MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The year 2020 has turned out to be one that no one could have expected. The COVID-19 pandemic turned our lives upside-down and inside out. We closed the village for six weeks. We also made many changes and adjustments. We had to furlough over half of our staff and make significant spending cuts. Our reopening has been cautious in the interest of public health and safety. We will remain closed to the public on Sundays, in addition to our regular Monday closing, until we enter Phase 3 when live music will once again be allowed under government guidelines. In the meantime, our restaurant is open Tuesday through Saturday. We started a new tradition of a Saturday barbecue, which is proving to be very popular. The village is also open those same days, but with a slightly reduced access to the artisans and the inside of some houses. You can still walk our beautiful grounds where there is ample shade throughout the day.

On the Bayou Operations side, we broke ground on the new water-testing lab and watershed exhibit. This new facility will enable us to determine what and where the impediments are in the bayou, allowing us to take action on an effective solution. You will be able to see it going up on the far side of our parking lot when you come visit.

We look forward to your continued support as we enter the second half of this extraordinary year. If we are to overcome this challenge, and we will, we all need to take our personal responsibilities to heart. Social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing have proven to be effective tools in fighting this disease until a cure can be found.

- Dr. David Cheramie

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

BVD and Vermilionville Extend Memberships

BVD and Vermilionville would like to thank you, our members, for your continued loyalty during these unprecedented times. While our focus is on keeping customers and employees safe and healthy today and always, you are also a part of the BVD and Vermilionville family. We know how important these benefits are to you. That is why as coronavirus continues to dramatically impact our lives, you don’t have to worry about your benefits—they’ll be extended so you can enjoy them when we’re ready to pass a good time with us again.

Get Your 20% Membership Discount Today!

We are also offering a 20% discount on all membership purchases. Use code Vville20 when checking out on our website to get 20% your membership purchase today. Memberships available at this link: bayouvermiliondistrict.org/membership/

3 Ways You Can Continue to Support Bayou Vermilion District & Vermilionville

1. Visit us in person. We are open! The Vermilionville Museum, Restaurant, and Gift Shop are open and following Phase II guidelines. In Phase II, most of our artisans are back to give you the most interactive museum experience, while practicing safe social distancing. The Museum Gift Shop also has local, handmade items that make great gifts. Phase II Museum and Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM-4PM. The Vermilionville restaurant, La Cuisine de Maman is open and welcoming dine-in guests, according to safe social distancing guidelines, as well as curbside pickup. Phase II Restaurant Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 11AM-2PM and Saturday, 10:30AM-1:30PM.

2. Help Us Meet Our Goals. Right now, every little bit helps. If you are able to donate, you can do so online by visiting bayouvermiliondistrict.org/donate, or by phone at 337-233-4077, 207.

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Meet Grace Rentrop, our Environmental Science Intern from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is graduating in Spring 2021, and plans to continue with fieldwork after graduation. Her work at Bayou Vermilion District includes interpreting the Watershed Exhibit and inspecting on-site wastewater treatment systems in Lafayette Parish. She is passionate about nature, which is why she enjoys the environmental quality work she does here at the Bayou Vermilion District, as well as her job at All Seasons Nursery.

My phone has been a lifeline for the past few months, keeping me connected with friends, family, and coworkers. My phone let me see and talk to people without ever being in the same room with them. I worked, socialized, and checked in with my phone. I thought about people in rural Louisiana, interacting and socializing with their household members and immediate neighbors or scheduling a trip into town, reading the newspaper to learn about local and national news. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Opelousas and Lafayette businesses and residences installed telephones and lines connecting them to neighbors and services. In our 1870s Opelousas structure, we have an early 1900s hand crank wall telephone. The telephone has a speaker and an ear piece, with a ledge for taking notes. The telephone also existed alongside the telegraph throughout the 20th century. Stay connected, stay safe.

Photographs: St. Landry Clarion, Opelousas June 22, 1907 and the Boucvalt House Telephone

An easy way to double your donation is to find out if your company or employer will match your gift to us. Memberships also make great gifts. If you would like to purchase a membership online visit: bayouvermiliondistrict.org/membership or call 337-233-4077, 207.

3. Enjoy the interactive virtual content on our social media. Even though we are open and practicing safe social distancing, we are still featuring plenty of exciting virtual content. Follow us on our social media pages so that you do not miss it!

Facebook: @vermilionville @bayouvermiliondistrict @vermilionvillerestaurant
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We believe that with your help, we can lessen the impact of coronavirus on our mission to conserve our local history, culture, and natural resources. These three things are what make us unique and help bring us together, and they are irreplaceable. Thank you for your support during this challenging time from our organization and our community.

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