



March 2019

DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.



- Applied for \$30,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant to study cattle industry
- Press release for Kaplan Retirement Community - resulted in interview with KADN
- Presentation on economic development public relations to staff & clients of BW PR
- Board Member Spotlight - Tammy Gordon
- Attended reception in Kaplan with Lt. Governor and local dignitaries
- Sent e-newsletter to 483 recipients promoting upcoming events, monthly results & the LA Workforce Commission's training program Small Business Employee Training (SBET)
- Explored office space needs and coordination with the Rotary Club of Abbeville and other local community partners



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
- Attended Vermilion Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon at Palmetto Island
- Launched 1 new expansion project to bring more commercial activity to Vermilion
- Planning underway for Destination Downtown: A Community Open House
- Attended Guidry Eye Care ribbon cutting & promoted their Business Spotlight

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

- Completed Jobseeker Training event with over 20 jobseekers in attendance
- Secured Advancial Financial as sponsor for Job Fair's Employer Lunch
- Coordinated meeting with LA Workforce Commission staff to plan the 2nd Quarter Business Tune-Up - event will feature Workforce Training programs
- Conducted outreach to hiring business and large employers to market participation in the upcoming Job Fair
- Met with School District & One Acadiana to plan 55 by 25 Initiative Launch



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

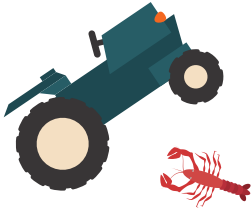
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Worked with 1 entrepreneur, provided resources and insight on how to bring their business concept to Vermilion
- Evaluated Prospect Heather, Kodiak & Fan - did not meet site requirements
- Spoke with Reece Theriot of Accelerate South - received update on cohort & new progress report
- Submitted 1st quarter update of online property portal

Using agriculture & aquaculture to keep our uniqueness.



- Met with Dr. Carrie Castille to discuss our interests in the agricultural community and get advice on how to leverage existing relationships and create new ones
- Applied for USDA grant funding to complete proposed Cattle/Beef industry feasibility study and accompanying market research (surveying of producers)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Supporting improvements & partnerships that create better communities.

- Informed Representative Bourriaque and Senator Hensgens of our efforts with agricultural producers
- Shared 49 positive articles on VEDA and Keep It Local, Vermilion Facebook pages to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Assisted Vermilion Arts Council President with use of MailChimp to better communicate with community
- Met with Andre Perez with SLCC to uncover more opportunities for technical training in Acadiana
- Connected with Mike Tarantino of Iberia Industrial Development Foundation regarding Lafayette Metropolitan Expressway Commission and potential impact on Vermilion and Iberia Parishes
- Provided Marcelle Guidry with Palmetto Island an update on how Iberia Parish was promoting business activity at Lake Fausse Pointe State Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 (Tentative): 55 by 25 Vermilion Launch - VEDA, VPSB, 1A, SLCC

End of May: 2nd Quarter Business Tune-up - VEDA & LWC

6/1: Gueydan Block Party - Town of Gueydan & Gueydan Chamber of Commerce

Summer (Pending review): Development Ready Community Workshop - VEDA, 1A, LED