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## Colbeck heads Highland DDA

*By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer*

As Tim Colbeck sees it, these are exhilarating times — for himself and Highland Township.

Colbeck is the new executive director of Highland's Downtown Development Authority, where he's leading the charge to revitalize the Highland Station area near Milford and Highland roads, as well as to promote business and activity in the surrounding industrial and commercial districts.

"It's exciting to be involved in these long-term improvements, to put your stamp on what's being built and the environment around you," Colbeck said. "This is about increasing the vitality of the community and hoping to increase the economic outlook, too."

Colbeck, who came on board Oct. 1, sees his new position as a great opportunity to be part of the distinct vision for Highland that the DDA board established over the past couple years.

"We're trying to brand Highland in a unique light which plays on its history and amenities — more of a hamlet — building on the small-town, unique opportunities we have here, with the state land, our history, the horses."

Colbeck said the goal is to bring in new specialty businesses and encourage growth — but controlled growth.

"The kind of place where people are comfortable walking the streets and just stopping in some place that looks interesting, or where people drive by and something catches their eye, so they stop and check it out," he said.

Colbeck admits that many of the desired enhancements to the downtown Highland area — such as new sidewalks, street lighting and other infrastructure and streetscape improvements — won't happen for awhile because of current economic conditions. Still, he's confident that it will certainly all come together someday, though it's going to take time.

"It won't be easy, but it is very possible. If I didn't think so, I wouldn't be here," he said.

Prior to being hired by the Highland DDA, Colbeck was community development manager for University Cultural Center Association, a Detroit-based nonprofit planning and economic development organization involved in commercial and residential projects, beautification activities, infrastructure development and more. He was also a planning and development consultant for projects in Detroit.

"I bring a fresh view, and I am ready to implement what is laid before me," he said. "I believe my role is to bring the vision of the community to life."

"(Former DDA Executive Director) Jill (Bahm) and the DDA board put a lot of work into this, to develop the direction where we are headed. And it's a good vision," Colbeck said. "I'm jumping in feet first — and I want to see it all through."

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