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## Planners ask for your help

### Meetings to take advice on growth

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Large residential and commercial developments under way in both northern and southern Campbell County signal many changes in the local economy in the next five years, planners say.

Residents will have a say at two meetings this week as to how the county grows and where industry, retail and residential developments should be.

The first meeting is 6-8 p.m. today at Campbell County High School in Alexandria. The second will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Southgate Community Center.

Campbell County Planning and Zoning staff will use the public input to update the five-year comprehensive plan. The plan provides a blueprint for the unincorporated county and five cities to refer to when considering zone changes and development.

"This is a significant document that will help guide growth and development in the county," said Peter Klear, Campbell County Planning and Zoning director. "It is a great opportunity for the public to have a hand in that future direction."

The plan will be completed in the summer, Klear said.

Large developments, such as the 1,500 new homes planned in two adjacent subdivisions in Alexandria, and Ovation, the 1,000-home commercial and residential complex in Newport, foreshadow big changes in how land will be used in Campbell, Klear said.

A new sewer plant expected to be completed in August will lift a 1996 ban on new housing in the Alexandria area.

"If you take into consideration the new sanitation plant becoming fully operational in the next few months and U.S. 27 is being widened and expanded, areas in southern Campbell County have the potential for significant development," Klear said.

"Alexandria is seeing 1,500 new units come on line. That is phenomenal," he said. "The commercial developers will become more interested. It is not that Campbell County has not been on people's radar. It didn't have the resources in place. Now we will."

The county plans to preserve green space, Klear said.

Another study to be completed by summer will inventory the types of woods and vegetation in the area so the county can preserve green space and old-growth forests, Klear said.

The study, sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Urban and Community Forestry Council, will use aerial photographs and countywide field inspections.

"Natural features are not always a concern of the developer, but are a concern of the community," Klear said. "Within a 100-acre tract, maybe there are some eight acres of prime forest land that need to be preserved."