



VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

In mid-March, Vermilion, along with the rest of the world, experienced an unprecedented series of events due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our team has been working diligently to ensure that our business community is armed with the resources they need to weather this new type of storm.

FOCUS AREA: Dedicated Economic Development Effort

A professional organization working for Vermilion's success.

INCREASE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

Submitted necessary information to the State Bond Commission for their May mtg; there they will decide whether or not to place the parcel fee prop on the ballot

- Submitted quarterly reports for USDA grant funding

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 11 e-newsletters published with various COVID-19-related resources & updates
- Worked with the media on COVID-related stories including live interview with News 15
- Submitted press release on Cattle Industry grant; story published - generated new leads!

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Outreach to local admins about sharing info with public; provided Resource Directory updates, local government funding awareness, and available opportunities
- Presented COVID-related funding information at Abbeville Council Meeting
- Assisted with Erath sewer-related grant submission

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

- Prepared & hosted April public meeting with financials & goals update

EXPAND PARISH'S PRESENCE & RELEVANCE IN THE STATE

- Participated in weekly calls with regional economic developers to address concerns
- Joined coalition to educate business owners through a series of webinars

FOCUS AREA: Existing Business Assistance

Retaining & expanding companies for a self-supported economy.

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Assisted in the distribution of a second regional business survey re: COVID-19 awaiting responses
- Participated in Chamber's Legislative Forum
- Answered 47 requests for information (all but 2 COVID-19 related)
- Conducted outreach to businesses impacted by COVID-19; Cataloging concerns and resources provided
- Created a "Can My Business Open" graphic and communicated to "grey area" businesses
- Co-hosted 4 webinars with regional partners to help businesses understand the "new normal" in their respective industries
- Contacted local bankers regarding their participation in the Payroll Protection Program



63 Social
Media Posts



Made in
Vermilion
Spotlight:

Manual Screen
Printing, LLC

FOCUS AREA: Business Development

Inspiring & recruiting investment opportunities.



WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

- Worked with 1 entrepreneur on a new business concept, no new permits

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- Worked on quarterly update of available properties
- Met with 1A's Site Development Committee and discussed importance for recruitment

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Worked with Prospect Foil on their plans to showcase locally-sourced products
- Began working with Fulcrum Sales & Impact Development on Cattle/Beef Industry Survey & Study
- Provided updates to Cattlemen's Association & LA Farm Bureau Federation - requested participation

EVALUATE ALL REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS & PROSPECT REQUESTS

- Evaluated RFIs for 1 prospect - no site matches

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Spoke with Site Location Partnership about their activities
- Coordinated conversation with 1A Marketing & Business Development teams & urged a transition to new strategy

FOCUS AREA: Community Development

Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.

PROMOTE TOURISM-RELATED BUSINESSES IN ARTS, CULTURE & HOSPITALITY

- Began research on Cultural Districts as a recruitment tool for small communities
- Hosted 1st "Made in Vermilion" company to celebrate local artists & craftsmen

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

- Maintained an updated COVID-19 Resource Directory and distributed to community members fielding questions from the public; Made updates as available
- Continued participation with the Acadiana VOAD (disaster response volunteers) as an affiliate member sharing information about nonprofit funding
- Outreach to Senator Cortez to discuss Acadiana's participation on legislative economic recovery taskforce
- Outreach to local delegation to share curated information about COVID resources

ON THE HORIZON

Tuesday mornings - Webinar Series

Wednesday afternoons - Acadiana EDO/Allies Conference Calls

Wednesday afternoons - Business Webinar Debrief/Planning Meetings

5/1 - Phone interview with Bernadette Lee & Rob Kirkpatrick of KPEL (live)

5/5 - Virtual Acadiana Day at the Legislature

5/6 - VEDA Board Meeting