



Buckeye growth brings retailers, grocers to town

Big boxes a boon to residents, town

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The Arizona Republic

Jun. 15, 2007 12:00 AM

Living in Buckeye caused Tim Grandy to adapt to isolation.

The town Grandy has known always has been small.

If he wanted to shop at Target, it would mean driving 30 miles or more to Phoenix.

Before the Fry's Marketplace was built in town grocery shopping meant another long trek east.

Now, Grandy, whose family roots in Buckeye date to 1917, lives just a mile from the town's first commercial center, Sundance Towne Center

He's just around the corner from Buckeye's first big-box retail stores including Lowe's Home Improvement and PetSmart.

The newly built center is giving residents a chance to stay in town to do their shopping. For the first time, residents will be able to hit places like Wal-Mart or OfficeMax without leaving town.

"Like everyone else in Buckeye, we have worn out the road for the last 30 to 40 years driving to Avondale and Goodyear for groceries," the 55-year-old Grandy said. "We are dumbfounded at certain times, especially when we read the list of what's coming. We look at each other and laugh sometimes, saying this does not seem like Buckeye."

The town's first Wal-Mart, a Supercenter, will open in August at Sundance Towne Center.

Other town firsts soon will follow inside the 75-acre complex at Interstate 10 and Watson Road. The center also will have a Wells Fargo, McDonald's, Village Inn and Peter Piper Pizza.

Mayor Bobby Bryant said the center will give town residents a place to shop. With all the homes built in Buckeye, Bryant said, there must be jobs and commercial developments to sustain the community.

And it will keep revenues, lost for years, in Buckeye.

"It's a huge deal," Bryant said. "It will be very convenient for our community. The icing on the cake is the retail sales tax that's we've been sending to the east for years will now stay in Buckeye."

Sundance Towne Center is the first of several centers planned for the town.

Buckeye Parkway Center, a 750,000-square-foot project south of I-10 and Verrado Way, is scheduled to open in July 2008. It will

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have a contemporary Western theme and may include Target, Home Depot, Kohl's, Michaels and Ross.

The changes in town evoke mixed feelings for those who have lived in Buckeye all their lives.

"Back then, it was amazing to have a Target 20 miles away. And now we will have a Target and a Ross," Grandy said. "The convenience is nice, but the largeness of it sometimes is gut-wrenching."