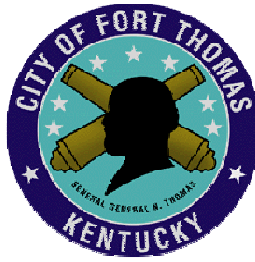


ERIC HAAS  
MAYOR



130 N. FT. THOMAS AVE.  
FT. THOMAS, KY 41075

## Press Release

City of Fort Thomas, KY

December 18, 2020

Fort Thomas Economic Development Director/Renaissance Manager has announced that she plans to retire effective January 31, 2021.

Debbie Buckley has served in the role of Renaissance Manager since September 2006 and assumed the duties of Economic Development Director in 2009. In her tenure with the city, she was instrumental in creation of the *Farmers Market*, *Art Around Town*, *Historic Museum in Tower Park*, growth of *Merchants & Music* and assisted with many other events. As Economic Development Director, she worked directly with all the businesses that started or relocated into Fort Thomas and was instrumental in the development of the One Highland Project. She was recognized by the KY Heritage Council in 2009 as “Program of the Year – best in Promotion” for her development of the *Jr. Renaissance Camp*. She was also runner-up “Employee of the Year 2013” as recognized by the KY League of Cities. Debbie plans to spend more time with her family in retirement, especially her 15 grandchildren!

“These past 14 plus years have been the career years anyone would hope for in my business. As I grew up listening to my Grandpa Blackwell describe Fort Thomas, where he was inducted into World War I, I never dreamed one day I would walk in the very place he walked. I have loved learning the history, meeting so many wonderful people who love this community and have been willing to volunteer and sponsor events. It has been such a pleasure to watch a portion of my children and their families move into Fort Thomas as I worked here. It has been an honor to be part of so many ribbon cuttings, watch business owners build their dynasties, and this community embrace them.”

“I want to thank the dozens of volunteers who have served as the Renaissance Board, Economic Development Board, committees for Stables (Midway There), Museum, Farmers Market volunteers, Holiday Walk, Art Around Towne, Merchants & Music committees, 4th of July committees, Sesquicentennial Committees, Veterans Day, Salute to Veterans, Cultural Arts

District, General Thomas statue, and a host of other committees we have had along the way. You are the heroes of Fort Thomas! .....To the community, I will always sing your praise.”

Mayor Haas stated, “Debbie has contributed so much to our business community. She is versed in the needs of existing businesses, recruitment of new ventures and has been outstanding in matching businesses into available spaces that has kept our business districts vital and strong. Her passion is evident in everything she takes on and it showed in the success of our events, much is attributable to her hard work. Her impact on the community will be lasting.”

Mayor Haas intends to consult with City Administrative Officer Ron Dill to develop a hiring process for filling the position.