Projects help transform downtown as part of rejuvenation of area

Bernard Chaillot
Vermilion Bureau Editor

ABBEVILLE — Comeaux's French Market will not be serving Beignets and Cafe au Lait, because co-owner Russell Comeaux dishes up those treats at his Market 200. But as part of the proposed renovation of the downtown area, Comeaux said, "I still have been working together for years at the cafe, and we always wanted to do something like this," he said.

"Just about any time you come to Abbeville, you're going to see ladders propped up on buildings and painters at work," he said. "They were at Abbeville Record Shop today."

At Comeaux's, Howard said he supplies CC's and four other eateries with fresh vegetables, as well as two offshore grocery suppliers. "We're growing little by little," he said. "More people are finding out about us. We buy as much locally grown produce as we can."

Fresh flowers, as well as frozen snap beans, black-eyed peas, purple hollis, and speckled butter beans, not to mention shoepeg corn and crowder peas, may be found on any given occasion. A current highlight is bright red poinsettias for the holiday season.

"Whatever's fresh, that's what we'll have," Comeaux said. "It's just a great corner for us to show our support and love of Abbeville. To think, Model-T Fords used to gas up here."

Employee Beau Fingoust, 17, a junior at Vermilion Catholic, summed up the atmosphere of the downtown area and the rebirth and stated, "It's a cool place, it's right in the central, you know what I mean? It's come back."

Generous renovation assistance was provided by property owner and realtor Jim- my Noel, they said.

The same dark green awning as at CC's Cafe hangs at the fruit stand. Fresh satsumas ripen alongside home-grown mirlitons and fall tomatoes.

Fresh cabbage heads are five for $1 and Louisiana yams just in from St. Landry are 2 pounds for the same price, but the quality produce is but a small part of the overall plan for the market in the ongoing rejuvenation of the downtown area, Comeaux said.

"Beignets and I have been working together for years at the cafe, and we always wanted to do something like this," he said.

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