



August 2019

DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.

- Provided copies of July Highlights to stakeholder groups
- Created a marketing piece specifically for out-of-state prospects considering Vermilion
- Posted two "Client Quotes" showcasing our relationship with the business community
- Met with Rural Development and Business Programs staff from USDA to discuss a Facilities Grant and accompanying projects
- Executive Director, Anne Falgout, was named as a 2019 "Woman Who Means Business" by United Way of Acadiana - news articles ran in The Advocate & on KATC
- Participated in interview with Russo Group on Opportunity Zones & their potential impact
- Shared Board Member Spotlight for Roslyn White - article appeared in Gueydan Journal
- Received financial contribution from Town of Gueydan



EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Assisting the existing business community is our #1 concern.

- Answered 7 requests for information
- Attended ribbon cutting for Prairie Cove Subdivision hosted by Manuel Builders
- Conducted property research for Project Skin throughout the parish
- Conducted 1 business visit with local business owner
- Contacted 9 businesses about a unique public/private partnership at Palmetto Island State Park
- Published Business Spotlight for Saved & Sewn Clothing



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

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

- Met with Lesia Handy with the Business & Career Solutions Center to discuss ways we can promote each organization's resources and make appropriate referrals
- Contacted area business about using On the Job Training to subsidize their in-house onboarding program for new hires
- Assisted one jobseeker in their career search and resume update
- Promoted job openings at The Eatery, B's Wild Wings, and Hebert's Steakhouse



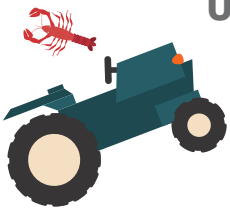
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Drawing attention to investment opportunities.

- Connected with attendees of Abbeville Opportunity Zone Stakeholder Meeting and together we are planning a "pitch" event to select strategic places, business concepts, and community projects for Abbeville's prospectus
- Worked with three start-up ventures on their information gathering
- Conducted outreach with local real estate community to evaluate sites & buildings for inclusion in online mapping portal; met with Southern Lifestyle Development staff & reviewed project;
- Compiled results & submitted 3rd quarter database & photos to programmer for web update
- Updated municipality demographic and consumer spending reports; sent updates to area mayors
- Contacted municipalities to update Doing Business Guides with business license requirements
- Worked with Site Location Partnership to prepare for packaging trade show attendance

Using agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries to keep our uniqueness.



- Worked with UL Lafayette's Dr. Stewart to plan & host Seafood Study Results presentation
- Met with USDA, LA SeaGrant, Twin Parish Port & UL Lafayette to formulate plan for next steps in bridging Vermilion's seafood supply chain gaps

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.



- Attended Vermilion Parish Coastal Day to learn about current & future projects
- Reviewed RIVR projects & encouraged advocacy with local legislative delegation
- Attended LA Travel Summit luncheon honoring Kaplan as new ENCORE LA Retirement Community
- Shared 55 positive articles on VEDA and Keep It Local, Vermilion Facebook pages to build community pride and share useful information with followers
- Coordinated meetings between the Lt. Governor's Office and regional business community to explore opportunities at Palmetto Island State Park; researched current lease rates in Abbeville to use as comps
- Spoke with Madeline DeHart of Vermilion Parish's new French Immersion program to brainstorm ways to get the community connected & updated on its progress

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/5 - Blossoms & Gifts Ribbon Cutting

9/6 - Dupuy's 150th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting

9/9 - Meeting with Gus Rezende of Social Entertainment

9/18 - Anne presenting at Maurice Council Meeting

TBD - Abbeville Opportunity "Pitch" Event

10/10 - United Way of Acadiana's Women Who Mean Business Awards

10/21-10/22 - Statewide Economic Development Summit