



*discover
the
advantages*

LIVINGSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2010

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



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year | 20
10
IN REVIEW
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2010, Livingston Parish continued its steady population & economic growth,
defying
the national recession.

STUART LITVIN, CEcD | PRESIDENT & CEO

This year marked a new era for the Livingston Economic Development Council — both in our presence and our mission. We have assembled an experienced, committed staff able to accomplish much in its first year together. Abigail Lefebvre, our new project manager, is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional with more than six years of experience with Louisiana Economic Development. She heads up our Livingston Tomorrow campaign and the Workforce & Education Committee, and coordinates our efforts at the state level. Randy Rogers implements our eSynchronist Program, meeting face-to-face with Livingston Parish firms to assist them with measures that result in retention and even expansion. And Kaylynn Kinchen is our office manager, providing the administrative support so critical to our mission.



We moved our offices to the new Livingston Parish Governmental Building in the town of Livingston, bringing us to a more centralized location in the parish to reach out to business and industry, and right next door to many of the critical community entities with which we collaborate.

We made tremendous strides in setting a new standard for economic development in this region. We remain a catalyst for bringing together business, government and communities through our Leadership Livingston Program and our newly formed Workforce & Education Committee. We also strengthened relationships with surrounding economic development entities, including the Livingston Parish Chamber, the Livingston Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and Louisiana Economic Development. We

reached out to businesses with new networking and training opportunities. As you can see, our aggressive efforts to recruit, retain and expand business for a better Livingston Parish has paid off — and will bring even greater fruits in the year to come. I am exceedingly grateful to the staff with whom I work, our community partners and the LEDC Board of Directors for its leadership. I look forward to many more accomplishments in 2011.



112
NEW
COMMERCIAL
PERMITS



COUNTING
7%
UNEMPLOYMENT
AMONG THE LOWEST
IN THE REGION



▲ LEADERSHIP LIVINGSTON

Twenty-five future leaders in this parish took part in our Community Leadership & Economic Development Program, learning about the many facets of this parish and how they can help form the vision for its growth. Over the years, attendees included state and local elected officials, business leaders, and citizens from throughout the parish. Networking was an added plus.

eSYNCHRONIST

As part of our business retention and expansion mission, LEDC initiated visits with nearly 30 Livingston Parish firms this year to provide current market analysis data as well as assistance. When needed, our staff linked these companies with invaluable resources such as state incentives, financial providers, workforce training, local government to address infrastructure concerns, and aid in developing business and marketing plans.

BUSINESS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR

In May, LEDC partnered with the Louisiana State University Business & Technology Center, Southeastern Louisiana University and Livingston Parish President Mike Grimmer to provide a half-day seminar informing and assisting the business community in preparing, surviving, and recovering from natural and other catastrophic events. This will be an annual event.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This impressive committee of community leaders representing all workforce sectors has developed realistic action plans to engage Livingston Parish’s citizens and businesses in creating employment opportunities, increasing the tax base, and growing new businesses. The group also is dedicated to fostering a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs and start-up firms by providing the necessary educational resources.

**RETENTION
EXPANSION
ATTRACTION**

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

The medical center broke ground on its Walker healthplex in November, paving the way for medical care close to home, hundreds of professional jobs and continued sector growth.

SAM’S CLUB

The retailer purchased 17 acres in the Bass Pro Shops development in Denham Springs for a reported \$4.3 million. The store is expected to open in mid-2012.



ALBERTSON’S

The grocery chain opened a grocery and pharmacy on Florida Boulevard at Range Avenue in Denham Springs. More than 100 employees are expected to work at the 60,000-square-foot store.

FERRARA FIRE APPARATUS

The fire equipment manufacturer built a new delivery center twice the size of its previous one, styled after a 19th Century fire house but equipped with all the latest technology for customers.

SUCCESS

2%

**INCREASE IN
YEAR-OVER-YEAR
SALES TAX COLLECTIONS**

\$45 million



**TAXABLE SALES FOR THE
BASS PRO SHOPS COMPLEX**



34%

**GROWTH IN
POPULATION
SINCE THE
LAST CENSUS**



MIKE GRIMMER
LIVINGSTON PARISH PRESIDENT

Livingston Parish IS the greatest place to live and to do business! We had yet another impressive year of progress for Livingston Parish in 2010. We maintained below the national average on unemployment and above average on home sales and value. Soon, the parish will have the availability of improved health care offered with North Oaks Medical Complex and Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center. North Oaks continues on schedule and plans to open in early 2011 at the Satsuma exit along the Interstate 12 corridor. Our Lady of the Lake is expected to begin its project as early as January 2011 at the Walker exit. Although we have endured years of traffic congestion and continue to see higher traffic volume, we are excited about the widening of I-12 and the new bridge on U.S. Hwy. 190 at the Amite River. The second phase has begun and funding for the interstate project has been approved from the Amite River to Walker. Livingston Parish recently purchased a building for courthouse expansion to assist with overcrowded courtrooms. We are looking into building a new courthouse to provide a safer environment for the public, as well as conserve energy. This means an overall cost savings to the parish. The current courthouse will be preserved as a part of history for our parish. Last, but not least, we intend to continue moving forward on Juban Crossing. Ground-breaking took place in November, with an overall three-year build projection. I truly appreciate your patience and continued support as we bring Livingston Parish into the future!



JIMMY DURBIN
MAYOR, DENHAM SPRINGS

In April 2008 the City of Denham Springs began construction of a new state-of-art sewer treatment facility. The facility was placed in service June 2009. Anticipating future effluent requirements by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the City made the decision to include nutrient removal (nitrogen and phosphorus), tertiary treatment (sand filters), odor control and Class A bio-solids into the de-sign of the new facility. The purpose of this project was for the sewerage treatment facility to meet all discharge permit limits into Gray's Creek set forth by LDEQ. Gray's Creek is currently listed as an — impaired water body by LDEQ and has effectively shut down residential and commercial development in the vicinity south of Denham Springs. In doubling the design flow of the existing facility, the City has allowed for additional capacity from future developments. The new plant utilizes the activated sludge oxidation ditch technology with nutrient removal, tertiary treatment (traveling bridge sand filters), Class A bio-solids processes, chlorine disinfection, de-chlorination, post aeration, odor control, high flow retention capability, and back-up diesel generators. Plant flow capability will increase from a current design flow of 2 million gallons per day to 4 million gallons per day.



BOBBY FONT
MAYOR, WALKER

Walker grows every day, but the best in us never changes: We remain one of the finest communities to raise a family, earn a living, start a business, and find plenty of ways to play. We marked 2010 by breaking ground on Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center's healthplex — a welcome addition that will improve our quality of life immensely. It opens the doors for Walker to emerge as a health-care hub along the growing I-12 corridor, providing both greater access to life-saving medical treatments as well as jobs closer to home for our workforce. We added another 41 new businesses this year — a broad mix of retail, professional services, industrial fabrication, and physicians' offices. To accommodate that growth, we are on a mission to greatly improve our infrastructure — rebuilding water and sewer access for our residents, connecting our schools with sidewalks so our children can travel safely, and succeeding in making the widening of our overpass a statewide funding priority. We still manage to find time to play together. This year, we added a Mardi Gras parade and a massive Fourth of July celebration, expanded our Country Christmas to include a real snow day, and launched a Summer Arts Camps for Kids that brought hundreds of young people to The Walker Museum for wholesome, educational summer activities. I invite you to discover all that Walker has to offer — both as a family-friendly destination and as a place to call home.