In 2019, the BDA implemented the new Act 57 ~ Re-codified Tax Increment Financing law. The BDA currently meets all of the new standards and reporting requirements. This annual report includes a summary of the two required 2019 public informational meetings, on the Successes and Accomplishments for the year and Objectives for 2020.

2019 Statistics:

There were 8 new businesses opened in 2019 (Rocky Mountain Motors, Che Ko Clio, Smith & Spooner, Cooks Diesel & RV Repair, Clio Trucks-R-Us, Pent-Kor, Boxes-R-Us, Clio's Extra Room Storage). There was 1 new building construction completed/opened in 2019. (Smith & Spooner Business Complex) There were 3 existing building Remodel/Expansions (Trade Winds RV Center, Clio Auto Mall, Simms Chevrolet), 6 Marketing Grants were awarded, 5 Budget Matrix Projects funded, 1 BDA/SBDC Program grant award.

2019 Accomplishments

1. Act 57 implementation with new updated forms and new law requirements for reporting of the budget and TIF activities. Annual Audits completed and updates to the 5-7 year Matrix of projects is attached.

2. Continuing Education & Internal Procedures – The BDA Board is kept updated with new information, guest speakers, research and reporting. The administrator participates in educational workshops, communicates with professional contacts and attends state conferences with the Michigan Downtown Association. Internally, the Board approved a new procedure for Funding Requests and is working on a Purchasing Policy.

3. The first required meeting of 2019 was on January 18th with a presentation of the BDA 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Objectives (www.viennabda.com) to the public alongside a Digital and Social Media Marketing Workshop presented by the MI-SBDC. This event was held at Rogers Lodge and co-sponsored by the BDA with the Clio Rotary Club and the SBDC of Kettering University.

4. The annual BDA Community Marketing Grants support local organizations in 2019 providing grants to: The Clio Area Amphitheater, Clio Community Council - 4th of July Family Fun Day & Fireworks, Clio Chamber Alkay Air Show, Clio Center for the Arts, Clio Fire Dept. 82nd Annual Fireman’s Homecoming and the Vienna Farm & Arts Market.

5. Small Business Development Center and BDA Grant Program – This BDA/SBDC program partnership provides training, assistance, information and services to business clients. This year we had our first recommendation & application for a grant and the award of a grant to a new business in the amount of $3,000.00 for scoring equipment to Che Ko Clio Martial Arts and Fitness Center. We will continue to assist this new business throughout the 12-month program. We wish them success! The step by step program helps lead each recipient through the process of finding financial grant opportunities as well as the how to of writing a business plan, counseling for marketing, sales, operations, incubator and mentor programs. The goal of the BDA for this program is to see positive preservation and expansion of our existing business community, new business success that will deliver new employment opportunities and consumer interest in Vienna Township. The MI-SBDC business consultant is available by appointment here at the Vienna BDA office to meet and get this assistance.
6. **Northern Tier Investment Group** is still in process of forming with the intention of finding projects of interest that work in conjunction with the SBDC/BDA program and BDA Matrix project plan. A possible project is in review and collecting market data.

7. **Summer/Winter Beautification Continues:** Streetscape is an important part of the BDA plan for district enhancement. The summer banners and 20 flower gardens continue to be maintained. This winter, the BDA is stepping up the Christmas look with additional decorations. The BDA also provides the mowing/trash removal and snow removal in the district. We consider our exit 131 on I-75 in Michigan the best in the northern tier!

8. **Bridge Park** – We congratulate the GC Master Gardener’s Assoc. as they continue their work on improving and caring for the Butterfly garden. The annual **Fairytale Trail** children’s event grows bigger every year with more activities provided by participating businesses and organizations. It is a very special time (for all to dress up – not just the children!) for families in our community. **Thank you** to Independent Bank for the donation of **$750.00** to Bridge Park and the bank volunteers who planted bulbs and provided fall clean up again this year.

9. **Special Budget Matrix Projects this year include the following:**
   a. Clio Area Youth Sports Complex for parking lot improvements - $31,590.00
   b. Jennings Rd. Trail Head Parking Lot curb and paving - $24,672.00
   c. Gazebo Park Fountain – $12,344.62
   d. Marketing Project—CIB Planning (Community Image Builders) Brand Forward – $49,164.00 for 2019/2020
   e. Fire Station light pole banners – $717.00

10. **Marketing & Business Economic Development Project** is a long-time coming initiative. The BDA hired *CIB Planning/Brand Forward* to create and organize an Economic Development and Marketing Strategy to help with project selection and determining the next move for community enhancement. We look forward in making great strides in providing a focus on the future for our district and community.

11. **The BDA continues to support the Clio Area Human Services Fund:**
    The CAHSF assists with the emergent needs of those in our community, provides funding for the Clio Schools Backpack program and Community Emergency Disaster Program.

12. **The Second Required meeting of 2019** will be November 13th at the regular BDA Board Meeting. This report of the 2019 Accomplishments and the 2020 Objectives is presented to the public and a copy provided to the Township Board and posted on the BDA webpage. Annual Appreciation/Recognition Awards will resume in 2020.

13. **Gazebo Memorial Park** – In 2019 a new fountain was installed. Plans for a sculpture and landscaping will continue in 2020. Events and weddings are welcome.

14. **The Trolley Line Bike Trail** and Jennings Park Trail Head continues to be maintained/mowed and cared for by the BDA.

15. **The BDA continues to be represented well in the local news** with events and recognitions that promote BDA activities over the course of the year.
Vienna Centre building starts in 2019 with Leo’s as anchor restaurant with 3 additional retail spaces to be completed in 2020. We look forward to a Grand Opening celebration for this business 10,400 square foot commercial complex.

SBDC/BDA Trainings - are available on request. The SBDC of Kettering University and the BDA will schedule educational trainings and workshops for our business community – let us know what you would like to see in 2020.

Business & Economic Development – We will be continuing our work with CIB Planning Brand Forward over the next year to focus on projects and organizing a new Economic Development Marketing Strategy. The BDA has committed to a placemaking project with the Clio Library - more information to come in 2020. The BDA has put a short hold on further special projects while moving through this program.

Northern Tier Investment Group – Continue a collaboration on possible projects from private investors moving forward.

Establish Art sculpture project – The BDA is planning for a sculpture to enhance the new fountain at Gazebo Park. Ideas are on the agenda for other sculpture projects in the district.

Better Business Relationships and communication are top priorities for the BDA moving forward. It is important to keep addressing the concerns and needs of the business community and working together.

The Mission of 2020. The year 2020 serves as a reminder for many who have guided our community over the years and worked to project where we would be with Economic Development at this time. This is the year we planned for in the past. Did we make good decisions? Are we on the right track for the best economic success story? The BDA plans to address this topic in the coming year by hosting a Public Informational Meeting, “Where Are We Now In 2020?” – stay tuned for dates. We aspire to accomplish new and better goals for our future and our community.

Submitted by:
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