



## DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

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



- Secured additional private stakeholder: Duhon Brothers Oil Co, Inc.
- Director attended 3 professional development courses including LIDEA course necessary for certification
- Subject of Abbeville Meridional article about 2019 Plan
- KPEL on-air promotion of February 7th event
- Presentations to Kiwanis of Abbeville & Acadiana Business Services team
- Awarded Vermilion Chamber of Commerce's "2019 Forward Vermilion Award"
- Launched Board Member Spotlight project - received news coverage
- On-boarding of new board member, Anita Dupuis of Gueydan



## EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

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

- Grew contact database by 4%
- Answered 13 requests for information
- Conducted 4 business visits with decision makers/company representatives
- Marketed Qtr1 Business Tune-Up via press release, website, social media & e-newsletter
- Launched 1 new retention project to help an existing business pivot to new product lines
- Launched 1 new expansion project to bring more retail activity to Vermilion
- Successfully closed 1 retention project by addressing business' issues/needs
- Planning underway for Downtown Abbeville open house - date & locations chosen

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

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

- Coordinated dates for upcoming parish job fair
- Prepped marketing materials & website for promotion
- Assisted 2 business in marketing available positions
- Hosted area workforce development personnel to showcase Vermilion-based projects and efforts

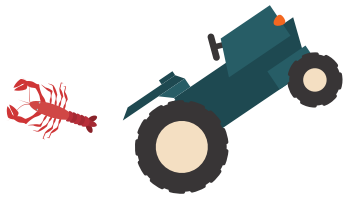


## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



### Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Outreach provided to 3 new businesses inviting them to utilize our services
- Reinvigorated conversation among coastal port directors - meeting postponed in 2018
- Cataloged new properties available in the parish
- Initiated Prospect Cowboy - Regional business interested in using Vermilion site for short-term project
- Attended Opportunity Zone webinar & engaged with McClure Engineering to discuss assets that attract outside investment



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

- Initiated contacted with 4-H program representatives and Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau to promote cattle industry survey participation

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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

- Met with Tom Chamberlain of Entergy to discuss utility needs and issues in municipalities across the parish
- Shared 14 positive articles on VEDA's Facebook page and an additional 15 via the Keep It Local, Vermilion page to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Pitched 3 business-oriented story ideas to the Acadiana Advocate to spark good news in Vermilion
- Met with Mayor Taylor Mencacci to discuss best opportunities for Erath including retail recruitment, the attractiveness of Quality Sports Authority and the local schools, and property appropriate for commercial development
- Met with Mayor Jude Reese to discuss best opportunities for Gueydan including the creation of outsider-attracting events and news and making connections with other public entities throughout the parish for cooperation and coordination

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2/5: Anne presenting at Abbeville City Council meeting

2/6: Reinventing Communities by Putting the "Opportunity" in Opportunity Zone - Acadiana Planning Commission

2/7: Business Tune-Up - Social Media: Where Do I Belong & What Do I Do When I Get There? - VEDA

2/11: Entrepreneurship & the Rural Economy - Central LA Economic Development Alliance

2/13: Regional Celebration - One Acadiana

3/14: Jobseeker Workshop - VEDA, Chamber, LWC, SLCC, Goodwill Industries

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

4/13: Downtown Abbeville Open House - VEDA, City of Abbeville, Abbeville Mainstreet, Sunrise Realty & others

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