



**Stevensville Mayor
Gene Mim Mack:
"Good Management
Key to Second Term"**

By Brian D'Ambrosio

Stevensville, Montana

It was an unofficial 22 vote spread that separated incumbent and challenger. After 526 votes were tallied, incumbent Mayor Gene Mim Mack beat challenger Clayton Floyd.

Both men mustered hearty support in their own camps. "I believe it's a great honor to serve as the mayor of Stevensville," said Mim Mack, a Stevensville hotel owner, "I'm pleased that so many people turned out for a great local race. Our record turnout really speaks to the engagement of the citizens of Stevensville and their commitment to it."

In Mim Mack's first term he was appointed to a vacant seat, and this second go-around he learned the value of grassroots campaigning and community organizing.

"The people were really motivated and I'm really proud of the campaign, and all of the help, support, and effort that so many people put in. I thank all of the people who helped get the message out and put the time in to organize, promote and deliver a message that Stevensville can be proud of."

City water rates were a major issue in the race. Stevensville is undergoing a substantial water and sewer construction project. Mayor Mim Mack said it should be completed in spring. He said to keep the system operating efficiently, residents can expect incremental rate increases based on inflation.

"The last three years has really been about rebuilding the water and sewer infrastructure and dealing with a forty-five percent rate hike I inherited. When those rates went into effect there was a big emotional and financial impact in the community. I think we've done a superb job at helping people understand the situation and deal with what's been a really heavy burden."

Mayor Mim Mack has accomplished a lot since settling in the Bitterroot Valley more than 10 years ago. Prior to moving to Montana, Gene and, his wife, Robbie spent most of their days sharing a mutual, mighty love of sailing. Both Gene and Robbie grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area but did not meet until years later in Alaska. They enjoyed traveling brilliant landscapes. In fact, Gene proposed in Tonga and the couple married, in 1997, in New Zealand. Two years earlier, the couple purchased a 35-foot cutter rigged sailboat in Seattle and steered down the coast to San Francisco before sailing across the Pacific.

They then visited some of the world's most picturesque and isolated islands: Tahiti and French Polynesia, Cook Islands, American and Western Samoa, Tonga, and, finally, New Zealand. In September 1997, their daughter, Alison, was born in Takapuna, New Zealand.



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In northern Vanuatu, north of Tasmania, they discovered a small, unruffled, protected bay community called Asanvari. Gene and Robbie formed the volunteer Asanvari Peace Corp, writing grants for Asanvari residents and submitting them to foreign aid agencies. Following six months of continuously working to build structures from locally harvested materials in Vanuatu, the family spent another summer in Australia before realizing it was time for further change.

After leaving the boat Down Under and returning to the United States, this time to Montana, they soon found a new experience and fresh focal point: to restore the fundamental physical beauty and value of one of Stevensville's most beloved places: the Stevensville Hotel.

Today, Gene is quite content to perpetuate Stevensville's contagious community spirit. He and Robbie are actively involved in so much of the town's civic life. "Stevensville deserves a true commitment. As the oldest town in Montana, Stevensville is in a unique position to be able to offer so much historical value, and it's also in a good position to thrive in the modernization that's necessary for its survival."

In addition to overseeing the revamped water and sewage system, Mayor Mim Mack hopes to improve local parks and the town's police and fire infrastructure. "My goal for the next term is to project good management and show the people of Stevensville that we are good stewards of their money, and to make the economically wise choices."

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Nativity Exhibit at Historic St. Mary's Mission and Museum

The Community is invited to come and enjoy our new outdoor Nativity Scene on First Friday (December 6th) from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will also be an exhibit of personal Nativity Sets, plus a display of Snowmen and Christmas Animals in the Mission Museum.

If you wish to share your personal favorite items in this Christmas Exhibit, please bring them to the Mission Museum on Nov. 19, 20, 26, 27, or Dec. 3, 4, 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment call 273-5411. Items are to be picked up on Dec. 10 or 11.

Chapel Open House

On First Friday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday (Dec. 7 & 8) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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