



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

- Completed documentation requirements with Secretary of State, including election pricing
- Received approval from State Bond Commission for November proposition election
- Began VEDA Visioning report to communicate funding-related goals
- Initiated Delta Regional Authority & Economic Development Administration grant processes

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 5 e-newsletters published with various COVID-19-related resources & updates
- Worked with the media on COVID-related stories including live interview with KPEL & KADN News 15

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Provided COVID-related funding information to elected officials

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

- Prepared & hosted May public meeting with financials & goals update
- Informed board of Ethics Commission requirements & information needed
- Commissioned Financial Review; no negative findings

EXPAND PARISH'S PRESENCE & RELEVANCE IN THE STATE

- Participated in weekly calls with regional economic developers to address concerns
- Attended AEDC & One Acadiana board meetings



45 Social Media Posts



KADN News 15 Spotlights:

Blush of Abbeville

BALANCE: Well-being Yoga & Consulting

Center Stage Dance Academy

FOCUS AREA: Existing Business Assistance

Retaining & expanding companies for a self-supported economy.

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Evaluated responses from second regional business survey re: COVID-19
- Coordinated spotlights with KADN on 3 Vermilion Parish businesses
- Participated in Vermilion Chamber's Mayoral Forum
- Co-hosted 1 webinar with regional partners to help businesses understand protocols and best practices for returning to work
- Participated in Acadiana to Geaux to promote Vermilion Parish restaurants & food options

ASSUME ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

- Worked with SLCC & LEDA to solicit participation & market job fair to local businesses & job seekers
- Assisted 1 job seeker with her resume redesign & re-entry into the job market

FOCUS AREA: Business Development

Inspiring & recruiting investment opportunities.



WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

- Sent "welcome" outreach to 5 newly permitted businesses in Abbeville

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- Completed quarterly update of available properties

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Worked with Prospect Foil on their plans to showcase locally-sourced products
- Provided support letter for Twin Parish Port food hub-related grant submission
- Worked with Fulcrum Sales & Impact Development on Cattle/Beef Industry Survey & Study

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Completed content strategy for Abbeville Prospectus with Acadiana Planning Commission staff
- Spoke with Jay Garner, site selector, about transition to regional supply chains & recruitment of new industries

FOCUS AREA: Community Development

Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.

PROMOTE TOURISM-RELATED BUSINESSES IN ARTS, CULTURE & HOSPITALITY

- Conducted research on outdoor tourism/cultural venues and investigated potential partnerships

DEVELOP VERMILION'S NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

- Coordinated "Commerce Day" curriculum with Leadership Vermilion & arranged for session speakers

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

- Maintained an updated COVID-19 Resource Page and distributed to community members fielding questions from the public; Made updates as available
- Participated in legislative forum about reopening Louisiana
- Provided letter of support to local delegation regarding House Bill 676 - "Free the Transcript"
- Completed United Way of Acadiana board training to better connect basic needs with economic opportunity
- Participated in a call with Leadership Institute of Acadiana to discuss online learning & local collaborations

ON THE HORIZON

Wednesday afternoons - Acadiana EDO/Allies Conference Calls & Business Webinar Debrief/Planning Meetings

6/1 - Entergy EDA Funding Webinar

6/2 - Louisiana Economic Development update call

6/3 - VEDA Board Meeting

6/4 & 6/18 - NUNU Collective collaborative discussions re: Creative Placemaking

6/10 - Revised Payroll Protection Program Rules webinar (pending)

6/17 - Vermilion Chamber Business Advisory Committee meeting

6/18 - Best Practices in Rural Marketing & Attraction webinar (IEDC, pending)

6/22 - AEDC Board Meeting

6/23 - One Acadiana Site Development Committee meeting