



VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Vermilion has experienced an unprecedented series of events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, then was also affected by 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 & flyer for Parcel Fee Proposition - presented at Gueydan, Delcambre, Abbeville, and Maurice Council, Rotary Club of Abbeville, and Farm Bureau Federation meetings
- Published details of proposition in the Abbeville Meridional 8/27, 9/3, 9/10 & 9/17
- Invoiced stakeholders; Received contributions from Thomson Smith & Leach, Vermilion Bank, Town of Gueydan, Acadiana Ford, Town of Erath, Gulf Coast Bank & City of Kaplan

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 2 e-newsletters published with various COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura-related resources & updates
- Provided Gueydan Journal & Abbeville Meridional with info for their coverage of the parcel fee proposition
- Participated in on-air interview with KLFY's Danielle Johnson
- Created a video featuring VEDA's vision and commitment to the community
- Distributed August & September Highlights to stakeholders

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Contacted candidates for Judge & District Attorney for a Q&A with the local business community on behalf of the Vermilion Chamber's Business Advocacy Committee; Assisted with member communications
- Provided 2020 Demographic Reports and Special Session info to area mayors
- Worked with the Assessor's Office to have updated information on the parcel fee

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

- Prepared & hosted September public meeting with financials & goals update
- Received Ethics certificates for Jeremy Lartigue & Richard Guilbeaux

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

- Participated in AEDC and One Acadiana board meetings
- Made recommendations for Vermilion Parish business leaders for One Acadiana board

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

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Attended Chamber's Women's Leadership Luncheon & Business Advisory Committee meeting

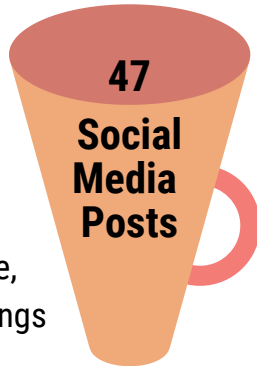
PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Promoted "Starting a New Business" event & UWA "Nonprofit Meet-Up/Virtual Event How-To"
- Co-hosted "Using Shopify to Launch your E-Commerce Business" & "Resources to Grow Your Business"

ENCOURAGED "SHOP LOCAL" EFFORTS

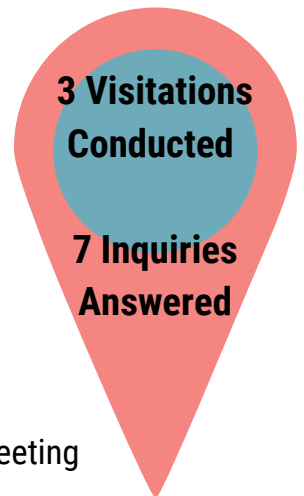
ASSUME ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

- Distributed information about available employment opportunities; Assisted 2 jobseekers with search



47

Social
Media
Posts



3 Visitations
Conducted

7 Inquiries
Answered

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

WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Met with Paul Fitzpatrick of Impact Development to review the results of the Cattleman Survey
- Initiated Phase 2 of cattle/beef industry study; Secured \$3,500 in outside funds
- Received update that Seafood Hub Feasibility Study will be funded by a USDA grant!
- Spoke with Josh Duhon with Vermilion Parish Farm Bureau about liability coverage for farmers who want to expand their operations

ENGAGE IN LEAD DEVELOPMENT & SITE SELECTOR OUTREACH

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Worked with Prospect Graze on pitch deck and securing financial resources for their project; Discussed next steps and announcement protocols
- Communicated with Prospect Range about status - provided them with necessary resources and follow-up
- Notified Prospect Skin that their project was terminated until additional grant application was filed
- Evaluated Prospect Baccus - no site match

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

PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATIONS REGARDING INFRASTRUCTURE

ASSIST WITH EFFORTS FOR CHEAPER INSURANCE AND RISK MITIGATION

- Reinvigorated conversation about liability insurance with Farm Bureau Federation

DEVELOP VERMILION'S NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

EXPLORE PRESERVATION AND ATTRACTION OF TOURISM-ORIENTATED BUSINESSES

- Provided details to Tammy Gordon and Ali Miller of the Vermilion Parish Tourism Commission on VEDA's work with tourism-sector businesses and municipalities

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

- Updated "Disaster Relief" page on website with available resources for Hurricane Laura-affected businesses
- Coordinated distribution of supplies to Pecan Island and Cameron Parish
- Contacted commercial real estate agents to identify short-term lease opportunities for displaced businesses
- Located updated information on hotels and impact for Louisiana Economic Development
- Maintained an updated COVID-19 Resource Page
- Worked with United Way of Acadiana on strategic plan & for capital campaign
- Provided Madeline DeHart (VPSB) with foreign direct investment stats for French Immersion Program promos

ON THE HORIZON

10/2 & 10/23 - United Way of Acadiana Cabinet meeting

10/7 - VEDA Board meeting (postponed, new date TBD)

10/6 - Acadiana Powering Ahead:

What's next for LA Energy webinar

10/14 & 10/28 - Webinar Partner meeting

10/19 - Lola Thomas (VPSB) Early Childhood discussion

10/20 - Anne presenting at Kaplan Council meeting

10/21 - Acadiana Allies meeting

10/21 - Vermilion Chamber Business Advisory
Committee meeting

10/26 - AEDC Board meeting

11/3 - Election Day featuring Parcel Fee Proposition

