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Six Mile growing despite recession New businesses opening on Main Street

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Downtown expanding



JOHN C. STEVENSON / Staff

Bill Edmonson smokes chickens at his Spanky's Backyard BBQ in Six Mile.

New businesses have been springing up along Main Street in downtown Six Mile over the past year, a sign of strength in hard economic times and the appeal of its small town charm.

"I think as a town we're probably holding our own for being so small," said Laura Waddell, owner

The Cafe on Main Street in Six Mile.

Waddell, who bought the cafe about two years ago and who has been at the cafe on and off for almost 10 years, said the sour economy has affected everyone, describing how the downtown had more businesses before the recession.

But she said businesses are starting to come back, and her business is picking up too.

Six Mile Mayor John Wade said downtown, about three blocks along Main Street, has added four or five businesses within the last year.

"It seems to be quite lively," Wade said.

He said there are a few empty storefronts or buildings downtown, including an old house he would like to see turned into a restaurant.

Wade said Spanky's Backyard BBQ, a thrift store, Rippy Realty, a tanning and hair salon, and a small grocery store have all opened in downtown Six Mile in about the last year.



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Keith Green, owner of K's Variety Store in Six Mile, organizes clothing merchandise.

Vickie Mosley, a cashier at Amazing Savings, a discount grocery store downtown, said it opened in November. She said customers told her the store was a needed and welcomed addition.

Next door, Keith Green has opened Ks Variety Store.

Green, owner of the thrift and consignment store, said it opened about three weeks ago and said business has been “more than we expected.”

He said the city does a great job, ensuring things are clean and neat, and said the taxes are reasonable to encourage business and bring people in to start new ventures.

For Green, the downtown area could use more eateries and a big supermarket.

“If you get one supermarket out here, you’re going to see the expansion of several buildings,” he said, describing how he thinks downtown Six Mile will grow.

Spanky’s owner Bill Edmondson said there are buildings across the street from his restaurant that are for rent and said he thinks the area needs a doctor’s office, and maybe a dentist.

“I think it’s going to be good,’ he said of the downtown’s future. “Once the economy turns and we get the building and stuff going in the Reserve, once it starts up again, I think the area will really grow.”