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Outlying counties have seen share of boom-bust construction cycle

Friday, February 19, 2010

Business First of Columbus - by Carrie Ghose

Points east and south

Newark-based Licking Memorial Health Systems finished a \$40 million expansion in 2007. Construction and renovation totalling more than \$7 million is on tap for this year, President Rob Montagnese said. The projects are a data center, recovery rooms for mothers and newborns, and a community library and resource center.

A mile down the road, the private, for-profit Medical Center of Newark added medical and surgical programs last year. A \$20 million expansion in 2007 converted the former outpatient surgery center into a full-service hospital. Owners could seek land for another medical office building if new programs require taking over space from tenants in offices attached to the hospital, said one of the partners, Columbus attorney James Havens.

"I don't know if we would do anything in 2010," he said.