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Wednesday, Januar

## Set to retire

01/25/2005

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This is Raymond Polaski's last week on the job as executive director of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority. He plans to retire Feb. 1 while still enjoying good health so that he can more time pursuing personal and charitable interests. We wish him well.

When Polaski came to the redevelopment authority six years ago from Escambia County, Fla., it was at the urging of his friend Wayland Smith who was retiring as director of the county's redevelopment authority. Polaski's resume showed a succession of work in this field in Lancaster, Allentown and then Floric was still an unknown in our community. That soon changed.

He immersed himself in the community and took the redevelopment authority into new territory and ventures. Under his guidance, the authority worked with the county commissioners in transforming vacant county land into the rapidly developing business park along Route 40. He also involved the authority in developing a first-time home owners program and enticed Habitat for Humanity to gain a foothold in Fayette.

Polaski has said that he would be available to the authority on a part-time basis to finish off the business park and ease the transition while the authority undergoes a search for a new executive director. In the meantime, the board intends to name assistant executive director Andrew French as interim director. The change should be seamless.

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