

A little good news goes a long way around here

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Keith Lawrence, Perspective

It's been a rough year.

The Executive Inn Rivermont is a ghost town.

Dana Corp. is getting ready to shut down for three months.

We still don't have air service.

Home sales are down 21 percent.

The Owensboro-Daviess County Motorsports Festival bit the dust.

So did Bluegrass Returns To Its Roots.

The Green Brothers Charity Golf Tournament, which brought NASCAR superstars to town each year, was canceled.

The International Mystery Writers Festival will skip next year.

The dog show and Indian artifacts show moved to Evansville.

The truck show moved to St. Louis.

The Dust Bowl was scaled back dramatically.

Dawahares pulled out of Towne Square Mall.

They're saying it might be three to five years before we have a new downtown hotel and convention center.

And, well, you get the picture.

Things are tough here and across the country.

But boy, didn't it feel good to hear some good news for a change last week?

Gulfstream Enterprises announced plans for a \$10 million, five-story office building that will dominate the skyline along the Kentucky 54 corridor.

Highland Pointe will also get a new corporate headquarters for Atmos Energy's Kentucky division, probably a new hotel and maybe another restaurant.

Gateway Commons -- a \$250 million, 180-acre mixed-use development -- is moving forward again.

MidAmerica Jet will begin marketing its hangar space for trade shows and other large events that can't find enough floor space in Owensboro.

And Kentucky BioProcessing has signed a deal that could lead to the production of a low-cost cancer vaccine for the world market in the next eight years.

Yeah, I know.

We've been hearing about the possibilities of great things in biopharmaceuticals for years now.

Gateway Commons will still face a lot of challenges before it gets built.

And trade shows may not want to be at the airport.

But this is about hope.

Lights at the end of tunnels.

And a cool morning breeze after days of stifling humidity.

Hard times can be weathered if there's hope of better times down the road.

If a cool front is on the horizon, hot days and humid nights don't seem so bad.

Work has started on the big new Kroger store in Wesleyan Park Plaza.

Construction will eventually begin on the riverfront development project downtown.

That \$400 million-plus hospital will begin rising on the east side of town someday before long.

And maybe downtown will be redeveloped.

Times are tough.

But we're going to make it.

A little good news sure goes a long way.