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# Chamber and Community News

## A Message From the 2007 President . . .

### Inside this issue:

### Scott Borel

I am honored to serve as the 2007 President of the Greater Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce. I am ready to work with the Chamber Board of Directors and our new Executive Director Lynn Guillory and Assistant Shelley Choate.

Let me first say, **Thank You** to everyone and every business that has supported the Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce in the past year. The Chamber has been operating for 66 years, and we have many dedicated members who continually support this organization.

We have seen extraordinary events in recent years that have affected South Louisiana. Vermilion Parish has been through some of the most trying times, and I am amazed at the comeback we have made so far. This comeback is a reflection of the resilience of the people who live and work in Vermilion Parish.

I look forward to a year of exciting Chamber events and activities. Your officers welcome your suggestions and ideas and encourage all of you to get involved with the Greater Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce.

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## 2007 Officers

President - Scott Borel

Executive Director - Lynn Guillory ♦ VP Membership - Rick Coleman

VP Business Development - Charlene Beckett ♦ VP Workforce (Education) - Mike Davis

VP Finance - Beau Phares ♦ VP Government Affairs - Dexter Duhon

## Ask For The Right Loan Type

By D. Dale Gaudet  
Retired Bank President

As Seen In The Sunday Advertiser \* September 24, 2006

Almost all businesses must borrow money from time to time. A fundamental knowledge of loans can be of benefit when structuring a loan request for a specific purpose. What follows is a short explanation of these fundamentals.

There are generally only two types of business loans. Each is classified according to its purpose, source of repayment and duration.

The first, term loans, are made to acquire fixed assets such as land, buildings, equipment, furniture, fixtures, vehicles and even other businesses. These assets are considered fixed because they remain in the business. They are not sold in the normal course of business, as are current assets, such as inventory. Because fixed assets do not directly produce cash, their repayment must rely on the profitability of the firm over time; and whereas profit is produced monthly, term loan repayment is likewise monthly, usually over several years. Stated simply, the profit produced by the business must be sufficient to pay costs, expenses and debt, including the proposed term loan, and still provide a proper return to the owners. A budget is necessary to affirm the repayment ability of the business over the duration of the loan and is an essential part of the loan request package.

Loans made for purposes that directly provide profitability are variously known as working capital, cash flow and seasonal or inventory loans. The purpose of these loans is to acquire or hold current assets (such as inventory) until they are converted into cash. The cash is then used to repay the debt. Loans of this type are short-term by nature, outstanding only until the current assets are converted into cash, usually not more than six months. Repayment is made as cash is created but not later than loan maturity. The source of repayment of these loans, which is the conversion of current assets into cash, is usually evident, making the preparation of a budget unnecessary. However, some evidence that the current assets do exist, such as a listing of receivables, may be required.

Business owners know what is best for their businesses, and with knowledge of business loan fundamentals, they can match their skills with those of their banker to structure loans to better serve their needs.

**Please support the businesses  
that invest in and support the Chamber.**

## Welcome to the Chamber...

**Elite Medical Supply, LLC**  
**Tommy Robicheaux**  
**Gayle Lege**

203 Church Street  
Youngsville, LA

**F. Dale Broussard**  
1400 E. Villien Street  
Abbeville, LA

**Health Mart Pharmacy**  
**Wesley David**

818 N. Cushing Avenue  
Kaplan, LA 70548

**Vermilion Catholic High School**  
**Gerard Richard, Principal**  
**Cheryl Landry, Development Director**  
425 Park Avenue  
Abbeville, LA

**Rayne State Bank and Trust Co.**  
**Kevin Romero**

410 Kaliste Saloom Rd.  
Lafayette, LA 70506

**...we appreciate your support.**

### Thank you!

Many thanks to those who generously donate much needed items to the Chamber office and its outreach and fund raising projects.

Our sincere thanks go out to the following merchants, without whom, the Taste of Vermilion could not have happened:

**Chef Bobby & Dot Catering**

**Dupuy's Oyster Shop**

**Golden Corral Restaurant**

**Lynn G's Seafood & Steakhouse**

**RiverFront Restaurant: A Louisiana Grill**

**Quizno's Subs**

**Magdalen Place**

**Marcello's Wine Market**

**Mello Joy Coffee**

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# 2007 Board of Directors

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*Congratulations & welcome to our newest board members!*

## **Kathy Dyson**

**Owner/Broker**

### **Kathy Dyson Realty LLC**

Kathy has been a member of the Abbeville community for 56 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 2 years and believes “the Chamber is the key to the growth and revitalization of the present businesses and future businesses in Abbeville”.

## **Mike Davis**

**Store Manager**

**Stine Lumber**

Mike has been a member of the Abbeville community for 7 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 7 years and believes “that the Chamber is a very important part of the community that strives to create new jobs and business for the area. It’s a great organization”.

## **Leah LaVergne**

**Managing Partner**

**Quizno’s**

Leah has been a member of the Abbeville community for 2 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 1 year and believes “that the Chamber has helped me to become much more aware of the on goings in the area, as well as getting to become friends with owners and managers of many of the businesses here. That alone has helped answer many of the “start up” questions a first-time business owner has. Joining the Chamber last year, I believe has really helped my business become successful”.

## **Rick Coleman**

**Chief of Police**

### **Abbeville Police Department**

Rick has been a member of the Abbeville community for 16 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for a little less than 1 year and believes that “business is the heart of any city and supporting business makes Abbeville stronger”.

## **Ray Dugal**

**Branch Manager**

**Gulf Coast Bank**

Ray has been a member of the Abbeville community for 9 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 1 year and believes “that the Chamber is there to provide a vast wealth of knowledge to its members to help each individual business or organization in Vermilion Parish exceed their goals and enjoy times of prosperity”.

## **Business Humor...**

A young businessman had just started his own firm. He rented a beautiful office and had it furnished with antiques. Sitting there, he saw a man come into the outer office. Wishing to appear the hot shot, the businessman picked up the phone and started to pretend he had a big deal working.

He threw huge figures around and made giant commitments. Finally he hung up and asked the visitor, "Can I help you?"

The man said, "Yeah, I've come to activate your phone lines."

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# *And a bit about our returning directors...*

## **Beau Phares**

**Commercial Lender  
MidSouth Bank**

Beau has been a member of the Abbeville community for 26 Years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 4 years and believes “the Chamber brings the community and its leaders together for the economic betterment of the Greater Vermilion area and its citizens”.

## **Charlene Beckett**

**Main Street Manager  
Abbeville Main Street**

Charlene has been a member of the Abbeville community for 56 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 10 years and believes “the Chamber acts as a resource center for existing business and a point of contact for new business and/or people considering locating to our community”.

## **Dexter Duhon**

**President**

**Dexter Duhon’s Tax Service**

Dexter has been a member of the Abbeville community for 35 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 20 years and believes “the Chamber should be the VOICE for the business community”.

## **Lloyd Doré III**

**Owner/Accountant  
Doré & Company**

Lloyd has been a member of the Abbeville community for 52 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 28 years and believes the Chamber is important to the community “because of the service it provides to [its] members and [the] community”.

## **Bert Istre**

**Owner**

**Golden Corral Restaurant**

Bert has been a member of the Abbeville community for 37 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for at least 12 years and believes “a great Chamber is the backbone of a great community. The Chamber of Commerce is an awesome tool for all business leaders, as well as a communication link for all residential households”.

## **Deborah Parsons**

**Investment Representative**

**Edward Jones**

Deborah has been a member of the Abbeville community for 20 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 6 years and believes “the Chamber works to benefit business by keeping track of vital issues and communicating with the people of Vermilion Parish”.

## **Glenn Suire**

**Sales Order Operations Manager**

**Riviana Foods**

Glenn has been a member of the Abbeville community for 54 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 12 years and believes the Chamber “provides a great networking opportunity for its members to promote their businesses and to work toward the betterment of the community.”

## **Louis Garrot**

**Attorney**

**Louis G. Garrot APLC**

Louis has been a member of the Abbeville community for 34 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 1 year and “views the Chamber as a civic organization of business people with an opportunity to serve the community of consumers who support us financially”.

**Mary Ellen Sonnier**

**Part Owner**

**Magdalen Place & The Depot**

Mary Ellen has been a member of the Abbeville community for 42 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 12 years and believes “the Chamber is the heartbeat of a community. It can be a gathering place of wants, ideas, and wishes of the business community. It can then lead the way for the entire community to grow in positive ways. If the business community is strong, the town will follow”.

**Paul Bourgeois**

**Tech Prep Coordinator**

**Louisiana Technical College**

Paul has been a member of the Abbeville community for 29 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 6 years and believes “...the Chamber ...help[s] our local businesses to stay connected and updated on topics, to name a few; economic development, education, and local government policies”.

**Suzanne Jones**

**Real Estate Sales Associate**

**Kathy Dyson Realty LLC**

Suzanne has been a member of the Abbeville community for 25 years. She has been a member of the Chamber for 15-20 years and believes “that the Chamber is the information resource of the parish”.

**Mike Couvillion**

**Sheriff**

**Vermilion Parish**

Mike has been a member of the Abbeville community for 50 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 4 years and believes “the Chamber encourages newcomers to visit, stop and maybe decide to reside in Vermilion Parish. This organization allows leaders, future leaders and concerned citizens to sell why they decided to make Vermilion Parish their choice to live, raise a family and work in Vermilion Parish”.

**Scott Borel**

**Vice President**

**Bank of Erath**

Scott has been a member of the Abbeville community for 9 years. He has been a member of the Chamber for 6 years and believes “this organization is vital to growth in business and community”.

**Your Chamber** works to improve the **Quality of Life** of the people who live and work in Vermilion Parish. The Chamber provides resources for business development, promotes activities that provide education, cultural, civic, recreational and community programs.

**SUGGESTION BOX**...Here’s your chance to tell your Chamber what you think we need to be doing. Mail, fax, or email your suggestions, opinions, or comments. Each suggestion will be shared with your Board of Directors.

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Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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# Small Business Drives The U.S. Economy Represent 99.7 Percent Of All Businesses, Employ 57.4 Million

Released September 28, 2006

By The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration

Washington, D.C. - Small business continues to drive the United States economy, according to a report issued today by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Newly released data show that in 2005, small businesses represented 99.7 percent of all the nation's employer businesses. Data also show that they employed 57.4 million Americans or 50.6 percent of the non-farm private sector workforce.

"Clearly small business is a major part of our economy," said Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy. "Small businesses innovate and create new jobs at a faster rate than their larger competitors. They are nimble, creative, and a vital part of every community across the country. This report will help remind policymakers and others of the important role small business plays in the nation."

The *Small Business Profiles for the States and Territories* uses the latest federal government statistics to detail small business' contribution to the economy of the

states, District of Columbia, the nation, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. *Small Business Profiles for the States and Territories* from 2002 to present may be found at [www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles/](http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/profiles/).

Citing a variety of sources, data is updated annually that documents the number and type of businesses, ownership demographics including minority and women-owned statistics, employment and financing data, and other business information.

The Office of Advocacy, the "small business watchdog" of the federal government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to federal agencies, Congress, and the President. It is the source for small business statistics presented in user-friendly formats and it funds research into small business issues.

For more information, visit the Office of Advocacy website at [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo).

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The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. The presidentially appointed Chief Counsel for Advocacy advances the views, concerns, and interests of small business before Congress, the White House, federal agencies, federal courts, and state policy makers. For more information, visit [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo), or call 202-205-6533.

## Get the Word Out . . .

Send us information about your business...new products, promotions, new location, expansions, people news, etc...for the next newsletter. Let your Chamber members in on the happenings in your organization.

If articles are received after the print deadline (March 30), we will print your articles in the next edition.

*Lynn Guillory, Executive Director*

# Thanks for the memories!

Dear Chamber Members,

It seems like yesterday that I began working with the Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber. What a wonderful adventure. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn more about my community and its wonderful people.

To the many volunteers who served on the Board, I thank you for the service, time and talents you contributed to the Chamber and to the community. To the 14 Presidents with whom I served, thank you for your guidance and thank you for giving of yourself during that year. I treasure the friendships and will definitely keep in touch. A community needs strong leaders who are willing to step up to the plate—we may not have always hit a homerun but we were always willing to swing at the ball!

To you the members who support the Chamber, it was my pleasure to work for you. The Chamber provides a much needed service to Abbeville and Vermilion Parish. I encourage you to become more involved with the Chamber—be an active member who contributes to the Chamber’s direction and activities. The Chamber is only as strong as the members who support it.

In my new position as Acadiana Regional Director for Louisiana Economic Development, I will continue to assist Vermilion Parish to expand new and existing businesses by working directly with businesses, communities and elected officials. Please feel free to contact me at 337-652-6808 or by email: rshirley@la.gov.

*Rebecca Shirley*

## Don't forget to mark your calendar!

### February

- 1 Board Meeting**
  
- 15 Networking Luncheon**  
Hainam Restaurant  
Noon—1:00 p.m. ♦ Dutch Treat

### March

- 1 General Membership Meeting**  
Abbeville Country Club  
Noon—1:00 p.m.  
Buffet Meal \$10  
Reservations Required
  
- 15 Networking Luncheon**  
Golden Corral  
Noon—1:00 p.m. ♦ Dutch Treat

Board Meeting notices emailed one (1) week prior to event.  
Membership Meeting & Networking Luncheon notices mailed one (1) week prior to event.  
Ribbon Cutting notices emailed one (1) week prior to event.

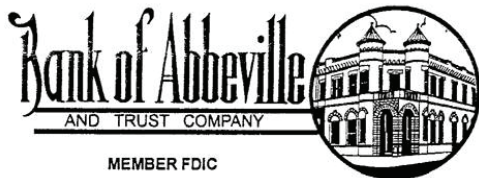
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**We're on the web!**  
[www.abbevillechamber.com](http://www.abbevillechamber.com)

The mission of the Greater Abbeville-Vermilion Chamber of Commerce is to create a positive business and community environment by taking a leading role in community affairs, being an information resource for its members, and helping to provide a better quality of life for the citizens of Vermilion Parish.

## Many thanks To Our Newsletter Sponsors!



ORGANIZED 1910  
**BANK OF ERATH**

