

## Chris Taggart

---

**From:** Don & Janet Parker <parkerdjte@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 10:21 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Grantsdale Cemetery

Dear Commissioners:  
Mr. Greg Chilcott  
Mr. Dan Hulls  
Mr. Jeff Burrows

I am currently living in Oregon, but plan to move back to the Bitterroot next year. My husband, Donald Parker, passed away a year ago, in August. We earlier had bought a plot at the Grantsdale Cemetery when Susan France was the head of the cemetery. My parents are buried there also, and I plan to have my ashes interred along with my husband when I am deceased. I was up at the cemetery the end of May on Memorial Day. I was upset by the activity of pocket gophers who are just everywhere, at least in the more eastern or higher elevation side of the Grantsdale Cemetery. At that time I got the phone number of the husband of the woman who is in charge as her husband mows and I didn't have Mrs. Clifton's phone number. Her husband answered and I talked with him for a bit, and said that I had brushed off quite a bit of dirt off one headstone. He said something about being aware of the pocket gophers as he mowed. She then took a hold of the phone and was very angry....actually cussed at me, and I just said, "thank you" and hung up.

I was back in the Bitterroot the first part of October, and before I left I went up to the Grantsdale Cemetery. The pocket gophers are just tunneling all over that area, and I am concerned about whether the headstones might start sinking into the ground or whatever. They were all around the area where my husband and my parents are. This is the area for cremated remains. I understood that the cemetery gets a certain amount every year for maintenance, and I know it isn't mowed often, because it is very dry up there. It is mowed at least once in the spring, and I don't know how many times in the spring. Some people would prefer it wasn't mowed in the spring because of wild flowers. Others want it mowed before Memorial Day, is what I understand. My sister and I prefer the wild flowers, but that isn't why I am writing this email. I also wonder with the pocket gophers piling up dirt not only on the headstones, but wondering if the gophers are making it harder for the Bitterroots to grow up there also. I don't want to cause problems for this woman, but I am concerned about what is going on.

I know that the business, "Bug Off", can take care of the problem with the pocket gophers. I really feel that it would be good to have "Bug Off" come out to the cemetery and give an estimate as to what the cost would be to get rid of them, and, hopefully, would be approved. Something needs to be done right away!

Thank you,

Janet Parker

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Ravalli County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe the email to be malicious and/or phishing email, please use the Phish Alert button.