

West Valley View

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Rotary clubs get city's approval to open bingo hall

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staff writer

Get your blotters ready - bingo is coming to Goodyear.

Last month, the Goodyear City Council approved a site change for the Goodyear White Tanks **Rotary** Club. A Class B license was also approved for the Buckeye **Rotary** Club, which will run bingo games from the same location, at 319 N. Litchfield Road in Goodyear, City Clerk Lynn Mulhall said.

The White Tanks **Rotary** Club originally planned to open a bingo hall at the Parkway Village center on Estrella Parkway but ran into issues with parking and tenants, representatives said.

When the bingo hall opens, each **Rotary** club will offer five bingo sessions per week, Mulhall said. Games are expected to be held every day of the week.

Prize amounts are limited to \$1,000 for a single game and \$3,000 for the entire occasion unless a Special Bonus Game license has been obtained first, Mulhall said.

Licensing fees include a one-time \$25 fee paid to local governing bodies and an annual \$50 license fee paid to the Department of Revenue. Class B licensees file quarterly financial reports and pay 1.5 percent of their gross receipts as a bingo tax.

All remaining proceeds from the games will directly benefit the community, said Gary McEachern of the White Tanks club.

Members of both **Rotary clubs** said they will separate earnings and divide them among more than 50 area nonprofit organizations.

"We raise the money; we give all the money away - that's truly what **Rotary** is about," McEachern said.

Financial donations to nonprofit organizations have declined in recent years, but requests for donations haven't slowed down, said Vince Evans, a White Tanks **Rotary** Club member.

"It's very difficult to turn people away and not [be able to] give," Evans said.

A bingo hall will offer not only entertainment but also a fundraising opportunity, he said.

"It's really a legacy project. We intend to keep this thing going for years and years and we intend to give back to the community millions of dollars," he said.

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