

West Valley VIEW



The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ

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Jackie Meck planning for Buckeye's growth

Former councilman appointed to Planning and Development Board

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Buckeye native Jackie Meck has once again stepped forward to serve the community on Buckeye's Planning and Development Board.

After serving four years on the Buckeye Town Council followed by an unsuccessful bid for mayor in the last election, Meck, also the general manager of the Buckeye Water Conservation District, was appointed as an alternate to the board last July. The board has seven members and two alternates.

Within the next few weeks, one of the two alternates, either Meck or Richard Stafford, will be appointed to take the place of outgoing board member Tana Wrublick for the remainder of her term.

The *View* sat down with Meck to ask how his experiences on the Town Council and working for the Water Conservation District will aid him in his decisions on the Development Board, how he feels about the balance of power between the council and Development Board, what he sees to be the biggest challenges and priorities and his deepest fear for Buckeye during the coming growth.

***West Valley View:* How will your experience on the Town Council and the Water Conservation District help you on the planning board?**



JACKIE MECK, Buckeye Water Conservation District general manager and former town councilman, says water is the biggest issue facing the town as it grows.

Litchfield Park, A

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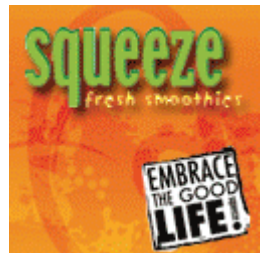
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Interactive Poll

How would you describe your support of Goodyear's efforts to build a sports facility and bring at least one and maybe two Major League Baseball teams to the city for spring training?

Please select one:

- It's a great idea and I fully support it
It sounds like a good idea if the city can do it, but if it can't, it's no big loss.
I don't support it at all
I don't care one way or the other

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Meck: I think that having been on the council and being able to see the beginning of this growth and see the good and the bad as far as development - I think that has been an educational process, my four years on the council.

Knowing that background and then moving into the Planning and Zoning Board; knowing what council is looking for and talking about as far as development, that experience will help me a great deal on the Development Board.

As far as being with the Buckeye Water [Conservation] District, all of the development that comes into my area comes through us here first because of our laterals - canals, bridges, washes.

WVV: What are your top priorities for the two years that you will serve on the Development Board?

Meck: Water. Development.

I am very concerned for children and schools.

Jobs. We need to bring more jobs into this community. It is very important that people have a place to live and to work.

Streets, roads, stop signs and stop lights - I look at those all as one.

We are right now in the process on Monroe (Avenue) and Miller (Road) of putting in a stop light.

Our district has a lot of pipes in there, and we are in the process of working with the city to move those pipelines over so they can get that put in quicker. With the assets the district has, we are willing to work with them.

Those are my top priorities.

WVV: What is your biggest fear for Buckeye when you see all this growth coming?

Meck: Water. I am concerned that we are not doing enough to develop water, not only good quality water but water that we can take and do something with and clean it up.

There is a lot of water here, but it is not good quality and we are not doing anything to clean up the poor quality. I think if we clean up the poor quality, we can add that into the system.

I think we need to completely do a network of water throughout this whole area and tie it all together. We need to get the water established right now so that when this growth comes - we know it's coming - as this growth comes we are ahead of it with the water, not only the wet stuff itself but the facilities to treat it and the facilities to distribute it. I don't see us doing that fast enough.

WVV: Not too long ago the Town Council voted on taking preliminary plat approval away from the Development Board and putting it with the council. It didn't pass. Would that be something you think would be a smart idea, or something you wouldn't want to see happen?

Meck: I would really hate to see it happen, and the reason I say that is because when I was on the council I used to look at a packet of maybe 4 or 5 inches [thick].



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Some of the council packets in toward the end of four years were like 17 or 18 inches high. You know, huge packets, and myself, I would spend maybe 20 to 30 hours of research in the packet.

Then I would drive to places we were going to annex, or if there was a particular issue coming up, I would drive and look at it.

The Development Board members - they approved something because they had more time to spend with development issues.

So in the case of two boards, there are 14 people, 28 eyes looking at something with 14 different thoughts and different ideas.

I just think that to take that away and give that to seven; even if I were on the council, I would be opposed to having them do away with the Development Board.

Everybody on both boards - what they are interested in is the welfare of the community. It is not what they want for themselves, and 14 is better than seven.

WVV: I have seen a picture of you with your grandchildren in a field of cotton, which I believe was one of the last crops before that land was to be developed. I know you have lived here all of your life. Is there any saddening to what you see going on? I know the growth is welcomed and wanted, but you are going to be losing things, such as that cotton field.

Meck: I think it is sad to see agriculture go out. I would like to see the younger generation know that milk comes from dairies or dairy cows and not Circle K's. Cotton comes from a plant, not J.C. Penney or Wal-Mart or Sam's Club.

Food comes from agriculture, and people go to the grocery stores and buy it, and I think that is the sadness I see. I think our young people, as they grow up and they don't have the life maybe that I had, and the roots that I had around agriculture, that makes a difference.

I think it is a stability thing. That young people growing up have a more stable life and get to know some of these very basic things like cows and chickens and eggs, and that butter comes from some place besides Circle K.

WVV: You tour Buckeye a lot and look at new areas. What is your main reason for doing that?

Meck: I am interested in what is going on. There are things that I see. If I am concerned about it, I will speak out against it, whether I am right or wrong.

If it is something that I see and I am wrong, I'll admit I am wrong. But if I see it and I think it is something that is detrimental to the community, then I will speak out against it.

I can go around and see these things, and I just enjoy seeing good development. That is why I spend the time to drive around and look at it and see the new things coming into this community. It's my home.

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