



VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

There is always a great amount of energy that surrounds the start of a new year. With renewed engagement comes big ideas, new goals, and excitement over what's to come. But, that energy can also lead to refinement. In 2020, VEDA commits to employ both fresh concepts and fine-tuned efforts.

FOCUS AREA: Dedicated Economic Development Effort
A professional organization working for Vermilion's success.

INCREASE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Drafted proposition language & received preliminary approval from Bond Commission
• Received financial contribution from Vermilion Parish Police Jury
• Completed SAM registration, necessary for future grant applications

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- Distributed press release for upcoming Vermilion Arts Council event
• Distributed 2019: Year in Review materials to stakeholders
• Participated in interview with Bernadette Lee (KPEL) about parish updates

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Distributed information about National Historic Trust's search for "Endangered Places"
• Connected Abbeville Councilwoman White & Juror Paul Bourgeois to Stine listing agent

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

- Reviewed board appointees, dates, and transitions with LA's Ethics Department
• Prepared & hosted January public meeting with financials & goals update

EXPAND PARISH'S PRESENCE & RELEVANCE IN THE STATE

- Participated in Congressional redistricting meeting with Speaker Taylor Barras
• Transitioned new slate of Acadiana EDC officers into their new roles

FOCUS AREA: Existing Business Assistance
Retaining & expanding companies for a self-supported economy.

ASSIST LOCAL EMPLOYERS IN EMPLOYING LOCAL WORKERS

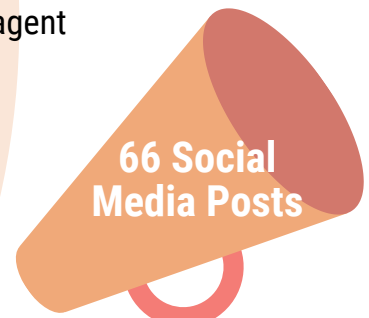
- Provided Lonnie Richard (VPSB) with recommendations for enhancing WorkKeys program
• Attended 55 By 25 Summit with workforce development colleagues
• Distributed "Bridging the Talent Gap" employer survey
• Assisted 1 job seeker in their search

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Answered 9 requests for information & promoted 6 local job openings
• Attended the Vermilion Chamber's Centennial Celebration & assisted with Chamber Award ads
• Engaged with Acadiana Business Spotlight & VP Women in Business to uncover opportunities for clients

This is most impressive!!! You are a great advocate for Vermilion Parish, continue thinking outside the box and bringing modern and advanced ideas to our leaders...Keep up the good work.

MITCHELL LEBLANC with ECOSERV on YEAR END RESULTS



FOCUS AREA: Business Development

Inspiring & recruiting investment opportunities.

WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

- Created a "Made in Vermilion" product list to use in shop local promotions

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- Spoke with James Noel, Jr. about his transition at Sunrise Realty; Provided company's listing data
- Reviewed Deere Park's Certified Site information; Secured update from new property manager
- Re-evaluated public-private partnership options for Stine Lumber facility

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Worked with LA SeaGrant, Twin Parish Port & UL Lafayette to design a program for upcoming Seafood Summit

EVALUATE ALL REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS & PROSPECT REQUESTS

- Reviewed requests for Project Green Arrow, Zeus II, Lori Lege client
- Terminated Prospect Ernest

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Spoke with Site Location Partnership about Anaheim trade show & tactics
- Reviewed regional external marketing plan & requested metrics and results for digital marketing efforts

FOCUS AREA: Community Development

Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.

PROMOTE TOURISM-RELATED BUSINESSES IN ARTS, CULTURE & HOSPITALITY

- Worked with Jesse Guidry to update the Vermilion Parish business listing on the Lafayette travel "Crawfish" page; Spoke with him about promoting the Vermilion Voyage and securing necessary permits
- Attended IEDC Webinar: Drawn Together: Art & Economic Development with regional partners; Participated in debrief with partners & Richards of Le Bayou Legendaire & Richard Sale Barn to discuss cultural preservation and its impact on our identity

WORK ON PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE OUR "PRODUCT" & INCREASE MARKETABILITY

- Provided the Leadership Vermilion Alumni board with results from its member survey & made recommendations for Leadership Summit speakers
- Met with Andrew Dozier of Kiwanis of Abbeville to review nominations for the Kiwanis Educator Award

ON THE HORIZON

2/3 - Kaplan Creative Placemaking Kick-Off meeting

2/5 - VEDA Board meeting

2/6 - Leadership Institute Luncheon - Anne presenting award

2/6 - Regional marketing meeting with Julie Calzone

2/18 - Acadiana Business Services Team meeting

2/19 - Leadership Vermilion Alumni meeting

2/20 - One Acadiana + LABI Legislative Luncheon

2/20 - IEDC Webinar: Making the Most of Your Opportunity Zone

2/27 - GIS Planning Webinar: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Economic Development Marketing

New Business
Outreach
Postcards

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2020