



Jerry Bologna

Executive Director

JEDCO

0:28 / 19:10



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PROSPER JEFFERSON

2015 Seminar Series



PRESS RELEASE
July 16, 2015

JEDCO & Jefferson Chamber host human resources seminar

(Fairfield, LA) - Human Resources have an important role to play in any business. Hiring the right people and developing a strategy to retain those employees is vital to a company's overall success. As part of the ongoing [Prosper Jefferson](#) seminar series, the [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) and the [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#) team up to bring you a seminar on **Human Resources**. Hear from three HR experts as they cover a variety of issues, including:

- How to hire & retain good employees
- Developing a company culture
- Outsourcing your payroll and human resources needs
- Update to the Federal Wage & Hour regulations

Join us Wednesday, July 29th, at the East Bank Regional Library's Jefferson Room (4747 W. Napoleon Avenue in Metairie) from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Admission is free, but registration is required to attend. The event is open to all businesses and entrepreneurs. Register online at www.jedco.org/events

Meet our Speakers

Ronnie Sloan

Ronnie Slone is the founder and president of The Slone Group, a consulting

firm that specializes in organizational development and training for growing companies and organizations. He has over 30 years of experience in operations management, human resources, training and professional staffing. Ronnie is certified in technical services by the American Staffing Association and he is an Advanced Associate of Emergenetics International, a framework used to increase both personnel and team effectiveness.

In addition to leading a growing consulting firm, Ronnie is also a faculty member of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program at Delgado Community College and the national cohorts at Babson College (he facilitates Module #4, "You are the Leader," and Module #5, "It's the People.") Ronnie's commitment to his community can be seen and felt through his work on several local boards, including: Greater New Orleans, Inc., Jefferson Dollars for Scholars, the Jefferson Chamber Foundation, City Park New Orleans, the Good Shepherd School, and the Jefferson Community School. Ronnie also served as the Jefferson Chamber Chairman in 2010.

Fred Preis

Fred Preis is a partner at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson law firm where he is a senior member of the labor and employment law section. Prior to serving as an officer in the United States Army, Fred earned both his undergraduate degree in business and his law degree from Louisiana State University. He has been representing management in labor law and employee relations for more than 30 years.

Fred is a Chairman of both the Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Association Labor Law Section as well as a member of the board of editors of *The Corporate Counselor*, a national newsletter. He was selected by *New Orleans CityBusiness* for inclusion in the Legal Hall of Fame and was recognized by *Super Lawyers Magazine* as one of the outstanding lawyers in the field of labor and employment law. He has been repeatedly named one of America's leading labor and employment lawyers by the well-respected news publication, *Chambers USA - America's Leading Lawyers for Business in Louisiana*. Fred is active in many business and civic endeavors, including the Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross Southeastern Louisiana Chapter, the Louisiana Liaison Group of Federal Government Contractors, the Willow Wood/Woldenburg Home for the Aged, the Louisiana Hospital Association Society of Hospital Attorneys, Goodwill Industries, Greater New Orleans, Inc., the World Trade Center, and the Rotary Club where he is a Paul Harris fellow.

Justin Farrae

Justin Farrae is the Vice President of Crescent Payroll Solutions, Inc. He has been in the payroll industry for 7 years and enjoys working with small-to-midsize business owners, helping them to reduce labor costs and focus their attention on growing their business. Justin is a lifelong New Orleans native. He graduated from Brother Martin High School and LSU with a degree in

Psychology. Justin resides in Metairie with his wife Joy Scheyd Farrae and three sons Connor (6 yrs. old), Caleb (4 yrs. old) and Quinn (1 year old).

About JEDCO: The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (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 [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit www.jedco.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Jefferson Chamber: The [Jefferson Chamber](#) is the leading voice for Jefferson Parish's business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. The Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, and follow on [Facebook](#), Twitter @[jeffersoncoc](#), and [YouTube](#).

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PRESS RELEASE
July 14, 2015

Home décor superstore opens first Louisiana location in Kenner

KENNER, La -- The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and the City of Kenner are pleased to celebrate the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony of [At Home](#), the home décor superstore, on Tuesday, July 14. Located in a 90,000 square-foot space at the Pavilion Shopping Center (1000 W. Esplanade Blvd.) in Kenner, this is the first At Home store to open in Louisiana.



The grand opening of At Home marks another victory for retail attraction in Kenner, creating 25 jobs in Jefferson Parish and the surrounding region. [JEDCO](#) worked with At Home representatives and the [City of Kenner](#) to ensure At Home received a variety of tools and information to aid in the company's location decision. JEDCO assisted with site selections efforts, supplied demographic and local market data, and offered incentives guidance to the At Home team.

"At Home's decision to locate its first Louisiana store in Kenner affirms that both Kenner and Jefferson Parish remain preeminent retail destinations in Louisiana," says Jerry Bologna, JEDCO Executive Director. "We are excited to welcome them and look forward to providing them the resources they need to be successful."

"This is great news for the city of Kenner and residents and visitors looking for

additional shopping opportunities," says Kenner Mayor Michael S. Yenni. "I also believe this is a strong indication that our [2030 Plan](#) is beginning to gain some real momentum."

"We're excited to enter Louisiana and the Kenner market," said Stacey Sullivan, director of public relations and corporate communications for At Home. "It's wonderful to see the community so supportive of our entrance into the state."

Including the new Kenner location, At Home currently operates more than 90 stores across 25 states.

###

ABOUT AT HOME: At Home, the home décor superstore, provides customers with the greatest assortment of home décor products for every room, every style, at everyday low prices. With an expansive selection of more than 50,000 unique items across broad product categories, At Home enables customers to express themselves and create a home that reflects their personality and style, in ways big and small. Founded in Garden Ridge, Texas, outside of San Antonio, in 1979, the company is headquartered in Plano, Texas. For more information, visit the company on www.athome.com or find us on Facebook ([AtHomeStores](#)).

ABOUT JEDCO:

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business in our area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship and investment in Jefferson Parish. For more information, visit www.jedco.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), & [Vimeo](#).

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Follow us on social media:





At Home expands into new market

JULY 9, 2015 | BY MARIANNE WILSON



Plano, Texas -- Home décor superstore At Home is entering a new market.

The retailer announced opening of its store in Kenner, Louisiana, on July 9. The 90,000-sq.-ft. is At Home's first store in Louisiana.

At Home currently operates more than 90 stores across 25 states.



At Home Opens First Louisiana Location In Kenner

SOURCE At Home

Home Decor Superstore Celebrates Grand Opening

PLANO, Texas, July 9, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- [At Home™](#), the home décor superstore, announces the opening of the Kenner, La., location on Thursday, July 9. The 90,000 square-foot store, located at 1000 W. Esplanade Blvd. in Kenner, marks the first store in Louisiana for the big-box specialty retailer of home décor products.

Following the store opening, the Kenner location will have a grand opening ribbon-cutting Tuesday, July 14, at 9 a.m. with the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce and onsite giveaways for customers and a radio remote Saturday, July 18.

Just in time to decorate for summer with this season's patio furniture and gardening supplies, outdoor rugs, décor and more, At Home will be offering \$50 gift cards to the first 100 customers who visit the store on July 18, as well as 250 reusable tote bags while supplies last.

At Home allows customers to express their personal style by choosing from an expansive selection of more than 50,000 items—including seasonal and holiday décor, patio furniture, home furnishings, wall art and decorative accents, rugs and housewares. Employing an everyday low pricing model, At Home is dedicated to allowing customers to affordably make their house into a home.

This new location brings 25 jobs to Kenner and surrounding communities. Including the Kenner location, At Home currently operates more than 90 stores across 25 states.

ABOUT AT HOME:

At Home, the home décor superstore, provides customers with the greatest assortment of home décor products for every room, every style, at everyday low prices. With an expansive selection of more than 50,000 unique items across broad product categories, At Home enables customers to express themselves and create a home that reflects their personality and style, in ways big and small. Founded in Garden Ridge, Texas, outside of San Antonio, in 1979, the company is headquartered in Plano, Texas. For more information, visit the company on www.athome.com or find us on Facebook ([AtHomeStores](#)).

To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/at-home-opens-first-louisiana-location-in-kenner-300110744.html>

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Ribbon cutting of new Zatarain's \$26 million plant in Gretna toasted with root beer



By [Judy Walker, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune](#)

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on July 13, 2015 at 1:25 PM, updated July 16, 2015 at 12:42 AM

Franklin Mooney, general manager of the Zatarain's production facility **in Gretna**, is originally from Virginia. The most fascinating part of the building of the big new facility he oversees? He said it was watching 900 pilings driven into the ground.

Mooney led a media tour of the big new empty building on Monday morning (July 13), along with general manager Jill Pratt. The tour was just before the ribbon-cutting celebration of the new \$26 million facility, which expands the existing plant on First Street in an industrial Gretna neighborhood.

More than 200 employees wore red "McNola ribbon cutting" commemorative T-shirts to the event. Spice giant McCormick owns Zatarain's.

Although they're sold nationwide, New Orleans is the core market for Zatarain's products. When she was talking about the rice mixes, Pratt said "the Walmart on Tchoupitoulas sells so much that if they don't have extra, they will run out on the weekend."

More numbers from Pratt, Mooney and the tour:

- Around 300 SKUs — stock keeping units, or individual products — are made here.
- Nationwide sales are \$250 million a year.
- Six million cases of products are produced here annually.
- The company uses 43 different types of packaging.
- A third of the 80,000-square-foot new plant will be available for growth. Mooney expects most of the move into the new facility will be completed by the end of 2016.
- The plant blends 30 million pounds of products annually. The current "ribbon blending" process takes 10 minutes. In the new plant: one minute.
- Zatarain's is **the market leader in boiling products**, which they started manufacturing in the 1920s. Sales of boiling products are up about 10 percent.
- Fish Fri was one of the company's first acquisitions, in the 1960s. (The independent company was named Fish Fri.) New packaging for the fish fry products will extend their shelf life.
- Rice mixes, launched in 1985, represent 50 percent of Zatarain's sales. More than 20 million units are sold each year, worth \$37 million.
- Boxed side dish mixes are the fastest-growing part of the business. Chicken broccoli rice, garlic butter rice, Spanish rice and the many other types of mixes are developed in the research and development kitchen on the second floor.
- Zatarain's buys most of the rice in the mixes from Louisiana growers.
- Food service sales are about \$10 million a year. During crawfish season, the food-service-size packages of boiling products are available at retail in the New Orleans area.
- Root beer extract is the best-selling Zatarain's product on Amazon.com.

Root beer was served to make a root beer toast at the event. Root beer was Emile Zatarain's first product.

For more on Emile, his family, how to make the root beer, other uses for the extract, how to set up a jambalaya bar and several recipes other recipes, [here's another story on the local history of Zatarain's](#).

THE ADVOCATE

Zatarain's doubles the size of its Gretna manufacturing facility, celebrates 80,000-square-foot expansion

BY RICHARD THOMPSON | RTHOMPSON@THEADVOCATE.COM

July 18, 2015

0 Comments

Flanked by a five-piece brass band, **Zatarain's executives** on Monday celebrated the completion of a new 80,000-square-foot manufacturing and warehouse facility in Gretna that will double the food and spice company's physical footprint, providing space for future growth and new equipment expected to make its operations more efficient.

The company, known for its New Orleans-inspired product line of rice mixes, seafood boils, side dishes, Creole mustard and spices, broke ground on the new facility last year. It's slated to be in full operation by the end of 2016, officials said.

The facility will house 10 production lines as well as ingredient silos and additional storage areas.

Franklin Mooney, the plant's operations manager, said Zatarain's was running out of space in its former facility, which is adjacent to the new building and will remain in use. The expansion gives the company room to grow.

"We'll have so many different people doing so many different functions on these production lines," Mooney said.

The \$26 million addition was built with efficiency in mind: It has fluorescent lights, a white roof that reflects sunlight and an air-cooling system that's 25 percent more energy-efficient than the one in Zatarain's old building. New parking and loading areas are designed to improve deliveries and ease the flow of traffic on nearby First Street.

In addition, new equipment will improve the pace of operations. For example, it now takes 10 minutes to blend a batch of spices. That time will be cut to one minute.

The company now produces about 6 million cases of Zatarain's products each year, said Jill Pratt, the general manager.

Zatarain's officials gave a tour Monday of the new facility, which was mostly bare except for a stage area and seats set up for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which featured brief remarks from various local officials. A large Zatarain's banner hung from the ceiling; the exhaust pipes and beams in the plant were red to match the logo.

Zatarain's employees filled out the crowd. At the end of the ceremony, they toasted the company's progress by raising a glass of root beer, a nod to Zatarain's founding in 1889 as a producer of root beer extract.

Zatarain's was acquired in 2003 by McCormick & Co. Inc., the world's largest spice maker. Zatarain's has about 230 employees in Gretna.

Follow Richard Thompson on Twitter, [@rthompsonMSY](#).



Louisiana #1 among southern states for major business projects

Posted: Friday, 17 July 2015 5:52PM

WWL.com Reporting

Louisiana once again ranks number one among southern states in the number of major business projects per capita according to Southern Business and Development magazine. This is the sixth year in a row the Bayou State has received this honor.



State Economic Development Secretary Steven Grissom says this is a very important ranking for the state.

"It's a third-party objective view of how Louisiana is performing against other states in the economic development area."

Louisiana earned 105 points in the rankings, easily outdistancing second-place Kentucky with 63 points. The publication also designated Lake Charles as their Small Market of the Year. Grissom says the magazine bases their ranking on large capital investment projects and large job creation projects.

"On the capital investment side, they're looking at projects of \$30 million or more in capital investment and on the employment side they're looking for projects that involve jobs of 200 or more."

Louisiana now ranks among the top 10 states in the US in five national business climate rankings. Grissom says the state has done so well in this ranking because Louisiana offers a strong business climate for companies looking to invest...

"We proactively reach out to companies and convey that message and as companies evaluate their options, they realize that Louisiana's the best choice for them."



LED NEWS RELEASE

7.16.15

Southern Business & Development: Louisiana No. 1 In Number Of Major Business Projects Per Capita

Lake Charles ranks as No. 1 small market in South, based on 2014 project investments and job creation

BATON ROUGE, La. — Today, *Southern Business & Development* magazine ranked Louisiana No. 1 among Southern states for attracting the most significant capital investment and job-creation projects per million residents. States earn points for large employment projects (200 or more jobs) and large capital investment projects (\$30 million or more) attracted during 2014. Louisiana led the region with the most points-per-million at 105.4, easily outdistancing second-place Kentucky (63.4) and third-place Oklahoma (63.2). Neither Louisiana nor Texas, the overall points leader, earned the 2015 State of the Year designation, which the publication awarded to Kentucky.

Louisiana, which has ranked No. 1 in the South for six straight years in the points-per-million category, has earned State or Co-State of the Year honors from *Southern Business & Development* in five of the past seven years. In addition to Louisiana's top-ranked 2015 performance, Lake Charles earned the magazine's designation as the 2015 Small Market of the Year, while New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and Houma-Thibodaux each earned honorable mention recognition for top markets of the year.

Governor Bobby Jindal said, "When we first took office, we set out to establish Louisiana as the new frontier for business opportunity, including a top-notch business climate that would attract world-class capital investment and job-creation projects. Today, Louisiana is that state, as we now attract many of the world's best economic development projects and retain more and more of our best and brightest graduates. Today's recognition by *Southern Business & Development* demonstrates that the world is looking at Louisiana in a new way and that we are achieving record results because of our positive reforms. We are excited about our economic momentum for one overarching reason – more Louisiana residents every day are able to find to quality jobs and build great careers without having to leave the state they love. We will continue to work tirelessly to fulfill our destiny as the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family."

The latest *Southern Business & Development* State of the Year results are published in the magazine's SB&D 100 issue, which reports the Top 100 economic development deals across the South in both investment and job categories. Each state earns 10 points for projects within the investment and job Top 100 lists. Projects below the Top 100 that include at least 200 jobs or \$30 million invested net five points each for their states.

Lake Charles (55 points) received the title of 2015 Small Market of the Year, which evaluates markets in the South with a population under 250,000. Houma-Thibodaux (20 points) received honorable mention in that category. In the 2015 Major Market of the Year category, which ranks performance for metro areas of at least 750,000 but less than 2 million population, New Orleans (205 points) and Baton Rouge (100) joined Nashville, Tennessee (155), Kansas City, Missouri (115) and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina (100), as honorable mention winners. For the 2015 Mid-Market of the Year title, Shreveport, Louisiana (45 points), joined Huntsville, Alabama (45), and Northern Kentucky (40) as honorable mention selections among metros with at least 250,000 but less than 750,000 population.

Louisiana earned honorable mention State of the Year honors with a wide variety of project announcements in 2014, such as CSC's 800-job technology center in Bossier City, Cheniere Energy's \$6 billion expansion of its LNG project in Cameron Parish, Venture Global's \$4.25 billion LNG complex at the Calcasieu Ship Channel in Cameron Parish, CGI's 400-job technology center in Lafayette, and Yuhuang Chemical's 400-job, \$1.8 billion methanol manufacturing complex in St. James Parish.

Louisiana now ranks higher in every national business-climate ranking than it ever did prior to 2008. In five national business climate rankings – those published by *Area Development*, *Business Facilities*, *Chief Executive*, *Site Selection* and international location marketing firm DCI – Louisiana now ranks among the Top 10 states in the U.S.

Since January 2008, Louisiana has secured economic development projects that are resulting in more than 91,000 new jobs, more than \$62 billion in new capital investment and hundreds of millions of dollars in new sales for small businesses across the state.

Business Facilities has honored LED FastStart[®] as the nation's No. 1 workforce training program for the past five years in a row. *Business Facilities* also ranked Louisiana No. 1 in the publication's 2014 ranking of business climates. *Site Selection* named LED the best-performing state economic development agency in the nation in 2011 and No. 2 this year, while Pollina Corporate Real Estate ranked LED as tied for the best-performing state economic development agency in the nation in 2013.

For more about the 2015 State of the Year rankings and the SB&D 100 report in *Southern Business & Development*, visit www.sb-d.com.



Dear JEDCO Supporters,

It is my pleasure to present to you the [2014 Annual Report](#). It was a privilege to serve as the Chairman of the JEDCO Board of Commissioners in 2014. What an exciting year to be a part of the organization! The theme of the 2014 Annual Report is "Investing in Innovation." Last year, JEDCO worked with businesses spanning a diverse range of industries. Those unique and creative businesses are moving Jefferson Parish forward. JEDCO is also innovative. The organization's team continuously seeks new ways to progress the Jefferson Parish business community.

For instance, JEDCO focused efforts on the Fairfield Vision, a strategic plan to develop over 8,000 acres of green space on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. Stakeholders want to cultivate the area, which is bounded by U.S. 90 to the north, Bayou Segnette to the east, and the hurricane protection levees on the south and west, into a mixed-use community with a range of housing and commercial opportunities. The Fairfield plan will ensure the development of a distinctive community, which will be attractive to businesses and residents alike.

The Fairfield Vision ties into the overall revival of the West Bank. Community and business leaders identified a need to enhance the strategic offerings available on the west side of the Mississippi River while also reshaping the perceptions of the area. JEDCO works with stakeholders to confront the challenges that face the West Bank while also developing ways to build upon the strengths of this part of the region.

We pride ourselves on our collaboration among elected officials, parish departments, and the business and civic organizations that represent the companies and residents located in Jefferson. With strong community partners, like the Jefferson Chamber, we are able to effect change in our community and develop a stronger, more creative action plan to help Jefferson Parish become the preferred destination for all businesses. We are grateful to work with so many wonderful men and women who have helped shape this area for the better.

As we continue to move forward, I can assure you JEDCO will remain dedicated to our businesses and the community that supports them. Our team will continue to better the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment. We will focus on furthering the future of Jefferson Parish and the businesses that call it home.

We have two different versions of the Annual Report available for your viewing. Click [here](#) to access the flip-page version. If you prefer to view our report as a PDF, you can click [here](#).

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Greg Jordan' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Jordan
2014 JEDCO Chairman



Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission Releases Annual Report

[Julia Ballard](#) | July 14, 2015 | [0 Comments](#)

The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complementary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing and creating new business in the area.



JEDCO has released its [2014 Annual Report](#), "Investing in Innovation," which highlights the business initiatives who advance the Parish.

Greg Jordan, 2014 chairman of JEDCO, said the organization's team continuously seeks new ways to progress the community. "As we continue to move forward, I can assure you JEDCO will remain dedicated to our businesses and the community that supports them. Our team will continue to better the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment."

One of the major projects last year was the Fairfield Vision, a plan to develop an area previously known as Avondale. JEDCO celebrated the grand opening of its 8,000 square foot conference center with a ribbon cutting ceremony last June. The JEDCO headquarters is situated on the mostly undeveloped Churchill Technology and Business Park-owned land, which spans 500 acres.

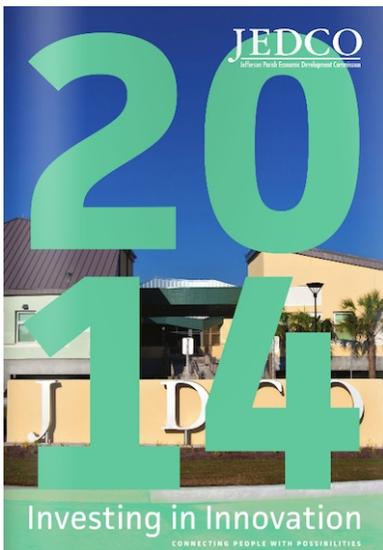
"The Fairfield plan will ensure the development of a distinctive community, which will be attractive to businesses and residents alike," continued Jordan.

Biz JEDCO Releases 2014 NEW ORLEANS Annual Report, Touts Fairfield Vision

By 7-7-15

AVONDALE, LA – JEDCO has released its 2014 Annual Report, “Investing in Innovation.”

The report shows JEDCO worked with unique and creative businesses spanning a diverse range of industries moving Jefferson Parish forward.



Greg Jordan, 2014 JEDCO Chairman, said JEDCO focused its efforts on the Fairfield Vision, a strategic plan to develop over 8,000 acres of green space on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. Stakeholders want to cultivate the area, which is bounded by U.S. 90 to the north, Bayou Segnette to the east, and the hurricane protection levees on the south and west, into a mixed-use community with a range of housing and commercial opportunities. Jordan said the Fairfield plan will ensure the development of a distinctive community, which will be attractive to businesses and residents alike, and tie into the overall revival of the West Bank. Community and business leaders identified a need to enhance the strategic offerings available on the west side of the Mississippi River while also reshaping the perceptions of the area, he said. JEDCO will work with stakeholders to confront the challenges that face the West Bank while also developing ways to build upon the strengths of this part of the region.

Jordan said, “We pride ourselves on our collaboration among elected officials, parish departments, and the business and civic organizations that represent the companies and residents located in Jefferson. With strong community partners, like the Jefferson Chamber, we are able to effect change in our community and develop a stronger, more creative action plan to help Jefferson Parish become the preferred destination for all businesses. We are grateful to work with so many wonderful men and women who have helped shape this area for the better.”

Jordan said JEDCO will remain dedicated to area businesses and the community that supports them, their team will continue to better the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment and JEDCO will focus on furthering the future of Jefferson Parish and the businesses that call it home.

[To view the report in its flip-page version](#)

[To view the report as a PDF](#)

It is always exciting to see a big vision come to fruition. In this edition of the JEDCO newsletter, we're excited to share the progress being made at the Churchill Technology & Business Park.



From Vision to Victory: *JEDCO 2015 May/June Newsletter*

Not so long ago, the [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#) was the frontier, 500 acres of undeveloped land on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. Luckily, a group of civic-minded individuals recognized that space for what it really was: a local gem brimming with economic potential. Back in 2000, community stakeholders identified that area as the future location of a business park that would cater to some of the region's growing industries, like technology, healthcare, and food manufacturing. Back then, a technology and business park on the West Bank was just an idea, one that required years of research, planning, and a whole lot of gumption.

Today, that collective vision has started to take shape. The Churchill Technology and Business Park bustles with activity every day. It is home to the JEDCO administrative offices and the [Business Innovation Center](#), JEDCO's business incubator for startups. Hundreds of students attend the Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy, a magnet school for some of the best and brightest young minds in Jefferson Parish. This time last year, JEDCO opened the [Conference Center](#) with a great deal of excitement and fanfare. Seminars and business conferences are held at the state-of-the-art event space regularly. At the end of May, Delgado Community College [broke ground](#) on its River City Campus and Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence in the technology park, which will bring close to 3,000 students to the area upon the project's completion. All the while, huge trucks haul dirt to the back of the site to raise the land well above base-flood elevation to ensure future development of the park.

Churchill Park's growth has become a catalyst for something much bigger. The focus has expanded to include an area of over 8,000 acres of green space, which has recently been rebranded. Now called Fairfield, this area could become a distinctive, mixed-use community with a range of housing and commercial opportunities. The West Bank is poised to become the future of Jefferson Parish!

All of this exciting economic activity began with a vision, a spark of innovation, and the collaboration of so many people. It is a reminder that we, as a business community, can truly exact change and make a positive difference in the place that we choose to live and do business. We look forward to working together with all of you to move our community forward!



Economic Accolades

D & D Creations, a Kenner-based company that manufactures Mardi Gras costumes, [received a 2015 Louisiana Lantern Award](#). This prestigious recognition is awarded to manufacturers in eight regions across the state.

The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce recognized a number of local companies at its [2015 Business Leadership Awards](#) luncheon. JEDCO's nominees, Gillis, Ellis, & Baker and Hollis

Companies, received awards in their categories.

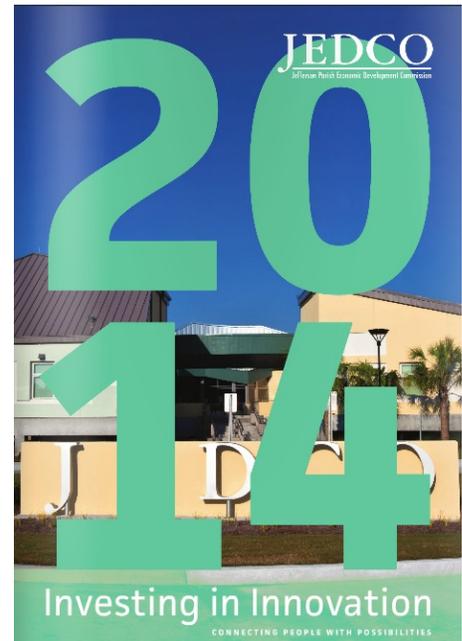
Business Blurbs

JEDCO released the [2014 Annual Report](#) earlier this week. This year's report focused on some of the many innovative companies that make the Jefferson Parish business community so diverse.

Ochsner Health System [announced plans for a \\$250 million facility expansion](#), including the addition of six floors to the main hospital on Jefferson Highway.

Over the last two months, JEDCO has been holding stakeholder meetings to help update [The Jefferson EDGE 2020](#), the parish's long-term strategic economic development plan to promote sustainability, job creation, and investment. The updated plan will be released this summer.

In advance of the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the City of New Orleans has launched a website to share the regional stories of resilience and recovery. Visit that website [here](#).



Upcoming Events

Prosper Jefferson: Human Resources

July 29th

East Bank Regional Library
Jefferson Room
4747 W. Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Prosper Jefferson: Marketing & Branding

August 26th

JEDCO Conference Center
701A Churchill Parkway
Avondale, LA 70094
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

All events are free and open to the public. Register at www.jedco.org/events

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Kenner mayor: City's financial future is healthy, thanks to BP settlement money, new airport terminal

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Kenner is looking at flush times, Mayor Mike Yenni told the crowd at his annual State of the City speech on Tuesday, crediting a \$9.3 million **oil spill settlement** with BP and a **new terminal being built** soon at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

Yenni's administration hasn't outlined how it will use the money from the BP settlement, a portion of which will go to cover attorneys' fees. But he assured his listeners that the money will be "put to good use as we reshape (the city) for generations to come."

Meanwhile, once the \$650 million North Terminal construction project at New Orleans-owned Armstrong Airport in Kenner is done, the city will receive a share of an estimated economic impact of \$1.7 billion, Yenni said.

"That economic engine will give Kenner the much-needed funds to imagine even bigger (things)," Yenni said during an event hosted by the Kenner Business Association at Chateau Country Club.

Yenni, who is running to become Jefferson Parish president in the Oct. 24 primary, declared, "If you live, work and play in Kenner, you are safe; you are sound; you are strong."

Yenni did not take sole credit for either the BP settlement or the new terminal, which should be completed by 2018.

He said Kenner Councilman and former City Attorney Keith Conley's decision to file suit against BP after the oil spill was responsible for the BP money. And he pinned the airport project on a positive relationship New Orleans has maintained with Kenner.

Nonetheless, Yenni suggested that the settlement money and the new airport terminal would help make his oft-touted "Kenner 2030" plan to refurbish the city's major corridors a reality.

Other parts of the mayor's speech — and an accompanying video presentation — cited progress Yenni said has already been made on Kenner 2030.

A planned upscale shopping center at the northwest corner of Joe Yenni and Williams boulevards is under development. A \$12 million first phase anchored by a fitness gym could be completed in the spring on an 8-acre site at the busy intersection that has been vacant for some time, frustrating city officials.

Other parts of the Kenner 2030 plan are much further off. For example, the plan envisions eventually building a boardwalk-style district with hotels, condominiums, shops, offices and entertainment venues on land overlooking Lake Pontchartrain. Still, Yenni said, that section of Kenner — known as Laketown — showed its potential when it hosted a well-attended pro volleyball tournament in May.

Yenni also made it a point to highlight more basic improvements to city services that are in the works. Among them is a \$16.6 million project to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant on Veterans Memorial Boulevard near the St. Charles Parish line.

It is the last piece of an overhaul to Kenner's sewer system that dates back to 2004, when the state Department of Environmental Quality cited the city for repeated overflows in the system. The city has said the overhaul should be done by the end of 2016.



Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni highlights improvements, new projects during State of the City

• By Juan Sanchez

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PHOTOS

KENNER, La. —Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni gave his State of the City address on Tuesday.

Yenni took to the podium at noon for the address at the Chateau Golf & Country Club at 3600 Chateau Blvd in Kenner.

"We are, together, defining Kenner as a community of choice and our momentum is catching the eye of a region, and maybe soon, the nation," Yenni said.

Yenni discussed the progress at the Laketown area, which was recently selected to host a nationally-televised Pro Beach Volleyball tournament in May. He said the city is in discussions with Boyd Gaming about upgrading the Treasure Chest casino. Another proposal centers around building a boardwalk development on 15 acres of the lake coastline.

"Our vision for Laketown is a top-quality development featuring retail, commercial, upscale condominium living, a hotel with ample convention space and an amphitheater for live productions," he said.

Yenni talked about the progress of the 2030 plan, which entails enhancements that are designed to beautify and improve safety in areas of the city. The \$41 million redevelopment project will add bicycle lanes, safety enhancements, improved landscaping and other beautification projects through corridor enhancement projects.

During the State of the City, Yenni offered thanks to his wife Michelle for her work in raising money for the Kenner Food Bank.

"My wife has made it a personal mission to ensure that every family is blessed with basic nutritional food."

Yenni also pointed out that with a new Food Bank set to open soon, Kenner will no longer be limited by old, inadequate facilities and can help more people in need.

"When you consider what Kenner has to offer and how Kenner government has done more with less, then you can rest assured that the State of our City is safe, sound and strong," Yenni said.