

Lowe's marks Buckeye change

By Kelly Carr

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As Buckeye Vice Mayor Levi Beard scanned the rows of merchandise, he had to remind himself he was in his hometown.

Beard was inside the new Lowe's, the first big-box retail store to open in Buckeye.

The store is just off Interstate 10 on Watson Road. With 116,000 square feet of retail space, it's an \$18.5 million investment expected to create up to 175 jobs.

The home improvement store's recent opening is a benchmark for what's to come in the town. Buckeye's first Wal-Mart and OfficeMax will follow soon.

"It's a milestone," Beard said. "I constantly try to remind myself this is the new Buckeye. ... The people spending money in these stores will generate tax money for the town."

Lowe's spokeswoman Maureen Rich said the company found the town's growth attractive.

Other developers are moving along with plans for power centers in Buckeye. Sundance Towne Center will open in August at I-10 and Watson Road. And a 750,000-square-foot project, Buckeye Parkway Center, is slated for July 2008 at Verrado Way and I-10.