. When someone tells you ‘You will pay less in taxes every year because of tourism in your community,’ that’s a good thing.”

Knight also is current president of the Bluegrass Hospitality Association. As a founding member of BHA, VisitLEX has a standing position on the board. BHA members supported a room tax increase from 6 percent to 8.5 percent that took effect Sept. 1, 2016, with revenue from the increase earmarked to pay for expansion of the Lexington Convention Center.

The \$250 million investment in the expansion and replacement project about to begin will create a new 25,080-s.f. ballroom (42 percent larger than the current 17,000 s.f.), a new 100,841-s.f.

The Lexington Convention Center is set to undergo a \$250 million renovation, including a new 100,000-s.f. exhibition space.

WGBT+EOP photo



exhibit hall (more than 50 percent larger than now) and 26,493 s.f. of meeting space by September 2019.

“We never thought in 2004 that Bluegrass Ballroom would get too small too fast,” said Bill Owen, president and CEO of Lexington Center. “This project will allow Lexington to sustain its viability as a premier convention destination.”

He cited three different convention studies from 1986, 1996 and 2011, each of which recommended Lexington needed 100,000 s.f. of exhibit facilities. Lexington Center opened in 1976 with 36,000 s.f. of exhibit hall, and a subsequent 30,000 s.f. was added.

“But for 30 years we have had 66 percent of the size those studies recommended,” Owen said. “The expansion project will get it to the level Lexington Center needs to be.”

Phase 1 is scheduled to start in January 2018 and last 18 months. A solid construction wall will be put up in Heritage Hall to separate the construction area from meeting space in an effort to mitigate noise for conference attendees. Exhibit space will not be impacted initially, as the center expects to remain open for trade shows and conventions, and street closures are not anticipated. When Bluegrass Ballroom, Heritage Hall and West Hall are demolished, there will still be 65,000 s.f. of convention space, and during that time there will be opportunity for groups to exhibit on the floor of Rupp Arena.



The Lexington Convention Center is the ultimate “user friendly” facility; with 66,000 s.f. of contiguous exhibit space and 40,000 s.f. of multipurpose meeting rooms. It is connected to two major hotels, historic Rupp Arena, and The Shops at Lexington Center.

For fiscal year 2016 (ending June 30, 2016) Lexington Center, Rupp Arena and the Opera House hosted 1,135,882 visitors. In May 2016, the original chandelier of speakers known as Big Bertha came down in Rupp. By October the sound system had been replaced with a 34-foot wide multimedia scoreboard array.

“It really became one of the stars of the show,” Owen said. “Patrons will find themselves watching the center-hung video rather than watching the floor itself.”

Effective in late February 2017, over 200 router antennas in the arena ceiling now make for strong-streaming wi-fi, another part of the \$15 million technology upgrade. Rupp will continue to be home for UK basketball as the university signed a new

Berea College photo



Boone Tavern features 63 guestrooms with rich wood furniture, woven bedding and baskets, and mosaic art-tiled mirrors handcrafted by Berea College Woodcraft Industries.



Above: Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is a landmark destination that shares 3,000 acres of discovery in the spirit of the Kentucky Shakers. It was home to the third largest Shaker community in the United States between 1805 and 1910.

Right: The Keeneland paddock during racing meets is a place of one-of-a-kind spectacle each April and October:



15-year lease that begins with the 2018-19 season, which will stretch the span the Wildcats have been playing in Rupp Arena to almost 60 years.

Within the next four years, expect to see construction for Town Branch Park behind Rupp Arena in the Manchester Street parking lot.

“Town Branch Park will be a privately funded, world-class park,” said Allison Lankford, special counsel at Bluegrass Community Foundation and executive director of the Town Branch Fund, which is incubating the park.

Town Branch Fund is a component of Blue Grass Community Foundation. The

fund is overseen by a board of advisers chaired by Ann Bakhaus and will evolve into an independent nonprofit to operate and maintain Town Branch Park with a permanent endowment. The fund’s goal is to raise \$30 million to build the park and implement its revenue model and governance structure.

“Blue Grass Community Foundation is committed to building generous, vibrant and engaged communities, and we are involved in the Town Branch Park project because

it will strengthen Lexington in all three of these areas,” said Lisa Adkins, president and CEO of the Foundation. “We believe that Town Branch Park will have a transformative impact on not only downtown, but the city of Lexington and beyond.”

Town Branch Commons is a 2.5 mile multi-modal path and park system that will wind through downtown Lexington, following the historic path of Town Branch Creek.





Left: The wayfaring sign system in Lexington guides visitors to the most popular sites in the city.

Above: Situated in picturesque Woodford County, Woodford Reserve is on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, which attracts millions of visitors to Kentucky every year for tours.

Right: A new event site opened in the Venues of The Grand Reserve, located in Lexington's downtown Distillery District. The 15,000-s.f. space can accommodate groups of 200 to 1,600 in the rustic setting.



Town Branch Greenway is another project named for Lexington's long-buried original water source in the 1770s. Thanks to a public-private partnership, the \$40 million greenway project's cost is already fully funded, from city, state and federal grants. It will again "daylight" the flowing waterway.

"The Greenway is a linear park and trail system through downtown Lexington that will connect 22 miles of protected bike and pedestrian paths, including the Legacy Trail and Town Branch Trail," Lankford said. "For Lexington to be competitive, the question is not if Lexington grows but how. Infill development can reduce development pressure on the endangered and very finite Bluegrass farmland that is a huge economic engine for the community, the region and the state.

"We have so many assets that we forget about then a lot of time as residents," BHA's Knight said. "Invite people to your hometown and see where you live. If we

can get someone to come here, they love it and they will come back."

Each summer BHA hosts a day of competitive fun at Triangle Park. Known as the Bluegrass Hospitality Games, the event raises funds for scholarships that go to hospitality students at Sullivan University, Transylvania University and UK.

To prepare future professionals, UK now offers an online master's degree in retailing and tourism management. Starting in the fall of 2017, the program is part of UK's School of Human Environmental Sciences within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Elsewhere in Central Kentucky, the Frankfort Convention Center is scheduled for demolition in December, but Capital Plaza Hotel will not be impacted.

Boone Tavern, part of Berea College, was built in 1909 and has since become a LEED-certified green hotel with 63 guest rooms. Adjacent to the hotel on College Square, the Boone Tavern Event Center opened in fall 2016; the multipurpose space accommodates up to 150 attendees for receptions, meetings and conferences. Around 10,000 guests generated \$400,000 in revenue for Boone Tavern in the first nine months of the event center's opening, creating 10 new full-time positions for employees from the community, along with additional student workers from Berea College.

In more rural parts of Central Kentucky, rural attractions abound – from hiking trails to scenic byways, rivers and streams, historical sites like Camp Nelson and nature preserves are within easy travel distance of urban centers making for fantastic day trips around the region.



The 19th century home of Kentucky and U.S. Statesman Henry Clay is a registered National Historic Landmark. Ashland hosts tours and events and is surrounded by parkland.

Back in the heart of downtown Lexington, a consolidation is underway. Lexington Downtown Development Authority (formed in 2001) and the Downtown Lexington Corp. (founded in 1988) are coming together to form the Downtown Lexington Partnership. By fall 2017, the new organization will have a president instead of two executive directors and new office space, but existing events and programs will continue.

DLC has been a membership- and sponsorship-driven organization, sponsoring such events as Thursday Night Live and the Fourth of July Festival, while the LDDA has been an arm of government, spearheading the old history courthouse renovation, getting involved with the Town Branch Commons project, and working with Bluegrass Community Foundation and Gehl Institute to create SplashJam, a summertime popup water-splashing pad at Northeastern Park in downtown Lexington.

VisitLEX promotes Lexington as a destination for both the meeting and convention sector and leisure travelers. In 2016 the market ran a 63.1 percent occupancy, which was down 2.1 percent from 2015. Year-to-date through June 2017 is up 3.3 percent over last year, though.

“Demand is also up this year by 4.1 percent,” said Marci Krueger-Sidebottom, vice president of sales and services for the convention & visitors bureau. “Based on group business booked by VisitLEX, 2017 is a stronger year than last year and is up 13,800 group rooms over the last three-year average.”

Several factors are at play for the increased interest in the Bluegrass. The VisitLEX sales team participated in 20 trade shows and events for meeting planners. They also hosted a three-day Lexington Experience FAM (familiarization) event in April 2016 for 20 meeting planners to tour the Kentucky Horse Park, Keeneland, Taylor Made Horse Farm and the Lexington Convention Center, among other destinations.

“Lexington is the right size and is a unique destination, which the meeting planners are seeking out,” Krueger-Sidebottom said. “They have been to the top tier cities several times and now want variety.”

MEETING & CONVENTION VENUES

Apiary Catering & Events
the-apiary.com

ArtsPlace
lexarts.org/resources/artscene

Blue Grass Airport
bluegrassairport.com/meetingrooms.html

Boone Tavern Event Center
boonetavernhotel.com/events



Buffalo Trace Distillery
Frankfort – buffalotracdistillery.com/events

Carrick House
carrickhouse.com

Fasig-Tipton
fasigtipton.com

Georgetown College Conference Center
georgetowncollege.edu/conference

Headley-Whitney Museum
headley-whitney.org/rentals

Hilary J. Boone Center
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Keeneland/Keene Barn
keeneland.com

Lexington Convention Center
lexingtoncenter.com

Lexington Opera House
lexingtonoperahouse.com/rent-the-theatre

The Livery
liverylex.com

Venues of the Grand Reserve
grandreserveevents.com

HOTELS

Beaumont Inn
Harrodsburg – beaumontinn.com

Bluegrass Extended Stay
bluegrassextendedstay.com

Boone Tavern
Berea – boonetavernhotel.com

Bright Leaf Golf Resort
Harrodsburg – brightleafgolfresort.com

**Campbell House Lexington,
Curio Collection by Hilton**
thecampbellhouse.com

Candlewood Suites
candlewoodsuiteslexington.com

Capital Plaza Hotel
Frankfort – capitalplazaky.com

Clarion Hotel Conference Center North
clarionhotellx.com

**DoubleTree Suites
by Hilton Hotel Lexington**
doubletree3.hilton.com

Embassy Suites Lexington
embassysuites3.hilton.com

Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa
marriott.com

Agritourism in Central Kentucky offers a chance for residents and visitors to see what the region was built on – farming.

Gratz Park Inn
gratzparkinn.com

Hilton Lexington/Downtown
lexingtondowntownhotel.com

Hyatt Regency Lexington
lexington.hyatt.com

Lyndon House Bed & Breakfast
lyndonhouse.com

**Ramada Lexington North
Hotel & Conference Center**
wyndhamhotels.com/ramada

21c Museum Hotel
21cmuseumhotels.com/lexington

ATTRACTIONS

**Arboretum State Botanical
Garden of Kentucky**
arboretum.ca.uky.edu

Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate
henryclay.org

Duncan Tavern
Paris – duncantavern.com

Hopewell Museum
Paris – hopewellmuseum.org

Hummel Planetarium
Richmond – planetarium.eku.edu

Keeneland
keeneland.com

Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea
Berea – kentuckyartisancenterky.gov

Kentucky Horse Park
kyhorsepark.com

Mary Todd Lincoln House
mtlhouse.org

Old Fort Harrod State Park
Harrodsburg – parks.ky.gov/parks/recreationparks/fort-harrod

Red Mile
redmileky.com

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
Harrodsburg – shakervillageky.org

Spindletop Hall
spindletophall.org ●

Doing business with creativity

Beyond the pure fun, vibrant arts scene sparks innovation in commercial life

BY KATHIE STAMPS

MUSIC, dance, poetry, creative writing, painting, drawing, sculpture, theater are the leading categories of artistic and cultural expression, and are as old as civilization itself. A vibrant arts and culture scene contribute immensely to the quality of life and enriches the region's business climate.

In Central Kentucky, the economic impact of the arts is significant. Generating millions of dollars of economic impact benefits to the artists themselves, the organizations and businesses that support them, and the community at large.

Total economic activity in 2016 was estimated at \$32.1 million, according to Ellen A. "Nan" Plummer, president and CEO of LexArts.

"This spending by organizations and their audiences supports 1,185 full-time equivalent jobs," Plummer said. "The arts are also a big factor in our quality of life and sense of place. Our great public art, the Gallery Hop, theater and dance for all ages, music for all tastes – our culture attracts people to Lexington and keeps them here."

LexArts is an advocacy and fundraising organization that develops and promotes arts experiences for the benefit of all. It is the oldest area arts council in Kentucky. Formed in 1989 as



The Lancaster Theatre presents A Christmas Carol. Great variety and a sparkling array of nationally known entertainers mark the fifth season of the Theatre in Lancaster. The beautifully restored venue, first opened in 1925, was closed for 50 years and recently underwent a \$4.2 million restoration.

the Lexington Arts & Cultural Council by the merger of the Lexington Council of the Arts (founded in 1972) and the Fund for the Arts (from 1984), the name was shortened to LexArts in 2005.

In partnership with the city, LexArts operates ArtsPlace. Built in 1904 as a YMCA, this downtown art center provides rooms for rehearsals and performances, artist studios and galleries, and office space for several nonprofit arts organizations.

With an annual budget of around \$1.8 million, LexArts supports individual artists and organizations. Artist grants range from \$500 to \$2,500. Community Arts Development grants go to 11 programs (including African American Forum and Lexington Singers) and 19 projects (including Lexington Community Radio and The Nest). Through LexArts' two levels of general operating support, six organizations apply for and are granted GOS monies: Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning; Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras; Lexington Art League; Lexington Children's Theatre; Lexington Philharmonic; and the Living Arts and Science Center.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017, the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning houses the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame (created in 2012) and is the venue for the annual Kentucky Women Writers Conference. Formerly the city's main public library, the building

opened in 1905 as a Carnegie facility, one of 2,500 worldwide libraries funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Lexington's Carnegie Center, unlike any other city, is both a literacy organization and a writing center, offering writing classes for children and adults. The center also encourages connections between literature and art.

Carnegie Center hosts special literary arts events like its Carnegie Classic series with ticketed costume parties for "1984" and "The Great Gatsby," among other literary favorites, that encourage guests to dress as their favorite characters or in period costume.

In partnership with Triangle Foundation, the Carnegie Center launched a mobile reading room last year at Triangle Park, downtown's Main and Broadway visual focal point. The child-friendly mobile bookcase was custom-designed and built by metalwork artist Nate Hensley, who won a 2016 Innovative Nonprofit award from the Kentucky Nonprofit Network.

Innovation and creativity came together in 2017 by way of the Lexington



Sally Horowitz photo

The Lexington Singers have been performing major works in central Kentucky and around the world for 57 years, making it one of the longest continuously performing independent community choral groups in America. Based in Lexington, the Singers comprise five choirs with more than 300 voices and provides opportunities for children, youth and adults.

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Richie Wiseman photo

Bluegrass Youth Ballet is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in Lexington, offering high quality dance training, with performances that are educational in nature and generally incorporate other art disciplines.

chapter of CreativeMornings, a global brand based in New York. All 160 member cities (in 60 countries) have a speaker on the same topic. The theme changes monthly, as does each local venue, for an event designed to connect and inspire people face to face.

"A community offering great 'food for thought' through the arts is ahead of the game," said artist Celeste Lewis, facilitator for CreativeMornings Lexington. "A creative economy is a healthy economy because it encompasses technology, fine arts, performing arts, creative food culture, architecture and design – it impacts so much."

Jamie Rogers, council aide for



Tom Ehlen, Herald-Leader photo

The 2017 Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame Inductee Barbara Kingsolver; left, and National Book Award Winner Nikky Finney talked at the induction ceremony held at the Carnegie Center in Lexington.

councilperson Amanda Bledsoe, got the CreativeMornings ball rolling in Lexington. In 2016, she and Lewis began the application process, knowing that the home office in New York only considered cities with a population of at least 500,000. With a three-minute video from Cornett showing why Lexington is a creative city, the chapter was approved. The first event in January 2017 held 225 people at 21c Museum Hotel, with 200 more on a waiting list.

"Clearly Lexington was ready for CreativeMornings," Lewis said. "Lexington has amazing people doing amazing things and we are all so enjoying providing a gathering where we can all share that.

ArtsPlace, The Livery, UK Art Museum and the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center are among the venues hosting CreativeMornings events.

The Downtown Arts Center, built in 2002, houses a fine art gallery for exhibits and a black box theater – a plain room with flat flooring and walls painted black to allow a custom-designed stage and seating configuration for each performance. Formerly managed by LexArts, as of 2014 the center is under the management of Lexington Parks & Recreation and was renamed in 2017 as the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center, to honor the former mayor under whose administration the center was built.

One of the companies performing at the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center is

Movement Continuum. The professional dance company was founded by a group of Lexington friends in late 2010 and features contemporary dance at the heart of each production. Their extravagant multimedia shows involve many dancers and media projections and up to 1,500 pieces of origami artwork.

Blackbird Dance Theatre opened its studio doors in 2014 on Moore Drive. As a dance school, classes in various types of dance are offered for all ages. As a theater company, Blackbird also performs original productions throughout the year at various indoor and outdoor venues, including the Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center.

University of Kentucky introduced a bachelor of arts degree in dance in the 2017 fall semester; a dance minor has been available for six years. 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Department of



Moontower Music Festival

Festival scene

FEBRUARY

One World Film Festival

MARCH

Kentucky Crafted: The Market

APRIL

Lexington Kite Fest

MAY

Francisco's Farm Arts Festival

Midway

Mayfest Arts Fair

JUNE

Festival of the Bluegrass

Great American Brass Band Festival

Danville

Lexington Pride Festival

AUGUST

African American Forum's

Smooth Jazz Fest

Chamber Music Festival of Lexington

Crave Music & Food Festival

Lexington Jewish Food Festival

MoonTower Music Festival
Woodland Art Fair

SEPTEMBER

Evans Orchard Apple Festival

Georgetown

Festival Latino

Harry Dean Stanton Fest

Kentucky State Barbecue Festival

Danville

Lexington Fest of Ales

Red, White & Boom

OCTOBER

Roots & Heritage Festival

NOVEMBER

Kentucky Book Fair

Now in Lexington

Theatre and Dance within the UK College of Fine Arts. UK School of Music presents more than 200 recitals, concerts and performances annually, most often at the Singletary Center for the Arts. Within the Singletary building is the UK Art Museum, which is also part of the UK College of Fine Arts and houses around 5,000 pieces of visual art. Admission is free to the museum and open to the public.

From individual artistic expression to small groups and large organizations, Central Kentucky embraces all manner of arts and culture. When tens of thousands of people show up at once, it's time to move to an outdoor venue and call it a festival.

LexEffect, an event management company, sponsors MoonTower Music Festival at Masterson Station Park. Founded in 2014, the summertime family-friendly event has two stages for 14 bands of various musical genres. Locally sourced foods and artisans are also part of the one-day festival, and partial proceeds benefit Central Music Academy.

"We are a waste-free festival," said Kaelyn Query, founder and president of LexEffect. "We partner with Bluegrass Greensource to sort trash, recycle and compost."

In 2013 Smiley Pete Publishing started Crave Lexington Festival. That two-day culinary festival quickly outgrew the space at Beaumont Centre's Moon Dance Amphitheater and now also takes place at Masterson Station Park each August, featuring 50 Kentucky food vendors, local beer, wine and cocktails, live music, a classic car show and an activity zone for kids.

"A thriving arts community is a great tool to attract and recruit people to choose Lexington to bring their talents and put down roots," said CreativeMornings' Lewis. "I know this is said a lot but, we have a great quality of life."

The surrounding Bluegrass counties are also hotbeds of arts activities.



Hopewell Museum in Paris is located in a historic U.S. Post Office listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Sarah Jane Sanders photo

Entities like the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Woodford Theater in Versailles, The Art Depository in Nicholasville and many others.

Crave Lexington, a food and music festival, celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2017. It attracts tens of thousands of guests every summer, who eat local food and listen to local musicians.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

African American Forum
aafinc.com

Berea Arts Council
Berea — bereaartscouncil.org

Blackbird Dance Theatre
blackbirddancetheatre.com

Bluegrass Theatre Guild
Frankfort — bluegrasstheatreguild.com

Bluegrass Youth Ballet
bluegrassyouthballet.org

Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
carnegiecenterlex.org

Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras
ckyo.org

Central Music Academy
centralmusicacademy.org

Eastern Kentucky University Center for the Arts
Richmond — ekucenter.com

Grand Theater
Frankfort — grandtheatrefrankfort.org

Headley-Whitney Museum
headley-whitney.org

Innovation Arts Academy
innovationarts.net

Institute 193
institute193.org

Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea
Berea — kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov

Kentucky Arts Council
Frankfort — artscouncil.ky.gov

Kentucky Ballet Theatre
kyballet.com

Kentucky Repertory Dance Theatre
krdt.org

Kentucky Theater
kentuckytheatre.com

Leeds Center for the Arts
Winchester — leedscenter.org

Lexington Art League
lexingtonartleague.org

Lexington Ballet
lexingtonballet.org

Lexington Chamber Chorale
lexingtonchamberchorale.org

Lexington Children's Theatre
lctonstage.org

Lexington Community Radio
lexingtoncommunityradio.org

Lexington Opera Society
lexingtonopera.com

Lexington Philharmonic
lexphil.org

Lexington Public Library
lexpublib.org

Lexington Singers
lexsing.org

Living Arts & Science Center
lasclex.org

Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center
lexingtonlyric.com

Movement Continuum
kentuckymovement.com

Norton Center for the Arts
Danville — nortoncenter.com

Pioneer Playhouse
Danville — pioneerplayhouse.com

Red Barn Radio
redbarnradio.com

Richmond Area Arts Council
artsinrichmond.org

Singletary Center for the Arts
finearts.uky.edu/singletary-center

Studio Players
studioplayers.org

University of Kentucky Art Museum
finearts.uky.edu/art-museum

Woodford Theater
Versailles — woodfordtheatre.com

Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour
woodsongs.com

Yuko-En On the Elkhorn, the Official Kentucky-Japan Friendship Garden
Georgetown — yuko-en.com ●



Reaping quality of life benefits

Lexington-Fayette's compelling work-play balance attracts and keeps people

BY ABBY LAUB

It used to be people moved to the places where they could find employment – to work, pay their bills and care for their families – and didn't necessarily flock to places they truly love. But Fayette County has figured out a grander solution: Make a place that people want to move to, and then reap the benefits.

"Fifty years ago, people moved to where the jobs were," said Lexington Mayor Jim Gray. "Today, jobs move to where the people are, where the talent is. And talent moves to where there's a premium attached to quality of life."



Kevin Atkins,
Chief
Development
Officer,
LFUCG

"Throughout our city we work hard to create the environment that attracts companies with good jobs to Lexington, and encourages local companies to grow. That environment includes a focus on quality of life and place, a compelling and lively central business

district, excellent parks, bike trails, a lively arts and cultural community and excellent education opportunities."

Fayette County's business climate, amenities and attractions are among the nation's best, so it's no wonder that its industrious residents and business creators are launching the area into an ever more prosperous future, building a modern economy over the established foundation that features rich culture, heritage and Bluegrass pride of place.

For proof that the county is thriving, look no further than the unemployment numbers. In July 2017, Fayette County ticked in at 4.5 percent unemployment. Three of its neighbors also boasted some of the state's lowest numbers. A skilled 21st century population is growing, while authentic antiquity is admired.

WalletHub ranked Lexington as No. 5 in the nation on its Overall Rank of Best Cities in America, in July 2017. Smart Asset moved Lexington up from No. 11 to No. 7 on its Best Cities for New College Grads list, citing factors like affordable rent, a growing number of entertainment and dining options, and the list's second-best Yelp score for bars.

More accolades for Lexington and Fayette County include, No. 6 Best Large Real Estate Market by WalletHub, No. 2 for Automotive Manufacturing Strength in Kentucky by Business Facilities, No. 2 Most Charitable City in America by Deseret News in 2016, No. 5 Best City for 20-Somethings by move.org in 2016, No. 6 Most Inspiring Cities for Young Artists by USA Today in 2015, and No. 11 in percent of population over age 25 with an advanced degree among cities over 250,000 by the U.S. Census 2013.



The offices of Lexington Fayette County Urban Government are situated in the center of downtown Lexington.

Lexington's educated population begins with a progressive and growing school scene – Fayette County Public Schools added three new schools in the past year, including an ultra modern sixth major high school. And the new programming offered through its Academies programs are keeping FCPS students in step with future workforce demands.

At the collegiate level, the 30,000-student University of Kentucky is in the midst of several billion dollars worth of construction that spans from housing to athletics to academics. Lexington's Bluegrass Community and Technical College is part of the 16-institution Kentucky Community and

Technical College System, which in 2017 reported a record-setting number of new graduates and credentials awarded.

The three main hospital systems, Baptist Health, KentuckyOne Health and University of Kentucky, are the main care providers not only for Central Kentucky but much of Eastern Kentucky.

Lexington is a major retail and financial center also with a concentrated focus on improving its logistical accommodations to big business. Multimillion-dollar roads projects, including the widening of a major Lexington traffic artery, New Circle Road, are underway to keep commerce moving in the area. It's home to major corporate headquarters such as Valvoline, a \$2 billion company.

In the housing market, home inventory is dropping – developers can barely keep up with the demand for single-family housing. Lexington-Bluegrass Association of Realtors members reported 13,580 sales totaling \$2.52 billion in 2016. The residential median sales price increased 5 percent from \$147,500 in 2015 to \$155,000 in 2016.

Residents and visitors need entertainment and amusement, and Lexington is full of action for young and old, including iconic horse racing tracks at Keeneland Racecourse and The Red Mile. There is a vibrant arts scene through entities like LexArts and Lexington Philharmonic and a large collection of local galleries and collectives.

Within the city limits are many outdoor activities with inviting natural infrastructure at locations like the Legacy Trail, historic McConnell Springs, rustic Raven Run and an abundant parks system as well as dozens of collegiate athletics.

Fayette County boasts a world-level food and beverage business cluster.

Lexington's regional retail hub status makes shopping a major draw, increasingly so in 2017 thanks to the opening of the upscale and local-oriented The Summit at Fritz Farm.

In 2016, Commerce Lexington was named "Chamber of the Year" in the large chamber category during the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' annual convention. ●

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

lexingtonky.gov

LexCall Centralized Service
and Information Call Center:
(859) 425-CALL / 311

MERGED CITY/COUNTY: LEXINGTON

Jim Gray, Mayor
200 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 258-3100
mayor@lexingtonky.gov
lexingtonky.gov



Jim Gray

FAYETTE COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE

Tom Dupree Jr.
215 W. Short St., Suite 210
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 351-2266

FAYETTE COUNTY CLERK

Don Blevins Jr.
162 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507
(859) 253-3344
info@fayettecountyclerk.com
fayettecountyclerk.com

Estimated 2017 Population: 320,756

No. of households: 125,752

Median household income (2015): \$49,778



James Brown
District 1
Councilmember



Joe Smith
District 2
Councilmember



Jake Gibbs
District 3
Councilmember



Susan Lamb
District 4
Councilmember



Bill Farmer Jr.
District 5
Councilmember



Angela Evans
District 6
Councilmember



Jennifer Scutchfield
District 7
Councilmember



Fred Brown
District 8
Councilmember



Jennifer Mossotti
District 9
Councilmember



Amanda Mays
Bledsoe
District 10
Councilmember



Peggy Henson
District 11
Councilmember



Kathy Plomin
District 12
Councilmember



Kevin O. Stinnett
Councilmember
At Large



Richard Moloney
Councilmember
At Large



Steve Kay
Vice Mayor



Mark G. Barnard
Chief of Police



Kristin Chilton
Fire Chief



Geoff Reed
Commissioner of
General Services



Janet Graham
Commissioner
of Law



Derek Paulsen
Commissioner
of Planning,
Preservation &
Development



Ronnie Bastin
Commissioner of
Public Safety



Chris Ford
Commissioner of
Social Services



Bill O'Mara
Commissioner
of Finance &
Administration



Sally Hamilton
Chief
Administrative
Officer



Dowell
Hoskins-Squier
Commissioner
of Environmental
Quality and
Public Works



Aldona Valicenti
Chief Information
Officer

ANDERSON COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
22,909

No. of households: 9,387

Median household income:
\$53,974

Chamber of Commerce:

Pam Brough, President
andersonchamberky.org

Lawrenceburg-Anderson County Economic Development Authority:

George E. Leamon, Executive Director
andersoncoky.com

County Seat: Lawrenceburg,
Sandy Goodlett, Mayor
www.lawrenceburgky.org

Judge-Executive: Orbrey Gritton
Judgeorbreygritton@nich.twcbc.com

BOURBON COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
20,319

No. of households: 7,806

Median household income:
\$45,208

Chamber of Commerce:

Debra Hamelback, Executive Director
parisbourbonchamber.com

Paris/Bourbon County Economic Development Authority:

Gordon E. Wilson, Executive Director
parisobourboncountyeda.com

County Seat: Paris
Michael J. Thornton, Mayor
paris.ky.gov

Judge-Executive: Michael R. Williams
judge@bourbonky.com

BOYLE COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
29,983

No. of households: 11,082

Median household income:
\$39,704

Chamber of Commerce:

Paula Fowler, Executive Director
danvilleboylechamber.com

Danville/Boyle County Economic Development Partnership:

Jody A. Lassiter, President/CEO
betterindanville.com

County Seat: Danville
Mike Perros, Mayor
danvilleky.org

Judge-Executive: Harold McKinney
hmckinney@boyleky.com

CLARK COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
37,200

No. of households: 14,458

Median household income:
\$47,959

Chamber of Commerce:

Cindy Banks, Executive Director
winchesterkychamber.com

Winchester/Clark County Industrial Authority:

Todd Denham, Executive Director
winchesterindustry.com

County Seat: Winchester
Ed Burtner, Mayor
winchesterky.com

Judge-Executive: Henry Branham
clarkcountyjudge@yahoo.com



The picturesque Kentucky River runs through several Central Kentucky counties, including Woodford, Jessamine, Garrard and others. Throughout history it has been an important natural resources for the region's economy.

ESTILL COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
14,457

No. of households: 5,708

Median household income:
\$29,770

Chamber of Commerce:

Mike Collins, President
estillcountyky.net

Estill Development Alliance:

Joe Crawford, Executive Director
estillcountyky.net

County Seat: Irvine
W.J. Noland, Mayor

Judge-Executive: Wallace C. Taylor
judgetaylor@irvineonline.net

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
50,366

No. of households: 21,159

Median household income:
\$47,964

Chamber of Commerce:

Carmen Inman, President/CEO
frankfortky.info

Kentucky Capital Development Corporation-KCDC:

Terri Bradshaw, President/CEO
kycapitaldevelopment.com

County Seat/State Capital:

Frankfort
William May, Mayor
frankfort.ky.gov

Judge-Executive: Huston Wells
hwells@franklincountyky.com

GARRARD COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
17,352

No. of households: 6,630

Median household income:
\$44,243

Chamber of Commerce:

Tisha Bristow, President
www.garrardchamber.com

Industrial Development Authority:

David Land, Director
garrardcounty.ky.gov

County Seat: Lancaster
Chris Davis, Mayor
cityoflancasterky.com

Judge-Executive: John Wilson
garrardjudge@windstream.net

HARRISON COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
18,758

No. of households: 7,289

Median household income:
\$35,681

Chamber of Commerce:

Tomi Jean Clifford, Executive Director
cynthianakychamber.com

Cynthiana-Harrison County Economic Development Authority:

Garnett Furnish, Executive Director
harrisoncokyeda.com

County Seat:

Cynthiana
James D. Smith, Mayor
cynthianaky.com

Judge-Executive: Alex Barnett
hcjudge@harrisoncountyfiscalcourt.com

JESSAMINE COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
55,533

No. of households: 18,525

Median household income:
\$50,558

Chamber of Commerce:
Ronda May, Executive Director
jessaminechamber.com

Jessamine County Economic Development Authority:
Craig McAnelly, President
jessamineco.com

County Seat: Nicholasville
Pete Sutherland, Mayor
nicholasville.org

Judge-Executive: David K. West
dwest@jessamineco.com

LINCOLN COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
24,407

No. of households: 9,710

Median household income:
\$37,139

Chamber of Commerce:
Andrea Miller, Executive Director
lincolncountychamber.com

Stanford/Lincoln County Industrial Development Authority:
George Leamon, Executive Director
lincolncountyeda.com

County Seat: Stanford
Eddie Carter, Mayor
stanfordky.org

Judge-Executive: Jim W. Adams
jadams@lincolnky.com

MADISON COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
91,101

No. of households: 35,160

Median household income:
\$42,390

Chamber of Commerce:
Mendi Goble, Executive Director
richmondchamber.com

Richmond Industrial Development Corp.:
David Stipes, Executive Director
richmondkiindustrial.com

County Seat: Richmond
Jim Barnes, Mayor
richmond.ky.us

Judge-Executive: Reagan Taylor
reagan.taylor@madisoncountky.us

MERCER COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
21,400

No. of households: 8,803

Median household income:
\$42,083

Chamber of Commerce:
Jill Cutler, Executive Director
mercercchamber.com

Harrodsburg/Mercer County Industrial Development Authority:
Dick Webb, Executive Director
mercercybusiness.com

County Seat: Harrodsburg
Eddie Long, Mayor
harrodsburgcity.org

Judge-Executive: Milward Dedman
mdedman@mercercy.com



Adventure tourists appreciate the many streams, rivers and tributaries across Central Kentucky, including Hickman Creek in Jessamine County.

NICHOLAS COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population: 7,042

No. of households: 2,824

Median household income:
\$36,097

Chamber of Commerce:
Tracy Pratt-Savage, President
carlisle-chamber.com

Carlisle-Nicholas County Economic Development Authority:
Bascom Sorrell, Chairman
nicholascountky.gov

County Seat: Carlisle
Larry Jolly, Mayor
carlisle.ky.gov

Judge-Executive: Mike Pryor
judgeex@qx.net

POWELL COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
12,063

No. of households: 4,767

Median household income:
\$29,736

Powell County Industrial Development Authority:
Craig Dawson, Executive Director
powellcountyindustrial.com

County Seat: Stanton
Dale Allen, Mayor
cityofstantonky.com

Judge-Executive:
James D. Anderson Jr.
judge099@yahoo.com

SCOTT COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
55,270

No. of households: 18,421

Median household income:
\$63,027

Chamber of Commerce:
Mark S. Smith, President
gtown.org

Scott County United:
Jack Conner, Director
gtown.org

County Seat: Georgetown
Tom Prather, Mayor
georgetownky.gov

Judge-Executive:
George Lusby
glusby@scottky.com

WOODFORD COUNTY

Estimated 2017 Population:
26,257

No. of households: 9,802

Median household income:
\$58,750

Chamber of Commerce:
Don Vizi, Executive Director
woodfordcountyinfo.com

Versailles/Woodford County Economic Development Authority:
John Soper, Executive Director
woodfordeda.com

County Seat: Versailles
Brian Traugott, Mayor
versaillesky.com

Judge-Executive: John E. Coyle
jcoyle@woodfordcountky.com

Spectate, participate, appreciate!

Profusion of sports and recreation contribute to Central Kentucky's quality of life

BY KATHIE STAMPS

In sports and recreation, participants and spectators are often the same people. Central Kentucky has ample opportunities for families and individuals to amp up their quality of life via exercise and team sport, or being in an arena or stadium to cheer on their Kentucky Wildcats or favorite youth league team.

Statewide, 61 percent of Kentucky's 4.44 million residents participate in outdoor recreation, according to a national economic impact study released in July 2017 by the Colorado-based Outdoor Industry Association. Kentucky realized an economic impact of \$12.8 billion last year in consumer spending for outdoor recreation, which also resulted in \$756 million in state and local tax revenue. Outdoor recreation comprises camping, fishing, hunting, motorcycling, off-roading, snow sports, trail sports, water sports, wheel sports and wildlife viewing.

Raven Run Nature Sanctuary several miles southeast of downtown is open year-round and is just one of the outdoor spots offered by Lexington Parks & Recreation among its 100-plus parks. The city also operates three neighborhood pools, four aquatic centers and five golf courses, including Kearney Hill Golf Links, which has been ranked by Golf Digest magazine as a Top 10 course in Kentucky. Lexington Parks and Recreation offers Therapeutic Recreation programs for Fayette County residents with disabilities.

Dozens of foot races from 5Ks to marathons are open for participants near and far. Each spring, RunTheBluegrass is a half marathon and weekend expo event



The Kentucky River and other waterways that weave through Central Kentucky provide water recreation activities like standup paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing and kayaking.



Paul Hooper photo

Above: Rupp Arena's recent overhaul includes new state-of-the-art center-hung media screens.

Right: Youth Football has four age divisions for kids five to 12 through Lexington Parks and Recreation.



Lexington Parks and Recreation photo

that produces an economic impact of \$1.35 million in new, nonlocal money. Of the 8,000 to 10,000 runners, spectators and volunteers, 53 percent come from outside Kentucky. Race proceeds are directly reinvested into the community.

"Running tourism continues to grow at a record pace in Central Kentucky," noted RunTheBluegrass Race Director Eric Marr, whose race attracts thousands of runners from around the nation and world to come experience what the region has to offer.

Upgrades at 23,000-seat Rupp Arena since 2016 have involved \$15 million in technology upgrades. Most noticeable for fans is the multimedia array in the center of the ceiling housing a digital scoreboard. Rupp Arena hosted regional rounds of the NCAA women's basketball championship the past two years and will do so again March 23-26, 2018.

Of the 22 varsity teams on UK's campus, all exceed the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR), scoring at least 958. A four-year APR of 930 is required to compete in any NCAA championships. For five consecutive years, the student athletes of UK Athletics have achieved a department-wide 3.0 grade-point average.

In May 2017 Commonwealth Stadium was renamed Kroger Field through an

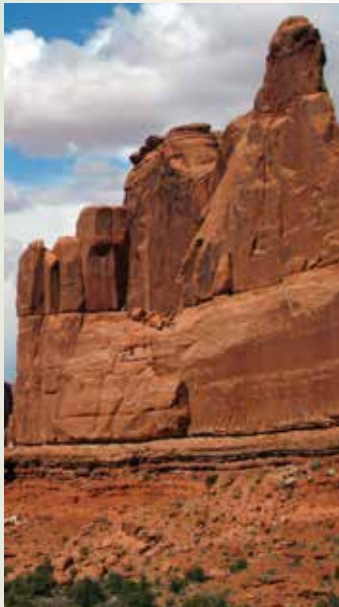
annual \$1.85 million agreement between the Cincinnati-headquartered grocery chain and UK's multimedia rights partner JMI Sports. The football playing field, formerly known as C.M. Newton Field at Commonwealth Stadium, has been renamed C.M. Newton Grounds at Kroger Field. The term of up to 12 years also makes Kroger the official nutrition and pharmacy partner of UK Athletics. The Kroger Fields Community Program involves Kroger and UK improving fields across Kentucky and hosting the community Simple Truth 5K to finish at the stadium's 50-yard-line.

For sports enthusiasts who would rather dive into the game than cheer, the nonprofit 501(c)(3) Bluegrass Sports Commission operates the annual Bluegrass State Games, a three-month series of 30 different sports and events taking place in a half-dozen Central Kentucky counties. The program was founded by Gov. Martha Layne Collins in 1985. ●



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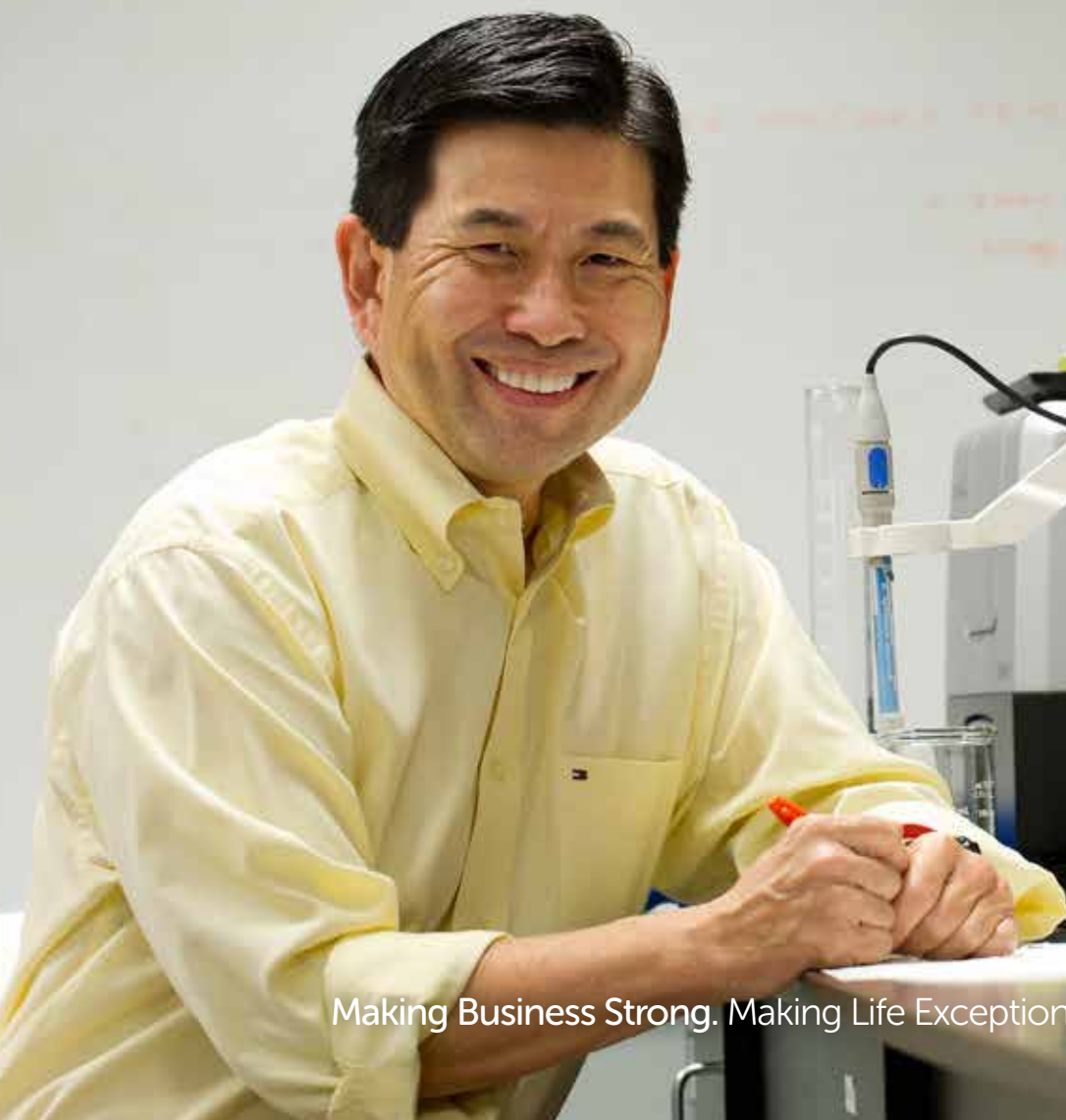
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