

Glenda Wiles

From: jus10email.jz <jus10email.jz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 11:47 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: Concerns regarding trash can storage
Attachments: 20180916_113533.jpg; Screenshot_20180916-113142_Gallery.jpg; 20180916_113549.jpg; 20180916_113220.jpg; 20180916_113512.jpg

Dear Commisioners of Ravalli county;

I would like to start by saying, it is not like me to be in a position of complaint. I like to think of myself as a proactive person, who considers the solution over the problem. That being said, in this case, I feel I have exhausted all areas of which I can make a positive difference, therefor, I turn to you for help.

I reside in the town of Victor, at the end of a County Road near the trailhead of Bear Creek, however, when discussing this issue with some of my friends in the Ravalli County area, they too have experienced similar issues and because of that, I chose to approach all District Commissioners.

I have a driveway that leads right to the location for trash pickup once a week. This location has up to 12 trash cans for pickup, the disorganization and disruption of the scenery is only part of the problem, because we live near a campsite area, campers tend to use these trash cans to deposit their trash and wildlife will often proceed to distribute it through our forest, on our properties, as well as littering our creek. We got very tired of cleaning up the trash, constantly and contacted the Bitterroot disposal company for assistance on the issue. They wrote a letter to those who utilize this area, explaining that a neighbor had complained and everyone needed to return their trash cans to their property after trash has been picked up. (Of course, upon further research, I have found they have no way to enforce this request.)

Many of our neighbors chose to return their cans back to their property on the day or the day after trash pickup, which I so appreciate. But, about half of the residents choose to keep their trash cans at the location, on the side of the road all the time! I decided to accept what was occurring, if I personally maintained these four to six cans, keeping them orderly and ensure that they had no trash in them to entice wildlife, throughout the week, we could reduce our issue. So, I began to do so, to assist my community, as well as control the sloppiness that was happening.

Evidently, this did not go over well with one of the neighbors, and he reported me to the sheriff. Corporal Sheriff Richert contacted me, while I was at work, and proceeded to tell me that I would have legal action taken against me if I continued to organize the trash cans, as they are not my property. The citing would be possibly: disorderly conduct and perhaps theft of services. This is simply unacceptable to me, I felt I was doing a civil duty by keeping our public roads safe, clean and organized. Now, the trash cans can be toppled and strewn with trash wherever and I can't assist.

So, here I address the county commissioner's office with this question:

"Is there an ordinance that maintains our roadsides by asking the public to return their property back to their home when finished? Such as a trash can?"

"Is there a way to request such an ordinance to be instated?"

"What options do I have for a solution to this concern and problem? I don't wish to break any laws, I simply wish to keep litter and unsightly disorganized trash receptacles from our roadsides and the gateway to my home."

I have attached a few photos so you can see of what I speak. (Just to inform you, none of those trash cans you see in the photo are mine.) To me, it's unnecessary and unacceptable to keep those trash cans at the site all week long when trash is only picked up one day out of that week. I take my can home, I would think others would and that would be a complete solution to this problem.

Thank you, so much, for your time and consideration, I hope we can find a peaceful solution.

Justen Zimmerman
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