

Maiden Invests, Expands For The Future



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Business expansions and investments played an important role in Maiden's growth in the past 10 years, said Town Manager Todd Herms.

"Over the past decade, the town of Maiden made some huge steps to lay a strong foundation for our future," Herms said.

Since 1999, Maiden had expansions or investments in the town totaling almost \$1.1 billion dollars, Herms said.

Getrag Gears completed an \$80 million investment in 1999. Von Drehle Corp. expanded four times since 2002, creating \$12.6 million in new investments. Lawrence Lumber invested \$551,843 in 2008. Ethan Allen Operations Inc. invested more than \$2.7 million and moved more

of its operations to Maiden in 2009.

"Ethan Allen had to close shops in other areas of the nation and move those operations to Maiden, causing them to rehire around 150 employees that were laid off and creating around 150 new jobs," Herms said.

Ethan Allen and Getrag Gears were able to restructure their business models, enabling the companies to survive in an economic downturn, he said.

In 1999, Maiden announced a \$1 billion investment by Apple Inc.

"Every one of these announcements also involved adding more jobs to our community, which greatly assisted us in our attempt to offset any employment we may have lost due to the economy," said Mayor Bob Smyre.

Despite several big investments, Maiden also lost businesses, Smyre said.

"The town of Maiden was not immune to pressures of the economy over the past decade, with a lot of small businesses and larger businesses having financial problems, causing them to close and/or lay employees off," Smyre said.

Maiden invested in several projects to benefit the community and its citizens, Smyre said.

The town upgraded its waste water treatment plant to handle future growth. Maiden also purchased a fire truck and built a new high school facility, he said.

"These are investments in our future, and what a bright future it looks like it will be," Smyre said.

Improving downtown Maiden was another important accomplishment in the past 10 years, Smyre said.

"The town of Maiden was also able to start the process of improving our downtown area, by funding and implementing a fiscal grant program, removing some older buildings that could not be saved, and other capital projects that make our downtown area more aesthetically pleasing," Smyre said.

In the future, Herms said he wants to continue providing a high level of service to Maiden's citizens at the lowest cost possible.

Herms said he would like to continue adding small businesses to downtown Maiden. He also wants to recruit larger companies to the town, he said.

Other future goals include making sound, carefully planned decisions, providing citizens with new programs and continuing a steady growth rate, Herms said.

Herms and Smyre said they want to make Maiden a better town, without losing the qualities that make Maiden a great place to live.

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