

## **Southwest Montana Veteran's Home, Update #6**

**By**

**Mike Lawson**

**Greetings again to you the veterans/communities who are the six communities in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veterans Home." This is the 6<sup>th</sup> update on our Veterans Home.**

**I called my "Go to Guy", Mike Ascheman our Veteran Home Project Construction Superintendent to see where things are at, this Wednesday (July 10<sup>th</sup>). We can see only so much from the Viewing Hooch and driving by on the road. So much is being done in the ground and not easily seen. The Community Center Building is close to having the slab/floor poured possibly the end of this week but more likely the beginning of next week. Cottage #1 has the foundation walls formed but may not get poured until next week. Zemlijak Excavating is doing a lot of work on the site drainage system with the construction of a drainage ditch along the southern edge of the property. They're waiting for concrete structures like manholes etc., which will be placed at different spots on the site for drainage. There will also be Drainage/Retention Ponds placed around the site, most probably located in the corners of the property. These ponds will allow the water to evaporate and seep into the ground.**

**One thing I think we all need to have a conversation about is somehow getting money raised for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cottage which is drawn into the plans for possibly being built in the future. It may never be built but if we could make it happen, the best time to build it economically would be at the same time our present Cottages are being built. It would add 12 more beds and is really something to consider.**

**A big piece of the puzzle addressed in this update #6, is what the procedures for getting into any of our State owned Veteran Homes entails. There have been a lot of rumors and false information I've heard out there so I called Shaunda Hildebrand who is the Bureau Chief of the Fiscal & Nursing Facility Services, Senior and Long Term Care Division, Mt Dept. of Public Health & Human Services. She is in charge of the state's end of things overseeing all the rest homes which will include the SW MT Veteran's Home. Interestingly there is a Southwest Montana Veterans Home (SWMVH) Web Page that this State Department has set up. Very well done with updated pictures and great information explaining the different topics under the**

**Senior and Long Term Care Division that will manage the contract to operate our Vet Home.**

**First of all lets address who can go to the SW MT Veterans Home. According to Shaunda Hildebrand any Veteran can apply and fill out the required Admission Application (which is on the SW MT Vet Home Website). If your VA connected , the VA pays all or a portion of the cost with Medicare, other insurances, or the Veteran's personal funds picking up the rest. Veterans not under the VA Healthcare system will be covered under their own insurances including Medicare. So the bottom line is that any veteran wanting to get him or herself on the Admissions List for the SW MT Veteran Home, they or their caregiver need to fill out and submit the Admission Application. Proof of being a Veteran will be required, such as a DD-214, Discharge Papers, etc..**

**Hopefully this was helpful. Visit the Veterans Southwest Montana Veterans (SWMVH) webpage to get more information and see the updated pictures.**

**Stop at the “ Vets Viewing Hooch” and see the American Flag blowing in the breeze. Until next time.**

**Mike**