



DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.



- Wrote and distributed five press releases that resulted in earned media, over 10 interviews and articles featuring our projects and events
- Sent two e-newsletters to 480 recipients promoting upcoming events, monthly results & the LA Workforce Commission's training program Small Business Employee Training (SBET); featured new initiatives and ways people could get engaged
- Attended Leadership Exchange trip with regional partners to Greenville, SC - sponsored by Acadiana Economic Development Council - to get best practices for urban & rural development
- Board Member Spotlight - Ben Rivera



EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Assisting the existing business community is our #1 concern.



- Answered 8 requests for information
- Conducted 1 business visit with decision makers/company representatives
- Held Destination Downtown: A Community Open House with four available properties and cultural and business venues open to show the area's vibrancy and opportunities

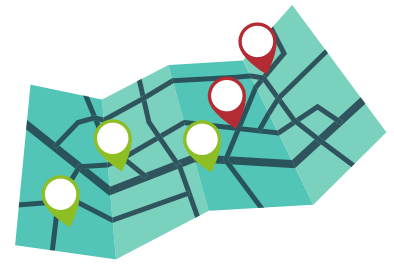
Encourage local spending to have an economy that's self-supported.

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

- Completed Employer Training Workshop, presented by Allen & Gooch
- Hosted the 4th Annual Vermilion Parish Job Fair with 27 companies, three resource providers, and 100 jobseekers, satisfaction surveys are currently being conducted to measure success - promoted the fair on the radio, via TV appearances, newsletters & social media as well as outreach to hiring businesses and large employers
- Hosted Vermilion's 55 by 25 Launch with Vermilion Parish School District & One Acadiana - organized speakers, planned tour, and promoted opportunity to business community
- Promoted job openings. outside the job fair, at five local businesses/agencies

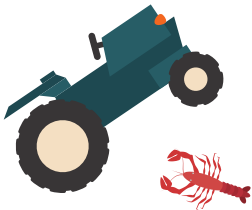


BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Worked with 1 preventure, provided resources and insight on how to bring their business concept to Vermilion; coordinated cooperation with Jeff Davis as business has connection there, also
- Sent outreach postcards to three new businesses locating in Gueydan
- Evaluated Prospect English - submitted former Stine Lumber facility as a possible location
- Scheduled meeting with the four coastal port director's to discuss opportunities & local advantages
- Marketed available properties through tours during Destination Downtown event - at least one prospect identified for each property, follow-up is underway



Using agriculture & aquaculture to keep our uniqueness.

- Attended Seafood Study announcement unveiling efforts to extend research to all Louisiana coastal parishes - had conversations with the Lt. Governor, Omega Protein, USDA, and Meridian Institute about non-traditional/seasonal funding needs for local seafood businesses



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting improvements & partnerships that create better communities.

- Shared 55 positive articles on VEDA and Keep It Local, Vermilion Facebook pages to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Assisted Vermilion Parish Cabinet for United Way with initial research on business & community leaders
- Worked with Councilwoman Melissa Guidry on requirements for ENCORE Louisiana Retirement-Ready Communities website - took photographs at events in around Kaplan and prepared summaries of key elements

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/2: Gueydan Auto Parts Grand Opening

5/28: Business Visitation with Christa Billeaud of Acadiana Dodge

End of May: Business Visitation with Tiffany Roy of La BEAUTique Shed

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

6/1: Gueydan Community Outreach Festival - Town of Gueydan & Gueydan Chamber of Commerce

6/18: Coastal Port Director's Meeting - Cameron, Vermilion, Twin Parish, Iberia

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