



## DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

**Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.**



- Secured \$44,500 in public funds & \$20,000 commitment for 2019
- Added 5 new, private stakeholders and renewed commitment from existing 3
- Received \$60,387 in USDA funds for technical assistance provided
- Gave 16 presentations/interviews about projects & services
- Wrote 10 columns/press releases for publication
- Worked with local and state officials on 50 parish issues
- Parish rep for Acadiana ED Council, One Acadiana, & Regional Alliance

## EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

**Assisting the existing business community is our #1 concern.**



- Conducted 57 business visits
- Answered 149 inquiries
- Held 3 business walks in Delcambre, Kaplan, and Gueydan
- Attended 8 ribbon cuttings
- Managed 7 retention projects
- Held seat on Vermilion Chamber of Commerce board; worked with Kaplan & Gueydan Chamber on improving their services and participation
- Distributed 15 newsletters (events/tips); 25% open rate

**Encourage local spending to have an economy that's self-supported.**



- 30 "Business Spotlights" & promoted 45 businesses in anticipation of the holiday season
- Partnered with Town Planner to feature Keep It Local concept in local calendar
- Provided marketing services & supplies to 19 companies for Small Business Saturday

**We're matching our local jobs with our local talent.**

- Co-hosted a training for 37 jobseekers in anticipation of annual job fair
- Co-hosted parishwide job fair with 25 companies and 103 attendees
- Marketed job openings at 19 local companies/agencies
- Directly assisted 9 jobseekers with their resume and job hunt
- Co-hosted an employer workshop to educate 19 attendees on the latest in employment law



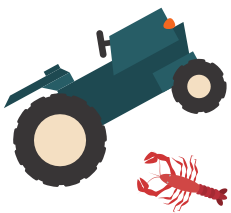
## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



### Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Outreach and/or counseling provided to 33 new businesses
- Listed 14 new properties & maintained over 50 locations on site selection portal
- Submitted new site for state site selection work plan consideration & received approval
- Answered 21 Requests for Information from interested businesses
- Worked with 5 prospects on due diligence & site search
- Co-hosted "Retail Strategies" workshop & shared information for local retail recruitment
- Secured local support for Opportunity Zone designation, submitted request & received approval

### Using agriculture & aquaculture to keep our uniqueness.



- Partnered with Cattleman's Association to survey local producers on industry
- Engaged with experts to uncover opportunities in cattle supply chain
- Assisted UL Lafayette & Meridian Institute in seafood industry grant & research

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### Supporting improvements & partnerships that create better communities.

- Broke ground on new Maurice water plant (funding support provided in 2017)
- Provided support for Gueydan's DRA flood protection funding request; approved for \$250,000
- Coordinated input on priorities for Regional Infrastructure Visioning Report (RIVR)
- Connected Lt. Governor with local contacts to leverage Palmetto Island & state park resources
- Maintained parish's social media accounts; shared 180 positive articles to build community pride
- Prepared and hosted Leadership Vermilion "Commerce & Sustainability Day" presentations
- Worked with Vermilion Arts Council to provide support to art-based businesses
- Worked with tourism & cultural economy professionals to uncover best practices for businesses through Semaine de Francophone & Agri-Tourism Workshop (in planning)
- Served on committee & completed "Desirability Assessment" for Kaplan's ENCORE LA Retirement Designation Application

*All activities have been performed by economic development staff in partnership with Board of Directors, ally organizations, appointing authorities and other community stakeholders. We thank the Vermilion Parish elected officials, residents, and businesses for their continued support and efforts to #developVermilion.*