

Jerry Bologna, executive director of JEDCO, discusses how Jefferson EDGE 2020 will herald the parish's next wave of economic development.

By Rebecca Friedman

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) has spent nearly three decades helping attract and develop businesses in the region, with much of that work based on a series of strategic plans called the Jefferson EDGE. Over the past 15 years, Jefferson EDGE has served as a roadmap for the area's development — a shared vision responsible for, among other things, the development of the 500-acre Churchill Technology & Business Park in Avondale.

With most of its previous goals achieved, the newest iteration of the plan, Jefferson EDGE 2020, has just been released.



JEDCO's Executive Director, Jerry Bologna, shares what he considers to be the area's most exciting economic opportunities under the plan and what it will take to capture them.

BIZ: Tell us a bit about the evolution of Jefferson EDGE and its impact to date.

Jerry Bologna: The Jefferson EDGE strategic planning process started back in 1999. The original EDGE plan was adopted by the Parish Council in 2000 as a five-year economic development strategic plan for the parish, but some of the things that came out of that original plan include land development, especially here on the Westbank. So we certainly have our park, Churchill Technology & Business Park, to point to as a success.

We have updated that plan about every five years. Some of the most tangible successes coming out of the Jefferson EDGE include the beautification efforts throughout the parish, the real strategic focus on our public education system in Jefferson, and the

redevelopment of Fat City. There were no shortage of other plans to look at the redevelopment of Fat City, but I think Jefferson EDGE really brought focus and helped marshal the resources and bring the appropriate parties together.

BIZ: Jefferson EDGE 2020 identifies five "industry clusters" as key areas of focus: food, beverage, fishing and seafood; water transportation, distribution and logistics; health care; IT systems and products; and water, coastal and environmental Industries. Why those areas?

JB: One reason we arrived at those five is that they tend to be traded clusters — meaning they bring in outside dollars or produce products that are sold outside of the market. So it's not just a recirculation of the dollars in our community, but something that brings new dollars in. Some of them are clusters where we already enjoy pretty good success but still have a lot of room for growth, and some are totally new ventures for us.

For example, the water, coastal and environmental industries — that is a burgeoning area where we think we will see our greatest growth over the next 15 years. A lot of that is attributed to the coastal restoration effort, the BP dollars that will flow through to our community from the RESTORE Act. On the other end of the spectrum, you have industries like food, beverage, fishing and seafood — that's an industry that we've always enjoyed success with but where we see great growth potential. New Orleans has always been known for its cuisine, but Jefferson has always had a stronghold on the food-manufacturing side. And we can point to major international brands like Zatarain's and Paul Prudhomme Magic Seasoning Blends as companies that have great success here in Jefferson. But we also have startups that show great potential, like The Jambalaya Girl and Cook Me Somethin' Mister, so we're attempting to grow that industry by bringing more of our entrepreneurial ventures to market.

We also chose our clusters taking into account what the New Orleans Business Alliance was focusing on, so we picked up on some clusters where they might be weak and didn't choose others we feel they are better suited to handle. So there is cooperation on that front.



Counted among the successes of past EDGE plans is the 500-acre Churchill Technology & Business Park in Avondale

BIZ: What makes you optimistic that these goals are achievable?

JB: On food and beverage, we already are seeing successes, so we feel very confident that that's going to continue.

For the coastal restoration efforts, we intend to put some of the practices that we learned through Hurricane Katrina into practice, and we feel confident about opportunities to get our local firms involved in that process.

On the health care and destination health care side, we have already seen successes, and now with the hospital corridor coming online in New Orleans, there's even more focus on that industry and more possibilities to attract people to this region for health care. So in some of those industries, we are already seeing signs of growth — our role is going to be to help augment that and push it along.

BIZ: What are some of the biggest challenges facing business expansion and development in Jefferson today?

JB: I think a couple of the challenges are going to include addressing our building stock in Jefferson. That goes for both our commercial building stock as well as our housing stock and our ability to attract the workforce into Jefferson Parish. We enjoy the largest population in the region, but we need to make sure we give people a reason to continue to choose Jefferson as their



home.

Workforce development is going to continue to be a challenge. There is so much synergy in this area and growth on the job front — we need to make sure we continue to train our people to be able to fill those positions. We enjoy a close relationship with Delgado. They plan to construct both their River City campus and their Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence out here in the Churchill Park. We think those will go a long way in satisfying some of the workforce needs, mainly the maritime related trades and the advanced manufacturing trades, which is where we see so much of our job growth. The state of

Louisiana has over \$30 billion worth of industrial projects up and down the river and all throughout the southern part of the state announced, so it's imperative that we provide that type of training to fill those jobs. That's why we thought it was so important to foster that relationship with Delgado.

BIZ: Is JEDCO looking to attract small-scale entrepreneurs as well as established corporations?

JB: We have examples of assisting companies across that spectrum – from our largest employer, Ochsner, to the one-person entrepreneurial venture. And we have certainly put a larger focus on entrepreneurship. We've done that throughout our history with the operation of our JEDCO incubator, but now with the JEDCO challenge, we're bringing additional focus to our entrepreneurial ventures.

Jefferson is largely a community of small businesses. While we do have those major businesses, the vast majority of our businesses are the small 5-10 person companies. And our focus with those businesses is to not only retain them but to help them see their growth potential here in Jefferson. So our role is to bring the resources and tools to help them grow their businesses here, whether that's financing, tax incentives, or site selection – whatever it may be.

BIZ: For businesses choosing a location, what makes Jefferson a top pick?

JB: I think when businesses choose Jefferson, they see a very proactive business climate, a proactive government that is helpful to business. They find a trained, highly skilled workforce. The taxes and insurances are low, and the crime rate is low. Those are certainly advantages.

BIZ: What do you consider keys to the success and longevity of Jefferson EDGE?

JB: One thing that has helped us successfully carry out this plan in the past is that we've always carried an implementation matrix through the five years. For all the implementation items and action items that come out of this plan, we actually develop a scorecard. We have it monitored by a third party – it's not just us – and that way, we can gauge our successes and see what we've accomplished and where we still need work. That's what we will be doing again with this plan, constantly monitoring it so it doesn't become a plan that sits on the shelf in someone's office. It's a living document, and we had it adopted by the Parish Council, so it becomes the official strategic plan of the parish.

We also had over 150 stakeholders participate in the planning process. That included groups of business leaders from various industries, elected officials from throughout the parish and the civic community. All of them participated so that we were able to achieve widespread buy-in and input in the plan. I think it's important in a parish as diverse as ours to get as much input as

possible.

BIZ: What would success look like for Jefferson in 2020?

JB: In five years, I would hope we're seeing successes in those clusters that we point to – job creation, wealth creation, and increased tax revenues for the parish. Specifically, we'd love to be able to point back to a successful adaptive reuse of the Avondale shipyard, and the development of the Fairfield area on the Westbank. I think that's going to be a focus and a potential success to say we are able to attract first-class developments to the Fairfield area, and that Jefferson Parish is seeing a resurgence in people finding an attractive community in which to live and raise their families.

A Peek at the Plan

Just a few of the priorities established for Jefferson Parish under JeffersonEDGE 2020 include:

- Create an "Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence" at Delgado's Avondale Campus by renovating and expanding the campus' existing facility to be used for workforce development, along with the renovation and expansion of Delgado's Blair Campus;
- Planning and development of the Fairfield area on the Westbank of the Mississippi River of Jefferson Parish;
- Reuse/redevelop industrial corridors, including the Harvey Canal, Huntington-Ingalls Shipyard and in Old Jefferson;
- Infrastructure improvement to allow for the phase II expansion of the Churchill Technology & Business Park, and the creation of Delgado's River City Campus within the park;
- Establishment of wetlands mitigation banks;
- Enhancements to Rivertown;
- Development of Laketown, to include mixed-use developments; and
- Improvements to the Westwego Riverboat Landing designed to support a riverboat cruise line.

The complete Jefferson EDGE 2020 plan is available at Jedco.org.



Editor's Note

By Kimberley Singletary

As we close out our first full year of Biz New Orleans, we naturally started to think about what this year has meant to the business community of southeast Louisiana. In short, it's meant growth — in virtually every industry. The port, the airport, the



restaurants, commercial construction, residential sales, the healthcare explosion — everywhere you look we are growing. As ground broke on the Yuhuang Chemical plant this past September in St. James Parish, we even welcomed, for the first time, a Chinese company to Louisiana.

While it was relatively easy to look over the past year and note the top 10 stories that really shaped business in our region, ranking them was not so simple. With so many industries represented, how do you rank one above another? What I think we can all agree on, though, is that this has been an incredible year for business, and all signs point that it's only going to get

better.

We were excited this month, in particular, to speak with JEDCO's Executive Director, Jerry Bologna, who shared with us the thinking behind the parish's newest iteration of the EDGE plan. Everyone knows that the first step toward achieving a goal is making a solid, workable plan and it's going to be exciting to see this one come to fruition.

Finally, as the holidays approach, you may find yourself with people on your gift list that are difficult to buy for or family in town that need entertaining. In that case, I can't recommend enough that you consider purchasing tickets to experience Escape My Room (pg. 96), one of the latest escape rooms to open in New Orleans. Some of the staff members and I took the challenge this past summer and every one of us felt it was one of the most unique and entertaining things we'd ever done. I'm proud to say we made it out with six minutes to spare. Can you beat our time?

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you in the new year!

Happy reading.

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Massive development proposed in West Bank of

Jefferson Parish



Tania Dall, Eyewitness News 10:10 p.m. CST December 15, 2015 CONNECTTWEETLINKEDINCOMMENTEMAILMORE

A Louisiana developer is looking at building a new city in Jefferson Parish. Parish officials confirm the ambitious plan went into a motion about a year ago aiming to transform the Fairfield area into a massive development with hopes of attracting thousands of people.

"This is the last frontier for Jefferson Parish," said JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna.

When you look around the nearly 2,000-acres home to only a handful of neighbors including NOLA Motorsports and the Churchill Farms and Technology Park, there is mostly vacant land. But now the developer who created The Village of River Ranch in Lafayette hopes to bring a similar vision to Jefferson Parish.

"We've been able to attract NOLA Motorsports, we've been able to attract the Patrick Taylor Science and Technology Academy. Delgado Community College will be coming soon but this is really catalytic and the project that we're most excited about," said Bologna.

JEDCO confirms talks have been underway with Southern Lifestyle Development over the last year to move forward with a master plan for the undeveloped land. It would take over a decade

to complete and unfold in several phases. The parties behind the project hope it will attract thousands of people to the area.

"The developer anticipates 20,000 to 30,000 people, of course, that's over perhaps a 15 year period," added Bologna.

The developer's goal is to create a mixed-use residential and commercial development which would include condominiums, townhouses and single-family homes.

"Hopefully we'd attract the young entrepreneurial class with new housing options. We've done studies over the last several years of more people moving to the Northshore. We can provide them with a housing option or opportunity here in Jefferson Parish," said Parish President John Young.

Shortly after Katrina and when the housing market crashed a similar development plan failed in the same area. But this time around JEDCO says the timing is right.

Young says once the project is complete it could make the Parish the most populous in the state.

"I think it has the potential of making us the most populous parish in the state. We're right now about 5,000 to 8,000 people behind East Baton Parish. We're currently the second most populous parish in the state," said Young.

Southern Lifestyle Development confirms it is waiting for FEMA to adopt new flood maps before moving forward with the project which is anticipated to happen in 2017. The real estate developer also says land purchases in the area still need to be finalized.



Developer envisions 'small city' of 20,000+ for West Jefferson

By Diana Samuels, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

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on December 15, 2015 at 9:33 AM, updated December 15, 2015 at 9:59 AM

Envisioning what amounts to a new town of 20,000 to 30,000 people, a Louisiana real estate developer is taking a "serious look" at building a 2,000-acre residential and commercial project on one of largest remaining empty pieces of land in Jefferson Parish. Southern Lifestyle Development is eyeing a huge chunk



of the approximately 9,000-acre Fairfield area between and south of Avondale and Westwego, said Prescott Bailey, an area president at the development firm. The project is so big that Parish President John Young said it could make Jefferson the most populous parish in the state, eclipsing East Baton Rouge.

"We're very excited about it," Bailey said Monday (Dec. 14). "We're still in the early planning stages. We've started some master planning on the property, and we've started meeting with all of the officials." The company

has also begun meeting with the property's multiple landowners, Bailey said.

Southern Lifestyle Development's previous projects include the Village of River Ranch mixed-use development in Lafayette. For Fairfield, Bailey said his firm envisions commercial and residential construction on a site that some day could house as many as 30,000 people. Young said projections show about 20,000 residents within 15 years. The project would be almost six times as large as River Ranch's approximately 320 acres.

"We're looking at it as an opportunity to essentially create a small city that would have different products for everyone: all types of commercial, all types of multi-family, as well as single-family," Bailey said. He also said it would include large green spaces, reducing some of the development's density.

Some of the area's appeal lies in the fact that it already has substantial anchors to attract residents and others: the TPC Louisiana golf course, NOLA Motorsports, Churchill Farms Technology and Business Park and Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy. Delgado Community College is building its \$27 million River City Campus at the technology park, offering training for the maritime industry.

Except for the golf course, these amenities were not in place the last time a big developer tried -- and failed -- to build a huge new mixed-used project in this part of West Jefferson. In December 2005, less than four months after Hurricane Katrina, KB Home of Los Angeles partnered with The Shaw Group of Baton Rouge to announce plans for as many as 20,000 condominiums, townhouses and single-family houses, as well as retail stores on 3,000 acres in the Churchill Farms area. A year later, KB Home let its contract to buy the land expire, with an attorney for the property owner blaming a downturn in the national housing market and KB Home's declining declining share price.

Young said he expects the deal could be made official by the second quarter of next year. He described Southern Lifestyle Development's potential project as "transformative" for the West Bank, and a way to attract, and keep, residents who might otherwise look at places like the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Local officials have been touting the area's potential for years, especially in light of the Huey P. Long Bridge expansion, which gives residents easier access to New Orleans.

"We find a lot of people leaving and going across the lake for a different kind of lifestyle," Young said. "But we can give them that kind of lifestyle in Jefferson."



Flood threat falling at 'small city' site in West Jefferson



West Bank hurricane levee along Lake Cataouatche protects Avondale -- next to the Fairfield area being considered for development -- in Jefferson Parish from storm surges caused by a hurricane with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year, a so-called 100-year storm. This photo shows the segment just south of Avondale Gardens Road as it was being built in 2011. (David Grunfeld, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archives)

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By Diana Samuels, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

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on December 17, 2015 at 3:40 PM, updated December 17, 2015 at 3:50 PM

Flooding is a risk just about everywhere in southeast Louisiana, including the West Jefferson site where a real estate developer is considering building a "small city" for 20,000 to 30,000 residents. The area is indeed part of an official flood zone, but the developer and a Jefferson Parish official say the risk of flooding there is not as great as once was thought.

Southern Lifestyle Development is weighing a mixed-use development of residential and commercial property on about 2,000 acres generally east of the what's been dubbed the Fairfield area, between the TPC Louisiana golf course and Bayou Segnette State Park. The company hasn't acquired the land but says it is in talks with the property owners.

The project would be almost six times as large as Southern Lifestyle's best-known development, The Village of River Ranch in Lafayette. If it attracts the projected 20,000 people, it could push Jefferson ahead of East Baton Rouge as the most populous parish in the Louisiana.

FEMA flood maps show most of the area is designated Zone AE, which means it is given a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year. It's a common quandary for new development in southeast Louisiana: The remaining large empty areas available for development are in low-lying areas.



Maps will represent an updated snapshot of the base flood elevations necessary to protect from major flood events

Fairfield, however, is one of the areas that parish officials say will benefit most under FEMA's new flood maps, expected to be finalized in 2017. Many of the base flood elevations, which designate how high a structure must be built to be considered safe from flooding, are being revised

there to show that builders need not raise structures as much as previously required, said Michelle Gonzales, Jefferson's floodplain director. Some of that change can be attributed to better levees and greater capacity at drainage pumping stations, officials said.

"It's one of the areas where we've seen the greatest improvement in the parish," Gonzales said.

"We've seen a pretty drastic projection of the depth of water going down."

Prescott Bailey, area president for Southern Lifestyle, said newer flood maps have made the Fairfield area "fairly attractive" from a floodplain standpoint. "A lot of people believe that that's a wetland swamp, and that's just not the case," he said.

Still, the developers must address the water. Much will depend on how the development is designed. Gonzales said the project should be built in a way that keeps structures out of flooding danger. For example, green spaces can be built in the lowest-lying areas, to collect stormwater runoff so that it won't back up into homes and businesses.

"If they build this out correctly, you may see streets that may flood and you may see some of the vacant spaces that flood, but the structures would not have that same risk," Gonzales said.



Would cover 2,000 acres in Fairfield area between Avondale and Westwego

Executive Director Jerry Bologna of the Jefferson Economic Development Commission, which has helped spur the potential development forward, said his agency's office in the area hasn't had any problems with flooding in the five years it's been there.

"There's been significant due diligence on the part of Southern Lifestyle, and I don't believe the discussion would have progressed this far if they had concerns about flood elevation," Bologna said. "We're comfortable out here. We would not be presenting it to developers otherwise."



Year in Review: Ochsner, Avondale, Trader Joe's top Jefferson headlines

Editor's note: This is one in a series of articles that looks back at the top business news of 2015.

By: Robin Shannon, Managing Editor December 18, 2015 0

One of Jefferson Parish's top private employers is planning to spend \$250 on a major expansion of its facilities.

Ochsner Health System announced in July that it plans to add six stories to its main eight-floor building on Jefferson Highway and will also add to its other facilities in the New Orleans area in the years to come.

The hospital also revealed plans in November for a 100,000-square-foot expansion of the Gayle and Tom Benson Cancer Center at the Jefferson campus thanks to a \$20 million donation from the Benson family.

Meanwhile, a major land transaction a few blocks from Ochsner's Jefferson campus could also become part of the hospital's plans. In June, The Feil Organization of New York closed on its purchase of the former Jefferson Plaza Shopping Center for \$5.5 million. The deal includes the entire 350,000-square-foot property and all of the existing 150,000 square feet of building space.

There are no immediate plans in place for redevelopment of the property, but company officials said early talks with potential tenants have included Ochsner, which has spent the past few years redeveloping portions of Jefferson Highway near the hospital, including an expansion into two former warehouses across the street in 2013.



Trader Joe's plan to build a store in Metairie was one of the top business headlines in Jefferson Parish in 2015.

Associated Press photo.

In Metairie, options for grocery shopping increased in 2015 with the opening of a new Fresh Market and the start of construction on the area's first Trader Joe's market. Both stores will be situated along Veterans Memorial Boulevard in a somewhat crowded grocery store market.

On the West Bank, Zatarain's celebrated the opening of a new 80,000-square-foot expansion of its production facility in Gretna. The new warehouse building, which triples the size of the previous facility, allows the company to increase production of its more than 300 products.

Meanwhile Huntington Ingalls Industries put the closed Avondale Shipyard on the market via commercial real estate firm Colliers International Group. The firm said its goal is to attract a buyer that is able to rebuild an employment base at the facility.

Also on the West Bank, a real estate developer is looking at a plan to create a 2,000-acre residential and commercial project within the 9,000-acre Fairfield area between Avondale and Westwego.

Southern Lifestyle Development said in December that the project amounts to a small city of new residences and commercial areas. The project is in its infancy, but could be a spark for an area that parish leaders have been trying to develop for several years.



PRESS RELEASE December 10, 2015

JEDCO Releases New Brand Logo

(Fairfield, LA) - The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is pleased to share the <u>new brand logo</u> that will represent the 28-year-old organization moving into the future. JEDCO's new look, which features a unique icon and a bold color palette, balances the organization's focus on traditional values and efforts with its emphasis on business innovation, creativity, and advancement.

"This is an exciting time in JEDCO history," says Jerry Bologna, JEDCO's executive director. "Our former logo has served us well over the years, but we felt it was time to redevelop our brand to help us look the way we feel as an organization. This fresh new vision for our future will represent our forward momentum within the business community."

An internal team of JEDCO staff and several members of the JEDCO Board of Commissioners chose the final design. The new logo will be rolled out on all marketing and collateral materials in early 2016. It was first unveiled in front of over 320 business and community leaders at the JEDCO Annual Luncheon in early December.



JEDCO Rebrand

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About JEDCO: The <u>Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission</u> (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing <u>Churchill Technology & Business Park</u>, JEDCO is home to a <u>business incubator</u> for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art <u>Conference Center</u>. For more information, visit <u>www.jedco.org</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Vimeo</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

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JEDCO introduces a new brand logo in this Biz New Orleans Daily Biz Minute.

By Leslie T. Snadowsky



Add your comment:



Julia Ballard | December 16, 2015 | 0 Comments

The <u>Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission</u> (JEDCO) has unveiled a brand new logo, which represents the 28-year-old organization moving into the future.



JEDCO's main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. The organization aims to influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in the parish.

According to the organization, the new logo features a unique icon and bold color palette chosen to balance their focus on traditional values and efforts with its emphasis on business innovation, creativity, and advancement.

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PRESS RELEASE December 3, 2015

JEDCO Announces Reaccreditation and Recognizes 2015 Jefferson Parish Business Awards at Annual Luncheon

(Fairfield, LA) - The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) has once again been recognized a premier economic development organization accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO). Originally accredited in 2008, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC following seven successful years of activity as an AEDO member. Only 46 economic development organizations out of approximately 3,000 internationally currently hold this prestigious recognition.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. The reaccreditation consists of two phases: a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, program, and staff of the candidate economic development organization. Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospective businesses that JEDCO attained a measure of excellence. Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and an onsite visit by a team of the AEDO subcommittee.

"JEDCO displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor," said IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle.

JEDCO shared this important achievement on Thursday at its Annual Luncheon, the organization's largest event of the year. JEDCO also announced the recipients of its 2015 business award winners in front of hundreds of Jefferson Parish business and community leaders.

Boscoli Foods, Inc. received the 2015 Small Business of the Year award. This

iconic food manufacturer is headquartered in Jefferson Parish. Founded in 1992, the family-owned business produces olive salad and other related products distributed to grocery stores across the country. The company also has an international reach in Mexico and U.S. military bases overseas with plans to enter a new international market in coming months. In recent years, Boscoli has experienced high growth in sales and employees, while also introducing a number of new products into the market. In order to meet the capacity of its sustained growth, Boscoli Foods plans to add 8,500 sq. ft. of warehouse and additional office space to its existing manufacturing and bottling plant. Boscoli is also heavily involved in local business and charitable organizations, giving back to the community that has helped to foster its growth.

Each year, JEDCO selects an agency, organization, business, or individual who has been instrumental in the retention and expansion of Jefferson Parish businesses. This year, Mike Quigley, the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Kenner, earned the JEDCO Business Retention and Expansion Award. JEDCO has had a long-standing and successful relationship with the City of Kenner through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Over that time, Quigley has been an effective ally in promoting business growth in the city. Quigley's quick responses to business concerns and questions helped the City of Kenner to retain several major manufacturers and spurred expansion of others.

JEDCO's 2015 Chairman of the Board, Paul Rivera, presented Ashton Ryan, the President and CEO of <u>First NBC Bank</u>, with the Chairman's Champion Award. Ryan has been a long-time fixture in the banking industry and an active supporter of the entrepreneurial movement in the region. Through his role with First NBC Bank, Ryan has supported many JEDCO initiatives, including title sponsorship of the <u>JEDCO Challenge</u>, a Jefferson Parish-based pitch competition held during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, and the <u>Jefferson EDGE</u>, the parish's long-term economic development strategic plan to promote sustainability, investment, and job growth in the community.

"Through JEDCO's role in the community, our team has the unique opportunity to connect with many remarkable individuals and businesses every day," says JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna. "This group of award winners represents the highest quality of business dedication, reliability, innovation and growth. Through their hard work and commitment to excellence, they are enhancing the business climate in Jefferson Parish. Their contributions to our economy keep our community competitive on a global scale. We are proud to work with them and proud that they choose to call Jefferson Parish home."

The JEDCO Annual Luncheon provides an opportunity for the organization to recognize and show support of Jefferson Parish businesses while also highlighting the year's economic successes. The event took place at the Hilton New Orleans Airport on Airline Drive.

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JEDCO announces 2015 business award winners



By Kelsey Scram, JEDCO Marketing & PR Manager

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on December 16, 2015 at 7:46 AM, updated December 16, 2015 at 7:47 AM

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experienced high growth in sales and employees, while also introducing a number of new products into the market.

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"Through JEDCO's role in the community, our team has the unique opportunity to connect with many remarkable individuals and businesses every day," said JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna.

"This group of award winners represents the highest quality of business dedication, reliability, innovation and growth. Through their hard work and commitment to excellence, they are enhancing the business climate in Jefferson Parish. Their contributions to our economy keep our community competitive on a global scale. We are proud to work with them and proud that they choose to call Jefferson Parish home."

JEDCO also shared an exciting announcement regarding the 28-year-old organization. It has once again been recognized as a premier economic development organization accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

Originally accredited in 2008, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC following seven successful years of activity as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) member. Only 46 economic development organizations out of approximately 3,000 international IEDC members currently hold this prestigious recognition.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession.

The reaccreditation consists of two phases: a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, program, and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospective businesses that JEDCO attained a measure of excellence. Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and an onsite visit by a team of the AEDO subcommittee.

"JEDCO displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor," said IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle.

JEDCO shared this important achievement in early December at its Annual Luncheon, the organization's largest event of the year.

Biz JEDCO Announces Reaccreditation, Recognizes 2015 Business Award Winners

By 12-4-15

FAIRFIELD, LA – The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) has once again been recognized a premier economic development organization accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO).

Originally accredited in 2008, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC following seven successful years of activity as an AEDO member. Only 46 economic development organizations out of approximately 3,000 internationally currently hold this prestigious recognition.



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JEDCO shared this important achievement on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at its Annual Luncheon, the organization's largest event of the year. JEDCO also announced the recipients of its 2015 business award winners in front of hundreds of Jefferson Parish business and community leaders.

Boscoli Foods, Inc. received the 2015 Small Business of the Year award. This iconic food manufacturer is headquartered in Jefferson Parish. Founded in 1992, the family-owned business produces olive salad and other related products distributed to grocery stores across the country. The company also has an international reach in Mexico and U.S. military bases overseas with plans to enter a new international market in coming months. In recent years, Boscoli has experienced high growth in sales and employees, while also introducing a number of new products into the market. In order to meet the capacity of its sustained growth, Boscoli Foods plans to add 8,500 sq. ft. of warehouse and additional office space to its existing manufacturing and bottling plant. Boscoli is also heavily involved in local business and charitable organizations, giving back to the community that has helped to foster its growth.

Each year, JEDCO selects an agency, organization, business, or individual who has been instrumental in the retention and expansion of Jefferson Parish businesses. This year, Mike Quigley, the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Kenner, earned the JEDCO Business Retention and Expansion Award. JEDCO has had a long-standing and successful relationship with the City of Kenner through a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Over that time, Quigley has been an effective ally in promoting

business growth in the city. Quigley's quick responses to business concerns and questions helped the City of Kenner to retain several major manufacturers and spurred expansion of others.

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"Through JEDCO's role in the community, our team has the unique opportunity to connect with many remarkable individuals and businesses every day," says JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna. "This group of award winners represents the highest quality of business dedication, reliability, innovation and growth. Through their hard work and commitment to excellence, they are enhancing the business climate in Jefferson Parish. Their contributions to our economy keep our community competitive on a global scale. We are proud to work with them and proud that they choose to call Jefferson Parish home."

The JEDCO Annual Luncheon provides an opportunity for the organization to recognize and show support of Jefferson Parish businesses while also highlighting the year's economic successes.

The event took place at the Hilton New Orleans Airport on Airline Drive.

For more information



Water, water everywhere in New Orleans. How can we manage it?:

Robin Barnes



Joe Evans and Barney Lighter with Evans + Lighter Landscape Architecture and Ramiro Diaz, an urban planner and designer at Waggonner & Ball Architects, have designed a courtyard rain garden designed to manage storm water runoff, featuring a small reflecting pool, cistern planters and wetlands landscaping and infrastructure. One of the two Diaz family dogs, Giussi, enjoys drink from the pools. (Dinah Rogers, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archives)

Print Email



By Contributing writer, The Times-Picayune

Follow on Twitter

on December 07, 2015 at 7:01 AM, updated December 07, 2015 at 7:27 AM $\,$

Robin Barnes is executive vice president and chief operating officer for Greater New Orleans Inc.

As we switch out hurricane season for our preferred seasons — the holidays and Mardi Gras — we can breathe a sigh of relief for another year that we have avoided major storm surges, wind damage and evacuation. Life is good!

But we often forget that rainfall creates a more insidious day-to-day inconvenience and significant business interruption year-round. In the past 12 months alone, nearly 70 inches of rain have fallen on our region.

The Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, which was greatly influenced by our strong collaboration with the Netherlands, has been much touted as a solution to stormwater and groundwater challenges. As a strategy for creating resilience by living with water, the plan has won numerous awards and served as a tool for educating residents and policy makers about the benefits of thoughtful water management. The effort is funded by the Louisiana Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit, administered by Greater New Orleans Inc. and led by Waggonner & Ball.

Now, two years after its release, thanks to critical investments and leadership, we are seeing the plan begin to take form with a series of demonstration projects as well as community engagement. In commercial, recreational and residential neighborhoods in and outside of New Orleans, new technologies are being implemented and tested at different scales, allowing the public to see integrated water management in action, test strategies and measure success.

In Jefferson Parish, the Elmwood Business Association and Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) are leading the adoption of a strategy to "green" the largely paved industrial park.

The goal is to reduce business disruption due to frequent flooding and create value for the neighborhood and businesses.

The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority has partnered with the community and local landscape designers on six neighborhood-based rain gardens that are reducing street flooding and increasing quality of life from Gentilly to Algiers. The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is investing in green infrastructure pilot programs. And larger scale water management projects are also under way at the City of New Orleans.

Avoiding costs of flooding and other damages are just the beginning: a host of economic benefits will be realized by implementing water management. These projects employ local firms that design, construct and maintain them. Those firms are contributing to a growing new industry sector — emerging environmental — which acknowledges that there are jobs to be created by addressing environmental challenges relating to energy, waste, and, especially, water.

Sixty-five percent of water management jobs do not require a college degree and can provide critically needed entry points to career pathways for low skilled workers and young people today and in the decades to come. It is essential that we take stock of the challenges still ahead and consider how to transform them into inclusive opportunities for economic growth.

Moreover, the expertise and experience that is honed at home, ensuring our own future, can then be exported to other communities, creating new revenues for the region and even more opportunity for local businesses.

Just as the Dutch realize more than four percent of their GDP from water management, we strive to do the same — or better.

Implementation of the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan was recently identified as a key strategic action in the newly released Resilient NOLA strategy. And last week in Paris, Mayor Mitch Landrieu committed 10 percent of the city's municipal budget to achieving resiliency goals. Bold policies, investments and leadership are critical to the future of our city and region. It looks as though we are well on our way.



Happy Holidays!

From all of us here at JEDCO, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!



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Debi Durham Director 200 Easi Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50309 515-725-3000 Fax: 515-725-3010 Director@lowg.gov www.lowaLifeChanging.com

Harvey County Economic Development Corporation

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Avoyelles Parish Port Commission

Tommy Maddie Chairman P.O. Box 126 Simmesport, Louisiana 71369 318-941-5462 Fax: 318-941-2868 STMaddie14@Yahoo.com www.AvoyellesPort.com

City of Minden

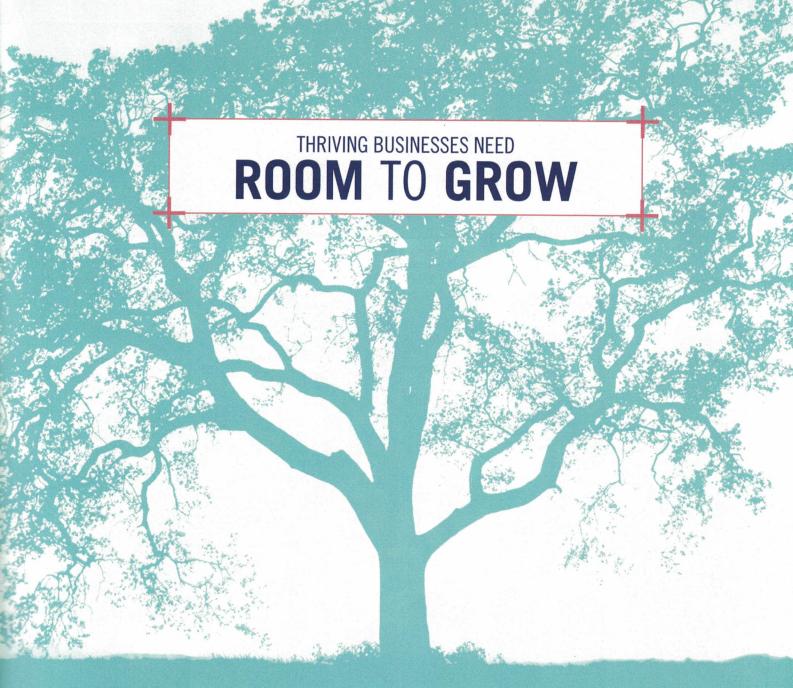
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THE JBC IS PLEASED TO CONGRATULATE



Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recently recognized JEDCO as an Accredited Economic Development Organization. Of the approximately 3,000 international economic development organizations within the IEDC, less than 50 achieved this unique designation.

Thanks for all that you do to support the local business community! We applaud your recent achievement!

Jefferson Business Council

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re OIC RUN-OFF LIMITED and THE LONDON AND OVERSEAS INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED Debtors in Foreign Proceedings.

In a Case Under Chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code Case No. 15-13054 (SCC)

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING ON PETITIONS SEEKING RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN MAIN PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 15 OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY CODE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 16, 2015, Dan Yoram Schwarzmann and Paul Anthony Brereton Evans (the "Petitioners"), the duly authorized foreign representatives of the above-captioned debtors (together, the "Companies") commenced cases (the "Chapter 15 Cases") by filing petitions (the "Petitions"), pursuant to Chapter 15 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that by an Order dated November 19, 2015, the Chapter 15 Cases are being jointly administered for

procedural purposes only and all pleadings filed in the Chapter 15 cases should bear the above-referenced caption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Petitioners are requesting recognition of foreign main proceedings, as well as a permanent

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Petitioners seek, among other things, entry of an order giving full force and effect in the United States to a crystallization scheme of arrangement (the "Amending Scheme") proposed by the Companies and sanctioned pursuant to Part 26 of the Companies Act 2006 of the United Kingdom, by the High Court of Justice of England and Wales, a permanent injunction and related relief.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in addition to the Petitions, the Petitioners filed, among other things: (i) the list required to be filed with each of the Scheme Companies' Petition pursuant to Rule 1007(a)(4) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"); (ii) the Statement of Foreign Representative required to be filled with each of the Scheme Companies' Petition pursuant to section 1515 of the Bankruptcy Code; (iii) the Verified Petition under Chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code for Recognition of Foreign Proceedings, a Permanent Injunction and Related Relief; (iv) the Memorandum of Law in Support of Verified Petition under Chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code for Recognition of Foreign Main Proceedings, a Permanent Injunction and Related Relief; and (v) the Declaration of Joseph Bahlsen Bannister

English Counsel (collectively, the "Supporting Documents").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to the Order Limiting Notice, Scheduling Hearing and Specifying the Form and Manner of Service of Notice, dated November 19, 2015, the Bankruptcy Court has scheduled a hearing (the "Recognition Hearing") for January 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (EST) before the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman in Courtroom 623 of the Bankruptcy Court, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004-1408 to consider the Petitions and any responses or objections thereto.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any party in interest wishing to submit an answer, objection or response, if any, to the Petitions must do so pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code and the Local and Bankruptcy Rules, including, without limitation, Bankruptcy Rule 1011, in writing do so pursuant to the paintupicy code and the Local and paintupicy nales, including, without initiation, paintupicy nale to 1, in which describing the basis therefore and filed with the Court electronically in accordance with General Order M-399 by registered users of the Court's electronic case filing system, and by all other parties in interest, on a CD-ROM, preferably in Portable Document Format (PDF), Word Perfect or any other Windows-based word processing format, with a hard copy to the Chambers of the Honorable Shelley C. Chapman, United States Bankruptcy Judge, and served upon Chadbourne & Parke LLP, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019 (Attention: Francisco Vazquez) as counsel for the Petitioners so as to be received on or before 4:00 p.m. (EST) on January 4, 2016.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all parties-in-interest opposed to the Petitions or the Petitioners' request for relief must appear at the Hearing at the time and place set forth above.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if no response or objection is timely filed and served as provided above, the Bankruptcy Court may grant the recognition and relief requested by the Petitioners without further notice or hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that certain policyholders of the Companies may have a policy written through a broker facility (which includes brokers covers, broker lineslips and binding authorities) and may not know the identity of the insurance company. A full list of known Proker facilities is available on the Petitioners' website (www.oicrun-offitd.com). These include, among others, the following: A.B.C. Excess (Aircraft Builders Council); A.B.C. Master Agreement (Aircraft Builders Council); A.I.A.A. Aviation Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement (American International Aviation Agency Inc); Alexander Howden Reinsurance Brokers Limited Marine Excess of Loss Pool; C.T. Bowing & Co. Aviation Liability Line Stip (PECO Contrast); C.T. Powring Concept May Marine Advance Connect C.T. Powring & Co. Aviation Liability Line Slip (B500 Contract); C.T. Bowring General Non Marine Master Cover; C.T. Bowring Marine Master Cover; Hull & Co (UK) Ltd Line Slip HC.013; London Special Risks Liability Line Slip No. LSR056; Price Forbes Brokers Cover; Price Forbes Line Slip; Sedgwick Collins Lloyds Brokers Line Slip; Sedgwick Offshore Resources Master Drilling Rig Line Slip (M.D.R.C); Steel Burrill Jones Oil & Gas Line Slip; Willis Faber & Dumas Brokers Line Slip.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at the hearing, the Court may order the scheduling of a case management conference to consider

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Recognition Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice other than an announcement in open court at the Recognition Hearing of the adjourned date or dates or any further adjourned hearing

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the details regarding the filing and processing of claims are set forth in the Amending Scheme, and no claims should be filed in these Chapter 15 Cases.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that copies of the Petitions, the Supporting Documents, and the Amending Scheme Documents are available (1) on the Bankruptcy Court's Electronic Case Filing System, which can be accessed from the Bankruptcy Court's website at https://ecf.nysb.uscourts.gov/ (a PACER login and password are required to retrieve a document), (2) on the Petitioners' website, www.oicrunofflitd.com, or (3) upon written request to the Petitioners' counsel addressed to: Chadbourne & Parke LLP, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019, Telephone (212) 408-5215, Facsimile (212) 541-5369, Attention: Francisco Vazquez, fvazquez@chadbourne.com.

CHADBOURNE & PARKE LLP . Counsel for the Petitioners 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10019 • (212) 408-5100 Attn: Howard Seife, Esq. and Francisco Vazquez, Esq.