



Post-Crescent photo by Kirk Wagner

PHARMACIST JUDE JEAN-PIERRE completes paperwork at RxLink Pharmacy in Greenville recently.

Small pharmacy thrives along with its customers, community

Owner hopes to leave his mark on Greenville

By Pete Bach
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREENVILLE — Jude Jean-Pierre is a pharmacist who prefers to steer clear of large metropolitan areas.

For that matter, the owner of the first and only pharmacy in this blossoming Fox Valley town doesn't treat the Walgreens' of the world as a threat.

"From the standpoint of the small independent pharmacist, you don't look at competing with the big chains," he said. "They will always be there. You look at the self satisfaction of knowing you helped the small community."

That's good enough for town resident Linda Abitz, who has made RxLink her pharmacy of choice.

"It's good service and it's in the neighborhood," she said after picking up her order this week. "It's nice to have something close by."

Born in Haiti, Jean-Pierre said he left the Caribbean nation in 1979 and wound up following in the footsteps of his oldest sister, Elma, a pharmacist in a Chicago suburb.

At her direction, the 41-year-old Jean-Pierre decided to pursue pharmacy. As chance would have it, a University of Wisconsin-Madison recruiter was on the campus of his junior college one day and Jean-Pierre decided to enroll at UW. He graduated in 1993.

When he entered the profession, pharmacists were in extremely short supply. He acted as a consultant, traveling throughout Wisconsin to provide relief help to independent pharmacies in rural areas.

For the past 3 1/2 years, he's been running the

At a glance

What: RxLink Pharmacy
Where: W7003 Parkview Drive, Greenville
Business: Full-service pharmacy in fast-growing community

town pharmacy with the help of a few part-time assistants.

When clients enter, some find that having their prescriptions filled is of seemingly secondary importance.

"Some of the seniors find it's not just a pharmacy, but (a place) to talk about the community," Jean-Pierre said.

The pharmacy delivers prescriptions to older clients.

The pharmacy in a small strip shopping center recently achieved public recognition. The Entrepreneurs of Color Council, Green Bay, an organization associated with the Urban Hope program, presented Jean-

Pierre with its Flagship award.

His sign is visible from busy State 15, the artery that runs between Appleton and Hortonville.

He sees "a continuum of growth in Greenville and Hortonville."

The Affinity Health System is building a clinic right behind his store. Aurora Health Care is also erecting one nearby.

Both are primary care facilities very likely to generate traffic, Jean-Pierre said.

He said one of his most gratifying functions has been the ability to take a pair of Hortonville High School students interested in seeking careers in pharmacy under his wing and exposing them to the workings of an independent operation like his.

"I feel I wouldn't be here without the support of so many," he said.

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