



## Propositions S, I & R to Appear on April 4 Ballot

The Byrnes Mill Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance at its January 18, 2017 meeting placing Proposition “S”, Proposition “I”, and Proposition “R” on the Tuesday, April 4 general election ballot. Proposition “S” is a 40-cent property tax increase for support of law enforcement and improve public safety. Proposition “I” is a 1/2-cent sales tax increase for capital improvements and Proposition “R” is a 1/2-cent sales tax increase for transportation with both going to road improvement and maintenance.

### **PROPOSTION “S” for SAFETY**

On Tuesday, April 4th, Byrnes Mill citizens will vote on Proposition “S”, a 40-cent property tax increase, if approved, would support law enforcement, improve safety and improve the health and general welfare among other benefits within the City of Byrnes Mill, Missouri. A 2/3 majority is needed to pass this proposition.

### **What does a “Yes” or “No” vote mean?**

A “YES” vote means an increase of 40-cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation on property taxes. If passed, it would allow the City to hire additional police officers, increase the pay of current officers to help keep and retain good officers, and purchase needed equipment. More police officers means there will be two officers on duty at all times to back each other up, more neighborhood patrols, safer streets, safer neighborhoods and a safer City. Secure neighborhoods will help maintain the City’s high property values.

A “NO” vote means that Byrnes Mill’s Police Department will remain running under capacity. The City will not be able to hire additional officers, which will leave one officer on duty at a time causing an unsafe environment for those officers who are on duty alone. Not to mention the City at large. In addition, there will be no pay increases to keep and retain our good officers who are currently being paid well below state averages, nor the ability to buy needed equipment. City’s property values could suffer.

### **What is the City’s property tax rate?**

Byrnes Mill’s current property tax rate is \$0.4035 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This was established more than 30 years ago and never increased.

### **How will a sales tax increase affect me?**

Residents will pay the additional property tax of 40-cent per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This revenue will go to support law enforcement, improve safety and increase the health and general welfare of Byrnes Mill residents. A Byrnes Mill resident with a \$100,000 home would see a \$76 per year increase in their property tax, when this increase gets passed.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## **Byrnes Mill Municipal Election Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

Candidates & Propositions as they will appear on the ballot:

**FOR MAYOR**  
SUSAN GIBSON  
DIANA SULLIVAN

**FOR ALDERPERSON WARD 1**  
ROBERT PRADO

**FOR ALDERPERSON WARD 2**  
JERRY KLIPSCH

**FOR ALDERPERSON WARD 3**  
MARY SCHEBLE

**PROPOSITION S**  
40-CENT PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR SAFETY

**PROPOSITION R**  
1/2-CENT SALES TAX INCREASE FOR TRANSPORTATION

**PROPOSITION I**  
1/2-CENT SALES TAX INCREASE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

# The Mayor's Message



Mayor Susan Gibson

Dear Friends and Neighbors~

All things considered, old man winter has been pretty easy on us so far. I noticed a pair of geese on the lake looking like they might be ready to nest and the squirrels in my potting porch attic (Short story is I gave up trying to relocate them) seem very busy. I can start to at least, imagine spring.

The City adopted its new comprehensive plan in January. It was a very interesting

exercise that took us more than a year to complete. It required many meetings for our staff and the Board of Aldermen along with the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z). I want to give a special thanks to Ann Walters; our long time, indefatigable, chairwoman of P&Z. Her knowledge of the city's codes and their evolution over the last 30 years was invaluable.

Thanks are in order also for the 100 or so citizens who participated in the public engagement component of the plan. The elements of this were: a survey, one-on-one interviews, and two town planning workshops. All gave their time and valuable feedback in helping us to identify the community's values and a road forward. The areas they considered were; public services and roads, neighborhood stability, quality of life, economic development, future land use and vision for the future. The plan also includes an informative section on our demographics.

We learned what you value most of all is our beautiful natural setting and your neighborhoods. You don't want a lot of changes but you would like to have more access to nature by means of hiking trails and walkways. You like having codes and you want things maintained well and neighborhoods to be kept in good repair. You are satisfied with city services and appreciate the great snow removal. You value our police and know how quickly they can get to your home. You want the roads improved and maintained. You would like a small restaurant or coffee shop. Everyone hates litter. (We can all work to improve that!)

We now have a plan to help us go forward. If you are interested in reading the entire plan you can obtain a copy at City Hall, or on the City's website at [www.byrnemill.org](http://www.byrnemill.org).

Two of the things you identified as a value that need some immediate attention. Our roads and our Police Department.

We have been told by our city attorney, that in their current condition, our roads are a liability. We need to bring them up to standard. Right now we don't have the budget for it. To help with the budget the City has proposed to Propositions to help with the roads and one to help the police department. What I want to talk to you about is our Police Department.

I have shared with you, over my years as mayor, the City's struggles to reform our PD and have a community oriented force. We knew that the problem was the leader and we labored to get the right person. I think you can agree with me that Chief Gary Dougherty is the right person.

He brings a wonderful combination of strength, integrity and compassion to his leadership and our city has really benefitted. All of our officers now have CIT training, which gives them tools to aid them being community based officers. Crisis Intervention Training teaches ways to deescalate a potential violent situation and get individuals with mental illness or substance abuse problems to the right help or intervention.

There must be something in the DNA of people drawn to police work because they don't talk about their work and they don't brag about themselves. That's probably why you don't know all of the people in this city that they watch over on a regular basis. It might be an elderly person who lives alone, or it might be a spouse struggling to be a care taker, or a person with ongoing mental health issues, or a dad trying to keep tabs on his wild child. Our guys check in on these folks on a regular basis. Each knows that they can count on them to be discrete and always ready to help.

Yet, they can turn around and deal with criminals, car wrecks and drunk drivers. If you read *The Leader* you know that plenty of crime happens all around Byrnes Mill, but very rarely in Byrnes Mill. In fact, according to crime statistics we are the 17th most-safe city in the state.

Our officers have not had a raise in two years. Our pay is very low compared to other cities in Jefferson County. Occasionally, we lose a good one to a higher paying job. We can only afford one full-duty officer a shift. It is time to give them a raise and some back up for their safety.

We will have a town hall on March 22, at 7:00 p.m. to answer any questions you might have about the increase in taxes we are asking for this spring. If any small group or HOA would like one of your aldermen and me to come to your meeting, please let us know and we will arrange to be there.

Hope to see you soon,

*Susan*

# Comprehensive Plan Adopted by Board

For the past year-and-a-half, the City has been working with consulting firm Streiler Planning to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning and policy document that guides the City and land-use decisions. The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1991.

The Byrnes Mill Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) had a public hearing to review the Comprehensive Plan on January 9, 2017. After the Public Hearing, P&Z passed a resolution to adopt the Comprehensive Plan and recommended it for adoption by ordinance by the Byrnes Mill Board of Aldermen.

The Byrnes Mill Board of Aldermen had a Public Hearing prior to their regular Board Meeting on January 18, 2017 to hear and discuss comments on the Comprehensive Plan. Afterwards, during the Board of Aldermen's regular meeting, the Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance officially adopting the Comprehensive plan.

The plan consisted of four major phases: Inventory & Assessment, Public Engagement/Critical Issues, Vision, Goals & Objectives, and Adopt & Implement.

"The planning firm and the City worked to include city residents in the development of the plan with community surveys, focus groups and one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders to help



*Byrnes Mill citizens provide feedback on the Comprehensive Plan at a public workshop held at City Hall*

determining community goals and outline a strategy to achieve them, City Administrator Larry Perney said. "The Comprehensive plan will serve as the "framework of action" that will guide Byrnes Mill's decision-makers toward well-informed decisions regarding, business stability & economic development, housing, quality of life, transportation, and future growth."

A link to the Comprehensive Plan can be found on the City's website at [www.byrnesmill.org](http://www.byrnesmill.org). If you would like a hard copy, you can call the City Clerk's office at 636-677-7727 to request a copy be made.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan, contact Larry Perney, City Administrator, at 636-677-7727.

# Four Honored with Community Service Award

Four Byrnes Mill citizens were honored at Wednesday, November 18, 2016 Board of Aldermen meeting with a Community Service Award for their help in reconstructing the fallen wall and columns at the Byrnes Mill Site in Byrnes Mill City Park. The four honored with the Community Service Award were Rob Kiczenski, Jim McBroom, Rick Mosley and John Scheble. Thank you to the four for the hard work and labor in repairing the wall in columns. It looks fantastic.



*Pictured above (from the left to right) receiving their Community Service Award are Rob Kiczenski, Jim McBroom, Rick Mosley, and John Scheble.*



*Pictured above (from left to right) is Jim McBroom, Rick Mosley, and Rob Kiczenski working on repairing the column and the wall.*

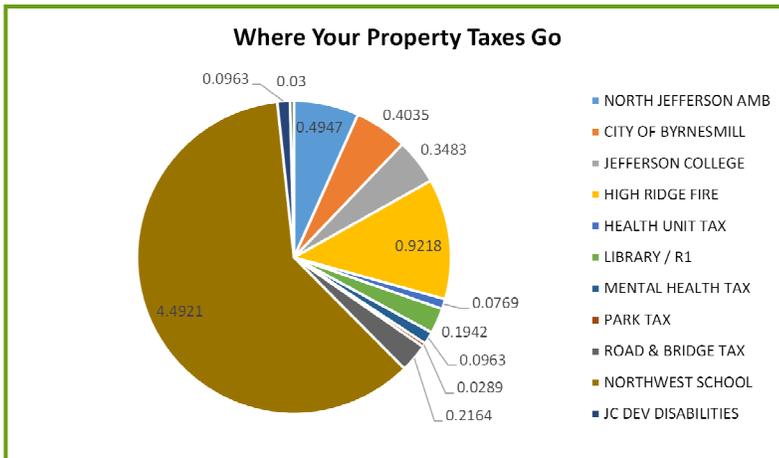
# Propositions S, I & R to Appear on April 5 Ballot *(Continued from page 1)*

## How will a sales tax increase affect me?

Residents will pay the additional property tax of 40-cents, which will go to support law enforcement, improve safety and improve the health and general welfare of Byrnes Mill residents. If the property taxes are increased by 40-cents, Byrnes Mill residents would be subject to a 7.6298% property tax rate. It would be a 5.5% increase on the current total property tax rate. A Byrnes Mill resident with a \$100,000 home would see a \$76 per year increase in their property tax, if the increase is passed (See chart below for where your property taxes go).

## What impact would this additional 40 cents property tax have on Byrnes Mill's revenues and where will this money go?

This money would go directly support law enforcement and the police department. It is estimated that the budget impact of this 40-cent property tax increase would be between \$125,000 and \$130,000 a year. This increase would take effect in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Budget Year.



## PROPOSTION "I" for IMPROVEMENTS

On Tuesday, April 4th, Byrnes Mill citizens will vote on Proposition "I", a 1/2 -cent sales tax increase for capital improvement purposes, if approved, would support street improvements, reducing damages from storm water, improving safety and improving the health and general welfare, among other benefits with the City of Byrnes Mill. A simple majority is needed to pass this proposition.

## PROPOSTION "R" for Roads

On Tuesday, April 4th, Byrnes Mill citizens will vote on Proposition "R", a 1/2-cent sales tax increase for transportation purposes, if approved, would support street repairs, street maintenance and road preservation within the City of Byrnes Mill. A simple majority is needed to pass this proposition.

## What does a "Yes" or "No" vote mean for these two road propositions?

A "YES" vote on both means an increase of 1% on City's general sales tax and would allow the City to set up a street repair and maintenance schedule for all City maintained streets. It would allow the City to help improve *(Continued on Page 5)*

Proposed language for April 4, 2017 ballot:

## PROPOSITION "S" (Property Tax)

Shall the general property tax rate for all subclasses of property be increased by forty cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation beginning in the 2017 tax year and every year thereafter?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Proposed language for April 4, 2017 ballot:

## PROPOSITION "I" (Capital Improvements Sales Tax)

Shall the City of Byrnes Mill, Missouri impose a sales tax of one-half of one cent (1/2 of 1%) for the purpose of funding capital improvements, which may include the retirement of debt under previously authorized indebtedness?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Proposed language for April 4, 2017 ballot:

## PROPOSITION "R" (Transportation Sales Tax)

Shall the City of Byrnes Mill, Missouri impose a sales tax of one-half of one cent (1/2 of 1%) for transportation purposes?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

# Propositions S, I & R to Appear on April 5 Ballot *(Continued from page 4)*

substandard streets in order to allow the City to maintain them. A simple majority is needed for passage on both transportation propositions.

A “NO” vote means that Byrnes Mill roads will not be improved nor properly maintained and the City may no longer maintain some streets currently maintained by the City.

### **What is the City’s current sales tax rate?**

Byrnes Mill’s current sales tax rate is 1%. This rate has not changed in more than 30 years.

### **How will a sales tax increase affect me?**

Everyone, residents and non-residents, when purchasing items in Byrnes Mill, will pay the additional capital improvement sales tax of ½%. This revenue will go into the Capital Improvement Fund for capital improvements on our roads and streets. And an additional transportation sales tax of ½%. This revenue will go into the Transportation Fund for street and road repairs, snow removal and maintenance.

### **How does Byrnes Mill’s road cost compare to surrounding communities?**

Byrnes Mill currently spends an annual average of \$2,400 per mile of road. Jefferson County and neighboring towns like Arnold spend more than \$7,000 per mile on an annual basis.

As a result many of our roads are becoming substandard and some are considered failing.

### **What impact would this additional 1% sales tax have on Byrnes Mill’s revenues and where will this money go?**

This money would go directly into the Capital Improvement and Transportation Fund and only be used towards street repairs, improvements, sidewalks, guardrails, lighting, signs, equipment and snow removal. It is estimated that the budget impact of this 1% sales tax increase would be between \$190,00 and \$200,000 a year. This increase would take effect in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Budget Year.

*“Byrnes Mill needs your help to keep, maintain and improve our level of services provided to it’s residents,”*  
**Mayor Susan Gibson**

“Passage of these Propositions is of utmost importance for Byrnes Mill and it’s residents,” said Mayor Susan Gibson. “With it’s current budget

the City will have a hard time providing City services at it’s current levels. Byrnes Mill needs your help to keep, maintain and improve our level of services provided to it’s residents.”

The City of Byrnes Mill will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at the Byrnes Mill Municipal Complex to discuss Propositions S, I & R.

For more information about Propositions S, I & R, contact Larry Perney, City Administrator, administrator@byrnesmill.org, or (636) 677-7727.

# TOWN HALL MEETING

## DISCUSSION ON PROPOSITIONS S, I & R

Please Join Mayor Susan Gibson, Board of Aldermen, and City staff for a discussion on Propositions S, I & R that the City will be asking Byrnes Mill residents to consider on April 4, 2017 general municipal election. This event is open to the public.



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 • 7:00 P.M.**  
**BYRNES MILL MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**141 OSAGE EXECUTIVE CIR. • BYRNES MILL, MO 63051**

# 4th Annual “Shop with a Cop”

Once again, our Byrnes Mill Police Department held their annual “Shop with a Cop” event. What started as toys for a few families has grown to providing toys for more than 100 children and a special dinner for them and their families.

“This is the fourth year for the program, which continues to grow exponentially,” Police Chief Gary Dougherty said. “In 2013, officers took six children on a shopping trip to buy toys. Two years ago, 32 children went on the shopping trip. Last year, 10 police officers took 75 children shopping. This year 100 children were taken shopping with 15 Byrnes Mill Police Officers.”

The purpose of “Shop with a Cop” program is two-fold. To provide children and families in need with nice Christmas gifts, which they normally may not get. Secondly, to build a bond between these kids and the officers to show them that police are the good guys.

“Occasionally these children may see officers responding to incidents, both good and bad, surrounding them,” event coordinator Sgt. Roger Ide said. “So the officers want to do something special to change how the youth see them and to let them know the police are here for them and are looking out for their best interest,”

“I am so proud of our Police Department for spearheading this wonderful program for the community,” Mayor Susan Gibson said. “It is great to see the positive relationships being built between our Police Department and the community. Our Police Officer’s voluntarily raise all the money and put in the time for these children and families. They are the true heroes of our community.”

Approximately 100 area children were selected to participate in this year’s “Shop with a Cop” event. Each child is in the Northwest School District and lives in less fortunate circumstances. On December 7, the children, accompanied by 15 Byrnes Mill Police Officers, went shopping at Wal-Mart and got to choose what they wanted (totaling \$100 each).

On December 19, about 250 people attended a dinner that had been prepared for the children and their families at Deer Creek USA Golf & Fore Honor Event Center. Deer Creek was generous enough to donate the use of their hall.

After the fabulous dinner, officer’s distributed the presents to the excited children.

A full turkey dinner was provided for all the children and their families. Jerry Radeackar of Radeackar’s Market in Cedar Hill donated the turkeys for the dinner, and Brian Stevens, owner of Company B Barbecue in Byrnes Mill, smoked the turkeys, provided sides and served the food with the help of family, friends and employees.

Among those helping out were High Ridge Wal-Mart, Company B Barbecue, Heroes Care, The Grounds Guys Landscaping Company, Northwest School District, Spring Hills Presbyterian Church, Pint of Refuge Church and Deer Creek USA Golf & Fore Honor Event Center.

Along with donations from businesses and agencies, the six full-time Byrnes Mill Police Officers held fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the children to spend. For 2016, the total raised came to about \$12,000.

“People were generous,” Dougherty said. “Donations came from area businesses and concerned citizens. It was a community effort all along the corridor from Fenton to Dittmer,” Dougherty said.

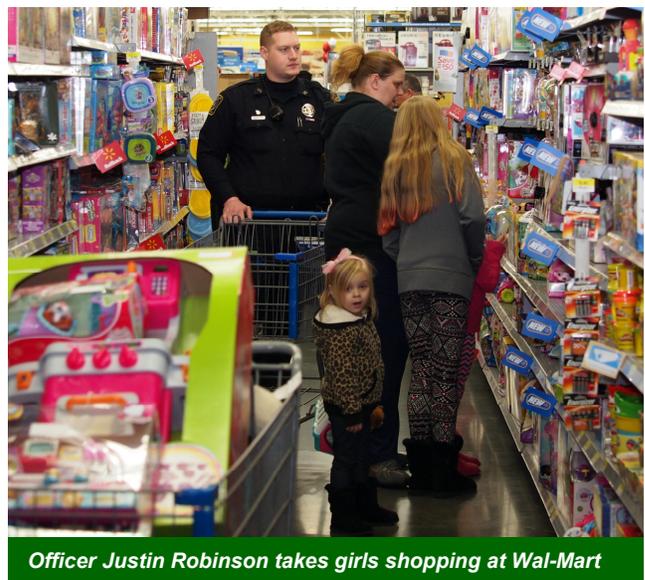
If you would like to donate or participate in next year’s “Shop with a Cop” event, please contact Sgt. Ide at 636-677-7727.



**Sgt. Ide takes boy shopping**



**Stacks of presents under the tree for the kids to receive**



**Officer Justin Robinson takes girls shopping at Wal-Mart**

# Community CLEAN UP DAY



## Saturday, April 29th @ 8 a.m.

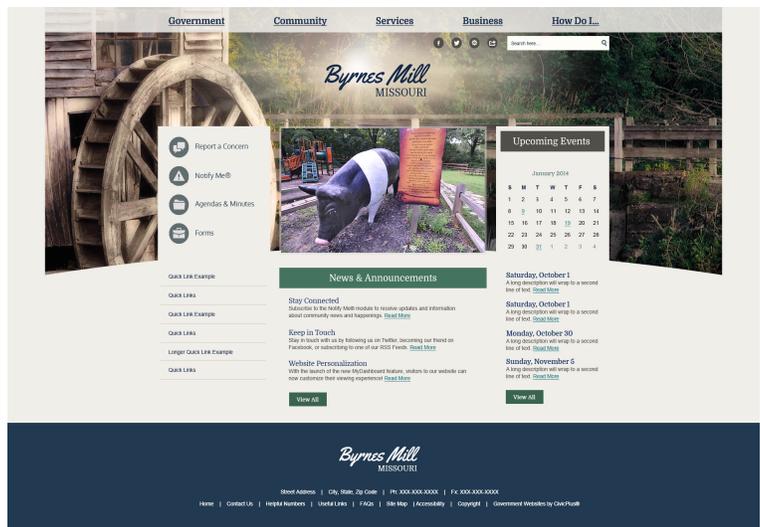
All residents are encouraged to clean up their properties. Tags can be purchased in advance and volunteers will come pick up tagged items. Tags may be purchased at City Hall.

## New Byrnes Mill Website in the Works

The City of Byrnes Mill is pleased to announce that it has entered into a contract with CivicPlus to re-vamp its website—www.byrnesmill.org. The new site is expected to launch on Friday, April 21, 2017.

“It is very exciting to see the developments so far on the new website,” City Administrator Larry Perney said. “It will look much better and be much more functional and allow for easier communication between the City and its residents.”

The re-designed website will be easier to use, allow for greater user interaction and will incorporate CivicSend. CivicSend is a e-communication system built for local governments. With it you can create your message using a single interface, then send through multiple channels, (email, text, social media) including your website.



Sample of newly re-designed Byrnes Mill Website

The new website is expected to have modules that will allow ease and accessibility and include: Calendar, Document Center, Forms Center, Image Center, News Flash, Notify Me, Slideshow, Staff Directory and Frequently Asked Questions.

Having contracted CivicPlus, which is known for being the leading government website provider, the city of Byrnes Mill and its citizens are looking forward to a website that will enhance community engagement and communications.



## City of Byrnes Mill

141 Osage Executive Circle  
Byrnes Mill, MO 63051

### **Municipal Complex**

Byrnes Mill City Hall  
141 Osage Executive Cir.  
Byrnes Mill, MO 63051

**Phone:** 636-677-7727

**Fax:** 636-677-5533

[www.byrnesmill.org](http://www.byrnesmill.org)

**Hours:** Mon-Fri  
9 a.m.-4:30p.m.

City Administrator: Larry Perney

City Clerk: Debbie LaVenture

City Collector: Tracy McAfee

City Attorney: Robert Sweeney

### **Police Department**

Chief of Police: Gary Dougherty

**Phone:** (non-emergency): 636-797-9999

**EMERGENCY:** DAIL 911

### **Municipal Court**

Judge: Colby Smith-Hynes

Prosecutor: Allison Sweeney

Prosecutor Clerk: Julie Farthing

Court Administrator: Elise Gannon

Court Night: 2nd & 3rd Tuesday

### **Public Works**

4197 Lower Byrnes Mill Rd.

Director: Anthony Whitby  
Staff: Brandon Donaldson, Aaron  
Cottner, and Brandon Rock

**Hours:** Monday- Friday,  
7 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 636-671-0021

### **Recycling Center**

4197 Lower Byrnes Mill Rd.

**Hours:** Tuesday - Saturday  
7 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 636-671-0021

### **Elected Officials**

Mayor Susan Gibson

Board of Aldermen

Ward 1

Jim McBroom, Bob Prado

Ward 2

Cindy Davies, Jerry Klipsch

Ward 3

Rob Kiczenski, Mary Scheble

### **Boards & Commissions**

#### ***Planning & Zoning***

(Meetings as needed)

Richard Lawson

Mary Mantoan

Richard Ross

Ann Walters

Rick Schweppe

Lisa Hosey

Larry Prado

Tim Hill, Sr.

Larry Hedrick

#### ***Board of Adjustment***

(Meetings as needed)

Sally Eads

Pete Frisella

Doug Smith

Craig Morris

Ron Davies