

Local Companies Work for Common Good; Complete Renovations Nodaway News Leader

**Reporter Jacki Wood
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In some sports such as hockey, a hat trick is defined as three goals by one player in a single game.

When it comes to Maryville, Midland GIS Solutions, Midland Surveying and Nodaway County Abstract, serve as the local hat trick in business.

The three companies, owned and operated by Professional Land Surveyors John Teale and Troy Hayes, work for the common good, while each maintaining their own particular business focus.

Founded in 1972 as Midland Engineering, the original focus of the company was civil engineering.

In 1989, Hayes and Teale purchased the firm from the original owner and the focus and strength of the company gradually shifted toward surveying and mapping services.

Two years later, they acquired the oldest title company in the county, Allen & Quinn Title Company. They then merged with Nodaway County Abstract Company in 1996 and became known as Nodaway County Abstract & Title Company.

The firm began providing county and municipal mapping during the early '80s, which eventually evolved into Geographic Information System (GIS) services.

In 2000, Midland GIS Solutions was created, and the following year, the firm's engineering division was sold so they could focus their strengths on land surveying and GIS development.

Today, the companies consist of professional land surveyors, GIS specialists, analysts, programmers, web administrators, GIS technicians, title agents for First American Title Insurance Company and Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company and real estate closing agents.

"These three locally-owned companies jointly have 45 employees," Teale said. "With a broad range of services provided, each company provides employment opportunities for many young and highly qualified professionals that would not be locally employed otherwise."

Teale also said the firms have the unique ability to internally share property information through their web-based GIS/LIS program which offers data sharing necessary for their daily activities. They work as a team as they each contribute data into a central repository that is then available to everyone through an internet Web GIS.

An example of this teamwork is that every parcel of land in Nodaway County is mapped into the GIS by Midland GIS Solutions. Surveys and values are prepared as digital copies by Midland Surveying, Inc. and are entered into the system. Nodaway County Abstract & Title Company digitally attaches record documents to the corresponding parcel in the internal website.

That's when the Web GIS comes into play. It links each parcel in the county to an ownership database, which provides the landowner's name, address, deed book and page and other information on that property. As new information becomes available, the GIS is

continually adjusted to improve its accuracy and is updated on a daily basis.

"We are a 'one stop shop' where properties are surveyed by Midland Surveying, title insurance and real estate closings are provided by Nodaway County Abstract and all information is mapped and shared between all three companies via the LIS developed by Midland GIS Solutions," Hayes said.

Their vision continues to be on the forefront of the technological advances for the services they provide.

"We live in a world where the transfer of information is expected immediately, and those expectations will only increase, creating a challenge for those of us that provide information to the public," Teale said. "As technology continues to evolve, it is our goal and commitment to stay abreast of those changes. We have developed a process to work towards that goal, but we must always look to tomorrow."

In doing so, renovations began for a new addition to their building in September of 2006. Midland GIS Solutions moved into their new offices in June 2007 and then remodeling and updates began to the Nodaway County Abstract and Midland Surveying offices. These updates were just completed earlier this month.

For more information on Maryville's own hat trick in business, Midland GIS Solutions can be reached at (660) 562-0050, Midland Surveying at (660) 582-8633 and Nodaway County Abstract at (660) 582-2332. They are located at 501 North Market, Maryville.



Caption: Ethan Herbek, project supervisor for Midland GIS Solutions, pulls a map out of their new HP Designjet 4500 42-inch color plotter.