

MEMO

TO: Mayor Terry Oberer

FR: Grant MacLaren, Alderman, Ward II

RE: Byrnes Mill Road

DA: July 13, 2009

"A decision has been made" by Jefferson County bureaucrats to eliminate Byrnes Mill Road from our maps.

That's what I was told when, at the request of a number of Byrnes Mill citizens, I asked an official of Jefferson County's Highway Division why a new, unfamiliar and confusing street sign appeared just outside our city limits in early July.

This is a request that Byrnes Mill elected officials ask Jefferson County bureaucrats to name the road that runs from Highway PP (and Twin Rivers Road) through our city to Gravois Road, "Byrnes Mill Road" -- and to post its name on appropriate intersections.

There seems to be no logic to the bureaucratic decision renaming that road "Lower Byrnes Mill Road."

The new sign, "Lower Byrnes Mill Road" appears on a portion of Byrnes Mill Road *above* Upper Byrnes Road (a road once known as Lake Montowese Road -- in my opinion a much more logical and appropriate name for that road) and on the portion of what was Byrnes Mill Road that runs from Highway 30 to Gravois Road (in an area popularly know as House Springs.)

The existing "upper" road is "lower" than most of the newly named "lower" road, no matter how measured. The "upper" road is at lower latitude than much of the newly named "lower" road.

North is usually considered to be "up" from South, yet much of the northern portion of the newly named "lower" road is north of the more southern "upper" road.

The altitude of much of the newly named "lower" road is higher than the "upper" road.

Finally, the name "Byrnes Mill Road" is shorter, and more accurately descriptive than "Lower Byrnes Mill Road." It's a much better name for the road.

I was told that Jefferson County 9-1-1 "coordinates" street names in the county. That may be true, but I hope we are not relegating the naming of our city streets to a quasi-governmental organization dispatch service.