



DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.



- Director attended "Entrepreneurship and the Rural Community" hosted by Central LA
- Created Business Retention Expansion tutorial - BRE 101 - for board training
- Interviewed for KLFY story on Abbeville growth & opportunities
- Press releases for 3-Event Job Fair series & Forward Vermilion Award
- Presentation to Vermilion Chamber of Commerce by rep Ben Rivera
- Board Member Spotlight - Megan Lalande
- Presented 2018 Highlights at City of Abbeville Council meeting
- Coordinated meeting between City of Abbeville officials & Stine Lumber reps
- Attended 1A Regional Celebration event



EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Assisting the existing business community is our #1 concern.



- Answered 12 requests for information
- Conducted 6 business visits with decision makers/company representatives
- Held Qtr1 Business Tune-Up with 20 companies represented
- Launched 1 new expansion project to bring more commercial activity to Vermilion
- Planning underway for Destination Downtown - locations & logistics being confirmed
- Attended BALANCE: Well-Being Yoga & Consulting ribbon cutting

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

- Completed final planning details for Employer Workshop (April 4th) including securing presenting speaker, Allen & Gooch
- Secured 1A as sponsor for Job Fair's Employer Lounge
- Coordinated meeting with LA Workforce Commission staff to build referral protocols
- Conducted outreach to all previous participants of past events and local companies advertising open positions to market participation in the upcoming Job Fair
- Marketed jobseeker services & events through parish churches



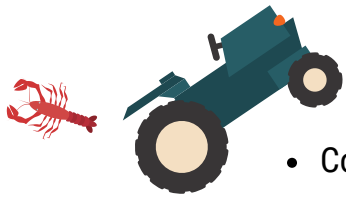
We're matching our local jobs with our local talent.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Outreach provided to 2 new businesses inviting them to utilize our services
- Updated Vermilion Parish business directory for distribution
- Worked with existing prospects: Cowboy, Dickens, Frontier and Otis to meet their needs
- Evaluated Prospect Miracle Whipped - did not meet site requirements
- Attended Opportunity Zone event "Reinventing Communities by Putting the 'Opportunity' in Opportunity Zones - a workshop prepared by Acadiana Planning Commission & FDIC



Using agriculture & aquaculture to keep our uniqueness.

- Contacted Center for LA Studies about agri-tourism workshop planning

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Supporting improvements & partnerships that create better communities.

- Provided Twin Parish Port Commission with statistical information and recommendations for improved infrastructure in Erath
- Shared 35 positive articles on VEDA and Keep It Local, Vermilion Facebook pages to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Pitched collaborative opportunity to Vermilion Arts Council to showcase local work at an upcoming event
- Reached out to Andre Perez with SLCC to uncover more opportunities for technical training in Acadiana
- Connected with newly-elected State Representative for District 47, Ryan Bourriaque to open lines of communication in anticipation of the legislative session

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/19: Southern Oaks Country Club visitation - VEDA & Rhett Hebert

3/19: Agriculture in Vermilion (meeting) - VEDA & USDA

3/22: Ribbon Cutting for Guidry Eye Care - Vermilion Chamber of Commerce

3:31-4/2: Leadership Exchange - 1A & area partners

4/4: Employer Breakfast - VEDA, Chamber, LWC, SLCC, Goodwill Industries

4/13: Destination Downtown (Abbeville) - VEDA, City of Abbeville, Abbeville Mainstreet, Sunrise Realty & others

4/17: Vermilion Parish Job Fair - VEDA, Chamber, LWC, SLCC, Goodwill Industries

4/24: 55 by 25 Vermilion Launch - VEDA, VPSB, 1A, SLCC