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Deaton hopes to facilitate growth in new LTHBA role

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Thomas Deaton
Hopkins University
pursued an inter-

Elizabethtown native Thomas Deaton took on the role of executive officer for the Lincoln Trail Homebuilders Association in August. The organization will host the 16th annual Parade of Homes event later this month. Submitted photo

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With the annual Lincoln Trail Homebuilders Association's Parade of Homes slated for later this month, new executive officer Thomas Deaton has stayed busy. Beginning his role last month, Deaton succeeds former executive officer Sara Phelps.

Deaton, 23, said since taking on the job, he has worked closely with the Parade of Homes committee to solidify details and secure sponsorships. Traditionally held in September, this year's Parade of Homes is Oct. 23-25.

Now in its 16th year, the event showcases the latest in building trends, technology and home design by offering attendees tours of new area homes. Homes are judged in several categories, including a "People's Choice" category, in which attendees vote on their favorite home.

This year, tickets can be purchased at a central check-in location in the new Summit Creek development area. There will be five homes showcased.

Deaton said with COVID-19 health concerns in mind, the new central check-in location is designed to better manage attendance numbers and to better facilitate the flow of attendees throughout the weekend. He said attendees also will be required to wear masks when entering each home.

"Many of these homes belong to custom clients and it's important we respect that aspect of the Parade when they open their doors to our guests," he said.

Outside of his work in organizing the Parade of Homes, Deaton said other duties as executive officer include managing member retention and the billing and financial aspects of the not-for-profit.

With a deep interest in architecture and design, Deaton said he has experience working on creative aspects of his family's Elizabethtown home boutique, FINE House & Garden.

"I became aware of the opportunity at the LTHBA because of the collaborative work with local builders and homeowners we've completed at the store, specifically for events like the Parade of Homes," Deaton said.

An Elizabethtown native and 2015 graduate of Elizabethtown High School, Deaton earned his undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University and currently is studying public affairs and public management at Johns Hopkins University. Previously studying at the university's

Washington D.C. satellite campus, Deaton moved back to Elizabethtown this year to study online as coursework was made virtual amid COVID-19.

During his time in Washington D.C., Deaton pursued an internship at the U.S. Department of State.

“This position is unique in its ability to mix my background in public affairs with a role in the home building industry,” Deaton said of his role with LTHBA.

Founded in 1974, LTHBA includes over 400 members from throughout the region, encompassing home builders, contractors, insurance companies, suppliers and more.

Drawing on the leadership of past executive officers, Deaton said he hopes to lead the organization in a direction that facilitates growth.

“I hope I can provide a skillset that not only grows the organization, but supports the growth of our Registered Builders and member businesses, too,” he said.

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