



LISA BUL/The Patriot Ledger

The Duval family is redoing the front of Duval's Pharmacy in Whitman to give it the look of an old-fashioned neighborhood drugstore. With John Duval, right, are sons Craig and Marc and granddaughter Megan, 14.

# FACE LIFT DELAYED

Cosmetic procedure at Whitman pharmacy on hold thanks to car crash

By **SUE SCHEIBLE**  
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## WHITMAN

The new "old-fashioned" storefront will have to wait a few more weeks.

Pharmacist John Duval expected to put the finishing touches on a new sign and storefront for his business, Duval's Pharmacy at Washington and South streets, when he returned from vacation this week.

Instead, Duval is waiting for the insurance adjuster to inspect the damage done Aug. 2 when a car crashed through the front of his store and shattered the plate glass window. The car's elderly driver stepped on the accelerator by mistake, police said.

There were no injuries and no charges were brought.

"I had to put the sign people on hold," Duval said.

The front of the store is boarded up, but business inside continues as usual.

The Aug. 2 accident happened around lunchtime. Duval's son Marc, 40, was working at the cash register at the front of the store when he heard a loud crash behind

him. He was knocked off his feet when the front wall caved in. Unhurt, he got up and went outside to investigate.

"We were lucky that we had just put up new shades over the front window," John Duval said. "They held all the shattered glass inside the store."

Duval's Pharmacy is among the relatively few smaller independent

storefront and sign to reflect the store's proud heritage and give an "old-fashioned feeling." He worked with Sign Design Inc. of Brockton to create a wrap-around sign with raised gold letters on a black background, lighted from above by green gooseneck lamps.

A permanent green cloth awning will extend two feet over the sidewalk. The bottom of the

of the store was looking," Duval said.

Six months ago, Duval renovated the inside of the store where consumer health and home products are sold. The pharmacy is in the back.

The pharmacy was started by Duval's grandfather, J. Howard Duval, and his father, John Duval Jr., and their cousin, Malcolm

"Buzz" Perry. The men's wives also worked there. Duval's father has died, but his mother, Patricia Duval, still lives in Whitman.

His sons, Marc and Craig, 42, both of Halifax, also work there. Marc is the front-store buyer; Craig is the front-store manager.

The family enterprise is about to draw in its fifth generation. Duval's 14-year-old granddaughter, Megan Duval of Halifax, begins next week as a

stock person and cashier.

No one in the younger generations has become a pharmacist, but Duval said, "I have eight grandchildren, so I'm working on it."

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Courtesy of Sign Design Inc. of Brockton

New sign and storefront design for Duval's Pharmacy in Whitman.

pharmacies left in the state. It has been in business at the same location since 1946, when Duval's grandfather, father and cousin started it. Four generations have worked there, and a fifth is about to come aboard.

Duval decided to design a new

windows will have a 2-foot border of matching green.

The storefront also will have new illuminated signs that extend over the sidewalk.

"The last renovation was in 1982, and it had been bothering me for a while how worn-out the front