

# City of Byrnes Mill Newsletter

## Fall 2011



## Long-time City Administrator and City Clerk Resign; New Administrator Hired



Photograph by Ted R. Howell

Larry Perney

Long-time City Administrator Bill Sehie resigned, effective August 4, 2011. Sehie had served the city for nearly 15 years. In addition, on May 4, 2011, City Clerk Roselee Bauer, who held that job for almost 19 years, announced her retirement at the end of May.

“The city wishes to thank Sehie and Bauer for their years of service and dedication to the City of Byrnes Mill,” said Mayor Gibson.

Gibson and Board members wrote up a job description and put out notices in local papers and on Internet hiring websites. A Selection Committee – Aldermen Jerry Klipsch, Jim McBroom, Bob Prado and Mary Scheble – narrowed a list of 80-plus applicants to 10 who were interviewed.

At its August 17 meeting, the Board voted to hire Larry Perney as the new Byrnes Mill City Administrator. “We looked for someone with excellent computer skills, sound financial background and good management skills. My priorities are to get our financial house in order, develop an updated personnel policy and pursue grants,” says Gibson. “We are very fortunate to have someone with Larry’s proven organizational and communication skills.”

Larry Perney has served as Executive Director and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Chamber of Commerce from 2000 to the present. Previously, he has served as Executive Director of the Nixa Area Chamber of Commerce (1998-2000) and was Communications and Marketing Manager for the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & Convention and Visitors Bureau (1997-98). He has a bachelors degree in Communications Management from Missouri State University, Springfield and a Masters of Public Administration from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL.

In his work with chambers of commerce, he has prepared and presented programs and policy recommendations involving operations, human resources, budgetary and legislative issues. He has planned, developed and facilitated many partnerships among businesses and government agencies. His communication, computer and technological skills include Internet-based programs, web design and social media.

## City Hall Running Smoothly

The current staff at City Hall continues to provide residents with superior service and is doing an excellent job making sure that City Hall is running smoothly and efficiently.

“This is a very exciting time at City Hall, when good decisions the Board makes now on staff and funding will positively impact our little city for years to come. We’re making sure that everything is in order, and will continue to seek input and feedback from all our citizens,” said Mayor Gibson.

Temporary workers include Lori Caldwell, serving 20-30 hours/week, as a temporary Clerk, working Tuesdays, Thursdays and at Wednesday Board meetings. (Caldwell is Kimmswick’s part-time clerk.) Debbie LaVenture, who serves 20-30 hours/week, is purging and filing, answering phones and working in other capacities to help Gibson.

Mary Ann Hedrick is Byrnes Mill’s full-time Collector. Her current priorities are payroll, computer data entry and updating of all City records.

Mary Sheriff and Elise Gannon work exclusively for the City Court, which is held on the second and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Selena K. Lambrich of Lambrich Accounting Services, is serving as a consultant to reconcile and check all the financial issues and is inputting data in accounting software.

# The Mayor's Message



Mayor Gibson

## Hello, Friends and Neighbors!

I've been so eager to talk with all of you and to share with you the exciting changes and challenges I'm experiencing as your newly elected Mayor. I'm sorry that some publishing concerns prevented us

from getting out a newsletter to you in June, which was our plan!! From now on, you'll be hearing from me quarterly in this newsletter, and you will be able to look up events as they happen on our updated Byrnes Mill website – [www.byrnesmill.org](http://www.byrnesmill.org).

We've made significant changes since April. First, we've hired a new City Administrator. After interviewing many candidates, we hired Larry Perney. He has 30 years' experience in administration, economics and strategic planning, and has built relationships among government agencies and business and civic leaders in his jobs with different chambers of commerce. Now we can move forward with looking for a full-time City Clerk.

Second, we have installed a new phone system, painted and reorganized City Hall. If you haven't seen it, we encourage you to stop by. I'm there most days from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and I'd love to meet all our residents. Special thanks to a group of volunteers who helped us to achieve such great changes.

Third, we have updated and computerized our city records, as much as possible, and are on track to

fully computerize City Hall. Our court is now using Regis court records software, which has drastically increased our court system efficiency. Our budgets, financial statements and other monetary concerns are being researched, addressed and updated. You will be able to read them online or request them from City Hall. Now that those priorities are being met, we'll move on to others that are important to you.

I promised voters to have morning monthly "Coffees with the Mayor" at the Hagemester House and I will get them organized soon. I want to hear from every part of the City, and I hope you will invite me to your neighborhood association meetings or get-togethers so I can meet individuals and families, to learn about your needs and opinions firsthand.

I couldn't end this message without sending out a big thanks to all the city employees who have helped me to make the transition in ways large and small. We have some great people working for us and they have been very helpful.

I welcome your questions and comments – call me at City Hall, 636-677-7727, or home, 636-677-0514, or email me at [moonvalleyvista@charter.net](mailto:moonvalleyvista@charter.net). At this year's Fall Festival on October 1, we celebrated Byrnes Mill's 25th anniversary. What a great milestone to celebrate together! I hope in the years ahead that all of us will continue to build community and foster civic pride in our beautiful little city.

*Susan Gibson*

## Municipal Calendar

### NOVEMBER

11/2 7:00 p.m.	Board of Alderman Meeting
11/8 7:00 p.m.	Traffic Court
11/14 7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning
11/15 7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court (Trials)
11/16 7:00 p.m.	Board of Alderman Meeting

### DECEMBER

12/7 7:00 p.m.	Board of Alderman Meeting
12/12 7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning
12/13 7:00 p.m.	Traffic Court
12/20 7:00 p.m.	Municipal Court
12/21 7:00 p.m.	Board of Alderman Meeting



Jim McBroom

# Meet Your Aldermen

**Jim McBroom  
Ward 1**

**Years of Residence in Byrnes Mill:** 29 years at current residence.

**Years Serving as an Aldermen:** 2007 to present

**Other City Volunteer Work:** Organize and participate in the annual Big River Clean Stream Event

**Current/Former Occupation(s):** Design Engineer at Clayton Corp. in Fenton.

**Reasons for Wanting to Serve:** I believe in order to build a strong community, it is important for the community members to volunteer their time or input in some manner. I got involved because I was interested in improving property values and maintaining a low crime rate in our community. I have enjoyed meeting interesting people and making new friends though out the area.

**Address:** 3753 S. Lakeshore Drive, Byrnes Mill

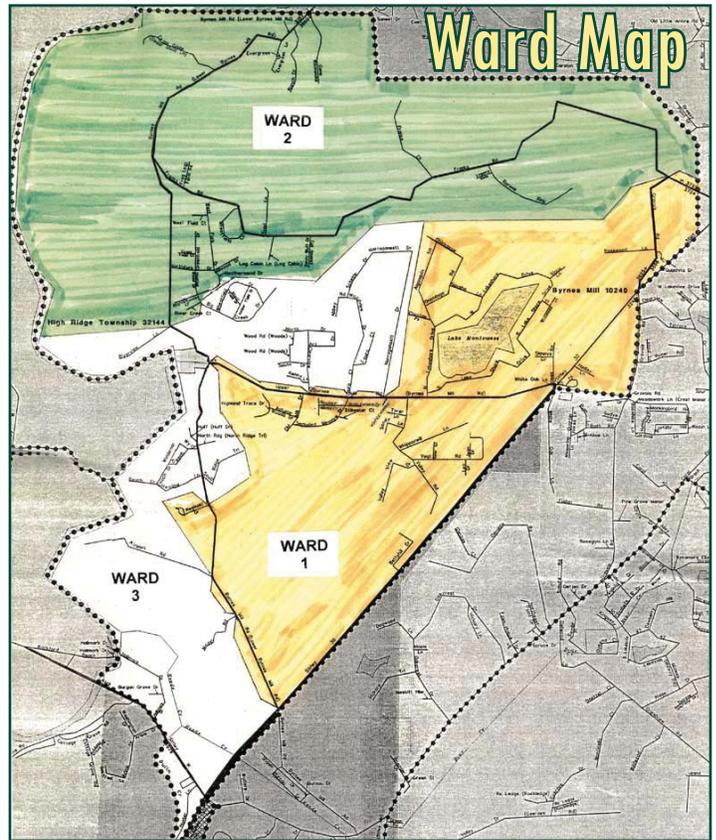
**Home Phone:** 636-677-4196

*(Other aldermen will be featured in future issues)*

## Byrnes Mill's Poet Laureate



*Pictured are Byron von Rosenberg (left) and Mayor Susan Gibson (right). Mayor Gibson presented von Rosenberg with a proclamation making him the official Poet Laureate of Byrnes Mill at the Board of Alderman meeting held on October 5, 2011.*



## Overview of Byrnes Mills

Incorporated in 1986  
Elevation: 458 feet  
Land Area: 4.96 square miles. Population density: 593 people per square mile (low).

Population in July 2009: 2,939. Population Change since 2000: +23.7%  
Male: 1,499 (49.3%) Female: 1,490 (50.7%)  
Median resident age: 32.0 years - Missouri median age: 36.1 years

Estimated median household income in 2009: \$52,527 (it was \$51,211 in 2000)  
Byrnes Mill: \$52,527 - Missouri: \$45,229  
Estimated per capita income in 2009: \$24,627

Estimated median house or condo value in 2009: \$160,643  
Byrnes Mill: \$160,643 - Missouri \$139,700  
Mean prices in 2009: All housing unites: \$158,003; Detached houses: \$229,320; Mobile homes: \$42,231

Jan. 2011 cost of living index in Byrnes Mill: 88.5 (less than average, U.S. Average is 100)  
Ancestries: German (31.9%), Irish (15.9%), English (11.9%), United States (8.1%), French (7.4%), Italian (7.0%)

For population 25 years and over in Byrnes Mill:  
High school or higher: 82%  
Bachelor's degree or higher: 10.1%  
Graduate or professional degree: 3.2%  
Unemployed: 2.9%  
Mean travel time to work (commute): 29.7 minutes  
For population 15 years and over in Byrnes Mill city:  
Never married: 22.6%  
Married: 60.1%  
Separated: 1.0%  
Widowed: 3.2%  
Divorced: 13.1%

For more facts about Byrnes Mill, visit [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com)

# Byrnes Mill Fall Festival

*The 2011 Fall Festival: A Milestone  
25th Anniversary Celebration*



*Festival-goers browsed the many different vendor booths*



*A fortune-teller told fortunes to festival-goers*



*A boy sat and enjoyed the bonfire during the festival*



*Rhea Millistitch, President of the Byrnes Mill Historical Society, welcomed festival-goers to the Hagemeister House*

October 1, 2011 featured blue skies, crisp air and a high note of celebration at Byrnes Mill City Park and the 2011 Fall Festival. An estimated 1,000-plus visitors from all over Jefferson County and South County came to enjoy a celebration of hometown fun, historic pioneer demonstrations and home-baked goodies.

Sponsored by the City of Byrnes Mill in partnership with the Hagemeister House Commission and the Byrnes Mill Improvement Committee (BIC), “this fourth annual festival hit another great milestone in attendance, number of booths and attractions! It was just a wonderful way for people to celebrate 25 years of Byrnes Mill as a city and to enjoy their community,” said Mayor Susan Gibson.

Almost two dozen vendors filled the meadow, offering wood crafts such as birdhouses, baskets and cedar furniture, hand-crafted jewelry, tooth fairy pillows and scented soaps and candles. Festival-goers could taste artisan cheeses from Illinois and local honey products, jams, jellies and baked goods. Most of the vendors had sold their goods at Farmers Markets, every other Friday, throughout the summer, but two new vendors also participated.

Children and adults both enjoyed petting baby and adult alpacas in a pen, stationed near homemade wool alpaca hats, scarves and finger puppets. Oleana Olive Oil, from a special estate in Greece, had been a favorite at Farmers Markets throughout the summer and sold out early.

## *Historic House Surrounded by Pioneer Demonstrations*

The historic Hagemeister House featured a hub of activities, including history buffs and collectors in pioneer costumes, who demonstrated grave-rubbing, basket-weaving, spinning, dulcimer-playing, weapon-making, furs and arrowhead and Indian displays. Rhea Millistitch, president of the Northwest Historical Society, noted that 300 people, many of them residents of Byrnes Mill, signed in as they toured the Hagemeister House to appreciate how early settlers really dressed, lived and homesteaded.

As visitors walked the park grounds or sat under the pavilion, they heard live music by Miss Crystall & the Codgers in the morning and Banjo Ben’s Family Bluegrass Band in the afternoon. A new attraction this year was a fortune-teller, who entertained both children and adults; this local resident

volunteered all her earnings to the Byrnes Mill Improvement Committee.

### ***City Workers and BIC Volunteers Welcomed Residents and Visitors***

The Public Works staff had worked hard in the weeks beforehand to beautify the area and to finish the new rest rooms, at the south end of the park. Public Works Director Tony Whitby designed the rest rooms to resemble a cabin. The City of Byrnes Mill contributed \$500 for the birthday celebration. Aldermen Jerry Klipsch and Bob Prado also made monetary donations to help pay for the birthday booth goodies.

BIC President Mary Scheble and BIC members John Scheble, Sharon Ippolito and Anne and Jack Walters promoted the event and organized all the food, beverages and entertainment. Alderman Bob Prado worked concessions and Alderman Jim McBroom, Dana Kuhn and Jim Mantoan helped BIC members to set-up and take down booths.

City staff members Debbie LaVenture, residents Ron and Cindy Davies, Millie Damon, Mary Mantoan and the Schebles grilled brats and hot dogs, and sold snacks and concessions, waters and sodas. They restocked supplies throughout the day as crowds remained constant. City Court Clerk Mary Sheriff sold 50/50 tickets. BIC member Jack Walters and his daughter, resident Rebecca Powell, hosted the Crow Bar, where people could purchase beer or wine. BIC member Anne Walters, with the help of LaVenture's sons,

Alex and Clayton, oversaw children's activities, which included pumpkin-carving and Halloween-themed activities. Twins Megan and Rebecca Prado did face-painting.

Byrnes Mill police gave out free children's ID kits to parents, while their spouses worked at the birthday booth to serve free slices of "Byrnes Mill Birthday Cake" to festival-goers.

"Our Byrnes Mill City staff and BIC members really went all out this year to help and serve, and it was a great time for them to visit and hear from our citizens," said Gibson.

### ***New City Poet Laureate Served as Storyteller***

For the fourth year in a row, Byron von Rosenberg, a resident of Byrnes Mill, spun stories for adults and children. One of his poetry books, "I Don't Want to be a Llama," has sold more than 16,000 copies. In a special proclamation by Mayor Susan Gibson at the October 5, 2011 Board of Aldermen meeting, Rosenberg was made Byrnes Mill's Poet Laureate. "Byron says that many of his poems have been inspired by the beauty of Byrnes Mill and his walks in the park," says Gibson.

The residents and visitors at the 2011 Fall Festival also seemed inspired and entertained by this special and fun-filled anniversary celebration.



***Police Officers and their wives handed out City of Byrnes Mill 25th Anniversary cake***



***Festival-goers enjoyed food and drink in the pavillion***



***The Hagemeister House gave the festival an old-time feeling***



***Festival volunteers and Byrnes Mill Improvement Committee members (L to R) Mary Mantoan, Mary Scheble and John Scheble***

# Police Department

## *Veteran Rescued by Byrnes Mill Police and Union American Legion*



When Byrnes Mill Police Sgt. Doug Zwetow answered a call for a disturbance at a Byrnes Mill home two years ago, he couldn't have known the difference he would make in a former Marine's life.

He met a 78-year-old former Marine, Robert Belk, who was eating just one meal a day, suffered from bedsores and wasn't taking his prescription medications. A relative and a neighbor had moved into Belk's home to help him after Belk's wife had died. But, instead of caring for him, his helpers had neglected him and depleted his bank account.

Zwetow had grown up in a home where "we're supposed to take care of the elderly." He approached his boss, Byrnes Mill Police Chief Ed Locke, and said, "We have to do something." Locke agreed.

Zwetow, Locke and Patrolman Joseph La France often checked in on Belk. When Zwetow discovered

that Belk had been a Marine, he felt even more of a connection – Zwetow's father also had been a Marine.

Zwetow made Belk his special cause. He contacted agencies for assistance, but nothing ever seemed to materialize. Finally, Zwetow remembered another friend and former Marine, William Fischer, who lives in Washington, D.C.

Fischer contacted Mike Pate, a member of the American Legion Post 297 in Union, MO, to tell him about Belk on August 20, 2011, which also happened to be Veterans Assistance Day. During that day's event at the American Legion Post, Pate spoke with a representative of Claire McCaskill's staff. Pate also contacted the Marine Corps League, which helps veterans to receive funding for medical care.

Pate called Zwetow, who filled him in on Belk's needs and past. "They took over from there and were out here to see him every day," said Zwetow.

Pate also involved Administrator Tracy Copeland of Willow Brook Assisted Living Facility, who visited Belk and performed an assessment. "We took matters into our own hands, got others involved and moved Belk to a better place."

Belk, now 80, has been living at Willow Brook since mid-September. He was initiated into the Union Legion Post on Sept. 22. Zwetow and Locke were also honored for their help and involvement in caring for a fellow veteran. Belk's health has greatly improved. "This is the most wonderful thing to ever happen to me," says Belk.

Chief Locke says, "This is the kind of thing a small community needs to do for one of its residents. We can look in the mirror and feel like we did something special." (Story based on information from an article by Gregg Jones in *The Missouri: Union News*).



"Keep your car doors and houses locked. In this current economic environment, burglaries are on the increase. If you go on vacation, tell your neighbors and let us know so our patrol cars can pay special attention to your property. Report any suspicious activity – people walking the streets late at night, unknown cars cruising your neighborhood – and call us directly." The non-emergency number for the Department is 636-797-9999. For emergencies, dial 911.



Robert Belk, center, an ex-Marine, was assisted by the Byrnes Mill Police Department, American Legion Post 297 and others. Pictured, from left, are American Legion Post 297 Commander Bob White, Byrnes Mill Police Chief Edward J. Locke, Belk, Byrnes Mill Police Sgt. Doug Zwetow and American Legion Post 297 Public Relations Officer Jim White.

# Public Works Department

Public Works covers a broad range of citizen services, including the street department; sewer department; recycling center; parks; storm water management; code enforcement; building, land development and inspection; and animal control.

## *Street Department*

“We would like to thank the citizens of Byrnes Mill for all the compliments we received this past winter regarding snow removal on the City’s maintained roads,” says Public Works Director Tony Whitby, who has worked 11 years for the City. Winter crews applied about 453 tons of 50/50 sand and salt mix.

This summer, the Department did overlays along Rosewood, Wood View and Scheble Streets. They also painted and striped all the maintained roads within the city limits, as well as other summer maintenance projects.

Whitby adds: “Employee safety is a major issue. Our employees will be wearing safety vests and placing road work signs along these roads, so please drive cautiously in these areas.”

Whitby says that city crews pick up discarded trash along the City’s maintained roadways twice a month. “The worst areas are from Lake Montowese to Highway 30 and from Byrnes Mill Farms to PP, so we are asking please don’t be a litterbug! We cut grass along city roadways and the park at least weekly, so please watch for slow-moving tractors.”

## *Storm Water Management*

The City of Byrnes Mill has established the storm water management program under the division of land use, development and code enforcement. “You can play an important role in protecting the water quality of our lakes, streams, and rivers. All of us live in an area of land that water runs across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake, which is called a watershed.”

Watersheds drain rainfall and melting snow into lake or rivers, picking up pollutants along the way. Any pollutant not absorbed gets picked up by run-off and makes its way through the watershed and into rivers, creeks and lakes. “Byrnes Mill has beautiful creeks, river and lakes. It’s up to all of us to protect them by using good pollution prevention practices.”

Whitby suggests that residents take these actions to prevent pollution:

- ♦ Landscape your yard
- ♦ Compost or mulch your yard waste
- ♦ Sweep your driveways and sidewalks
- ♦ Inspect your septic system
- ♦ Dechlorinate swimming pools at the end of the summer
- ♦ Dispose of all household waste properly
- ♦ Properly dispose of or recycle car fluids
- ♦ Dispose of pet waste and cat litter



## Work Zone

## *City Parks*

The City Parks Department made several well-needed improvements in 2010 – a new rock wall at Franks and Gravois, installation of electricity at the Hagermeister House; two new entry doors to the basement of the Hagermeister house; tree-trimming; and brush removal.

“Additional park improvements for 2011 are coming along,” says Whitby. “Our priorities are installing restrooms and a playground, finishing the concrete floor in the Hagermeister House, and installing two new informational park signs.”

Park signs will include important information about the use of the park: The park is open from dawn to dusk. Fires are allowed in barbecue type pits only. A permit is required for reserved pavilion use. The following activities are prohibited – swimming, hunting, use of fireworks, use and possession of firearms, overnight camping, use of off-road vehicles and the consumption of alcohol.

## *Sewer Department*

“We accomplished the goal of televising approximately three miles of sewer line to inspect inflow infiltration, along with pictometry mapping,” explains Whitby. “We did find several problem and damaged areas, and made repairs.”

Whitby has an “open door” policy and invites residents to call him at 636-671-0021 or to visit the Public Works office during working hours, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, at 4197 Lower Byrnes Mill.



# City of Byrnes Mill

127 Osage Executive Circle  
Byrnes Mill, MO 63051  
[www.byrnesmill.org](http://www.byrnesmill.org)

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO.  
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## Government Center

Byrnes Mill City Hall  
127 Osage Executive Circle  
Byrnes Mill, MO 63051  
Phone: 636-677-7727  
HOURS: Mon., Tues., Thurs. – 9  
a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Wed. – 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
City Administrator: Larry Perney  
Clerk: Lori Caldwell  
Clerk: Debbie LaVenture  
City Collector: Mary Ann Hedrick  
City Attorney: Dennis Tesreau

## Police Department

Police Chief: Ed Locke  
PHONE (non-emergency): 636-797-9999  
EMERGENCY: 911

## Municipal Court

Municipal Judge: Colby Smith-Hynes  
Prosecuting Attorney: Sally Slipian  
Court Clerk: Elise Gannon  
Deputy Court Clerk: Mary Scheriff  
COURT NIGHT: 2nd & 3rd Tuesday

## Public Works

4197 Lower Byrnes Mill Road  
Director – Anthony Whitby  
Public Works Staff: Robert Barnett,  
Aaron Dillard, & Tim Hill  
HOURS: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri.  
PHONE: 636-671-0021

## Recycling Center

4197 Lower Byrnes Mill Road  
HOURS: Tues., Thurs. and Sat. - 7  
a.m. - 3 p.m.  
PHONE: 636-677-0021

## Elected Municipal Officials

**Mayor**  
Susan Gibson - 636-677-0514

### **Board of Aldermen**

**Ward 1**  
Jim McBroom, Bob Prado  
**Ward 2**  
Sam Pierceall, Jerry Klipsch  
**Ward 3**  
Devon Ising, Mary Scheble

## Boards & Commissions

### **Planning & Zoning Commission:** (meetings as needed)

Richard Lawson  
Terry Oberer  
Mary Mantoan  
Sam Pierceall  
Tim Hill  
Benjamin Shelledy  
Anne Walters  
Tom Wilkinson

### **Board of Adjustment:** (meetings as needed)

Sally Eads  
Ron Davies  
Pete Frisella  
Craig Morris  
Doug Smith  
Sharon Ippolito

### **Park Commission** (meetings as needed)

Terry Oberer  
Devon Ising  
John Scheble