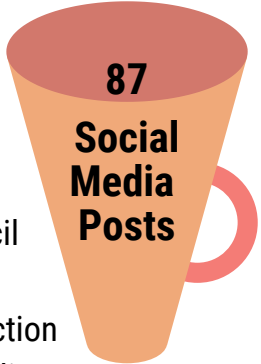




VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

In mid-March, Vermilion, along with the rest of the world, experienced an unprecedented series of events due to the COVID-19 outbreak, in August, Hurricane Laura. Our team has been working diligently to ensure that our business community is armed with the resources they need to weather all types of storms.

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



INCREASE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Prepared talking points regarding Parcel Fee Proposition - presented at Erath Town Council meeting and provided information to Vermilion Chamber of Commerce at their request
- Notified Clerk of Court and Registrar of Voters of ballot proposition for November 3rd election
- Made arrangements to publish details of proposition in the Abbeville Meridional per guidelines

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 5 e-newsletters published with various COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura-related resources & updates

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Outreach to elected officials to coordinate efforts with United Way of Acadiana and public agencies following Hurricane Laura
- Assisted Representative Miguez's office with two constituent issues
- Worked with Abbeville officials & Acadiana Planning Commission to add details and reference historic studies in Abbeville Prospectus

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

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

EXPAND PARISH'S KNOW-HOW & RELEVANCE IN THE STATE

- Participated in 1A Strategic Planning session with region's EDOs



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

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Business visit with Boulevard Boutique at their new location in Abbeville
- Participated in Chamber's Business Advisory Committee meeting - provided info on legislative sessions

PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Promoted Acadiana Business webinars on various topics

ENCOURAGED "SHOP LOCAL" EFFORTS

- Published Business Spotlight for Southern Internet Marketing; promoted online

ASSUME ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

- Obtained & distributed information about available employment opportunities
- Assisted one jobseeker in his return-to-school journey
- Launched Link & Learn program for parish - low-cost, open wireless for qualifying families



FOCUS AREA: Business Development *Inspiring & recruiting investment opportunities.*



WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

- Received notice of 7 new business permits in Abbeville; sent new business postcard to each
- Connected local venture capital contact with Opportunity Machine to discuss angel network

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- Evaluated former Stine Lumber and Fruit of the Loom plant for potential projects

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Received survey results from cattle/beef industry study; analysis in progress; notified participants with update
- Committed resources to Phase 2 of cattle/beef industry study; secured \$3,500 in outside funds
- Engaged local cattlemen in an opportunity to connect with NOLA restaurant players

ENGAGE IN LEAD DEVELOPMENT & SITE SELECTOR OUTREACH

- Met with Site Location Partnership to review year-end results and reports
- Met with One Acadiana Business Development team to coordinate recruitment efforts

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Met with Prospect Foil, Twin Parish Port and USDA architect to discuss plans for proposed facility
- Provided Prospect Skin with grant application and expectations
- Worked with Prospect Graze: provided grant application, state funding opportunities, small business programs, recommendations and sites for a potential project

FOCUS AREA: Community Development *Supporting improvements & partnerships to create better communities.*

DEVELOP VERMILION'S NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

- Prepped "Commerce Day" agenda, coordinated speakers, and presented economic development information to Leadership Vermilion class

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

- Published "Disaster Relief" page on website to direct businesses & residents affected by Hurricane Laura to available resources
- Located updated information on hotels and impact for Louisiana Economic Development
- Maintained an updated COVID-19 Resource Page and distributed to community members fielding questions from the public; made updates as available
- Worked with United Way of Acadiana on strategy for capital campaign and CEO visits

ON THE HORIZON

Wednesday afternoons - Acadiana EDO/Allies Conference Calls

9/1 - Anne presenting at Gueydan Council meeting

9/2 - VEDA Board meeting

9/3 - Meeting with Patterned Pecan

9/7 - Labor Day Holiday

9/10 - United Way of Acadiana Cabinet meeting

9/14 - Anne presenting at Delcambre Council Meeting

9/15 - Anne presenting at Abbeville Council meeting

9/16 - Vermilion Chamber BAC meeting

9/16 - Anne presenting to Abbeville Rotary

9/16 - Anne presenting at Maurice Council meeting

9/22 - One Acadiana Board Meeting

9/30 - United Way of Acadiana Board meeting