



VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Vermilion has experienced an unprecedented series of events due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Laura & Delta. 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 post-election paperwork
- Posted details about the parcel fee, how it works, and how the figures presented were calculated
- Reviewed final reimbursement guidelines for USDA grant with Business Specialist Mary Kirk

BUILD AWARENESS FOR VEDA IMPACT, SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS

- 3 e-newsletters published with various hurricane-related recovery info including FEMA assistance how-to
- Increased email list by over 100!
- Mailed 300 letters to Vermilion's highest employing companies about VEDA services & parcel fee proposition
- Distributed a media advisory on hot meal distribution in Gueydan & a press release on Hurricane Reporting
- Coordinated a story on hurricane damage to local businesses with the Abbeville Meridional
- Distributed an inspirational video featuring VEDA's vision and commitment to the community

MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Presented parcel fee proposition information to the Kaplan City Council at their public meeting
- Reviewed options for school board facility consolidation with Superintendent Byler and key staff

FOLLOW POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PROTOCOLS

- Prepared & hosted October public meeting with financials & goals update
- Received Ethics certificates for Roslyn White & Carlton Campbell
- Prepared proposed 2021 budget for review and vote at the November election

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

- Discussed approval of 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

- Discussed next steps for Business Advisory Committee with team
- Conducted visits with BeLush Boutique & Bright Beginnings & answered 14 requests

PROVIDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

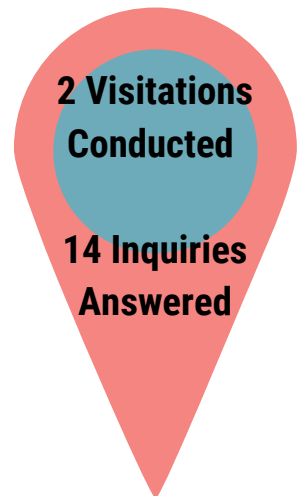
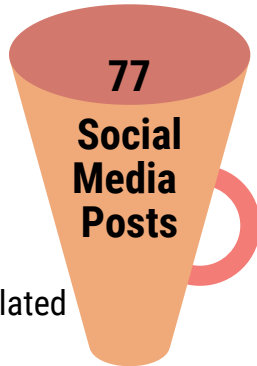
- Completed webinar series with 15 webinars and 4,930 total participants!

ENCOURAGED "SHOP LOCAL" EFFORTS

- Launched Small Business Saturday sign-up & received 6 registrations

ASSUME ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

- Assisted 1 jobseeker with resume tips & building connections & another with their job search
- Promoted job openings at Suire's, Boys & Girls' Club of Acadiana, Burger King & Le Marche'
- Met with Lola Thomas of Vermilion Parish School Board to discuss early childhood education & workforce



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



WELCOME ENTREPRENEURS & ASSIST WITH THEIR START-UP NEEDS

- Received permits & distributed postcards to Gulf Salvage & Supply Quest of Abbeville
- Spoke with contact about a start-up business in Kaplan - connected her to City Hall for permitting

UNDERSTAND AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- Toured the Stine Lumber building with listing agents to uncover more opportunities for reuse

SUPPORT AQUACULTURE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES TO MAINTAIN OUR UNIQUENESS

- Arranged meeting with Dr. Carrie Castille and New Orleans restauranteurs to discuss local beef products

ENGAGE IN LEAD DEVELOPMENT & SITE SELECTOR OUTREACH

PROMOTE VERMILION TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- Worked with Prospect Graze on issues related to: land acquisition, permitting, engineering & design, pre-construction activities, their feasibility study, general contractors & technology protocols, EPA compliance, EDAP application, LED intake form, State directors, utilities, economic impact analysis and public relations
- Evaluated Prospect Beef - no site match
- Spoke with state partners about Prospect Ernest and an update from last year's visit
- Completed economic impact analysis for Prospect Graze using preliminary numbers

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

DEVELOP VERMILION'S NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

EXPLORE PRESERVATION AND ATTRACTION OF TOURISM-ORIENTATED BUSINESSES

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

- Updated "Disaster Relief" page on website with available resources for Hurricane Delta-affected businesses
- Maintained an updated COVID-19 Resource Page
- Worked with United Way of Acadiana on strategic plan & for capital campaign
- Provided residents an understanding of how FEMA assistance works and guided them through the process
- Distributed a hot meal to Gueydan residents sponsored by VEDA board members
- Renewed Kiwanis of Abbeville KEA domain for future use - contacted Andrew Dozier about next year

ON THE HORIZON

11/3 - Election Day: Parcel Fee Proposition on ballot

11/4 - VEDA Board meeting

11/5 - Woodbriar Assisted Living tour

11/10 - Royal Fit Nutrition Ribbon Cutting

11/11 - Veterans Day Holiday

11/18 - Chamber Business Advocacy Committee meeting

11/18 - Acadiana Business Forum with area workforce partners

11/20 - United Way of Acadiana Campaign Cabinet meeting

11/26 - 11/27 - Thanksgiving Holiday