

Southwest Montana Veteran Home Update #108

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities of Southwest Montana who are the chief organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veteran's Home located in Butte, Montana.

It is really hard to believe that it's been 108 weeks ago that I started writing these update articles on our SW MT Vet Home. The changes from those beginnings to now are nothing short of a miracle for those of us veterans who have fought so long to see this happen in this part of Montana. It has changed from being an old pasture of ten acres, to being a much more beautiful landscaped site, with 5 Resident Cottages and a Community Center/Receiving-Maintenance Building/Electrical Vault/Water-Well Building. The work/materials/architect-engineering/etc. are beyond explanation. What we have is one of the top built and beautiful Veteran Nursing Homes in this part of the country. Our pride continues to grow every day as the completion date is but a few months away. The "Grand Opening" will be on the 29th on this month of June. Many of the local officials like the Governor, Senator Tester, possibly Senator Daines and other political folks, who helped us along the way in making our Vet Home a reality, will be attending. More details will be given in the next couple of weeks.

Construction Updates:

Community Center/Cottages #1, #2, #3 are completed and the Operation Contractor Eduro is in control and have close to 20 residents admitted in these 3 Cottages. The Resident Veterans are happy to be there and are making it their home. The VA will be coming in the very near future with their inspection and upon passing their inspection, Eduro will get to fill these 3 cottages with 12 Veterans each making 36 Resident Veterans total. At the Grand Opening, Cottage #4 will be used as a "show and tell" Cottage. Once the opening is over, this Cottage will be able to be staffed and 12 more Resident Veterans will be able to be admitted... making the total 48. As you can see things are moving pretty quickly.

Cottage #4: The finish carpenter trim and FF&E was completed. The Painters have the basic painting completed and are waiting on being inspected to see what kind of punch-list they might have to do. The Floor Layers are laying linoleum throughout this Cottage. This Cottage is getting really close to being done and will be the tour Cottage on the Grand Opening on June 29th.

Cottage #5: The tapers are taping in the central common area and are bringing the finish mud to a Level-5 finish. The Painters have finished painting the resident bedrooms and Spa area. The Plumbers continue to run gas lines and are doing zone valve hook-ups in the Mechanical Room. The Tile Guys have started tiling the resident bathrooms. The Carpenters continue trim work.

Becker Landscaping: This is the big story on our Vet Home site for the present. The trees and scrubs have been delivered and are being planted. It looks like over 200 of these trees and scrubs are waiting to be put into the ground. The ones that have been planted really look beautiful! The Cottages are beautiful, and the ground landscaping is really going to compliment the whole Southwest Montana Veteran's Home site. We're all anxious to see it completed!

Moving on down the road to the Veteran's Medical Center being built by Wayne Paffhausen's Crew, If you haven't been by there lately it's worth seeing how fast it's going up! The roof trusses are all in place. His crew will be working on the bases for the heating/air conditioning roof units before putting the roof sheeting on. Wayne said all the wall sheeting will be finished and the windows cut out this week. Within the next few weeks the plumbers/electricians will be in this building getting their work started, followed by the sheet-rockers and other craftsmen. Building Material is hard to get but so far Wayne has ordered ahead, and in most cases has gotten what he's needed. Hoffman Excavating is working on the exterior of the lot doing landscaping, curbing, sidewalks, etc. New curbing will go around this site to the front of the Harley Davison Motorcycle property on that end of the street. This small section of Butte is being beautified.

Other summertime events around our areas are the 4th of July parades/rodeos/County Fairs/Veteran Conventions/Meetings/etc. I mention this because many of our veterans across SW Montana will be participating in these events. If you see them, say hi and thank them for their service. Until next time, take care.