

Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #27

By Mike Lawson

Greeting once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities who are the six counties in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veterans Home" who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veterans Home".

The weather, which dictates the ebb and flow of what the construction crews are able to do on our Vet Home site, is cooperating. It lifts everyone's spirits to see Roof work/roof trusses and Exterior Walls take shape before our eyes as we drive by this Vet Home Site. I again visited with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman and got the inside information that can't be observed from outside the fence.

The following building information is as follows;

Community Center; This has been a busy place this week, starting with the roof- snow being removed by the carpenters, working on the roof and others working from man-lifts, using brooms/shovels with very long handle extensions. Tedious work for sure, the eve work was completed which now allows the roofers to put the water-proof/extremely tough titanium roofing covering down, after putting a special peel and stick piece of covering on from the bottom edge of roof up 6 Ft. This is happening this week. The dry-in (keeping moisture out, of the Community Center) continues with the painters spraying the trusses from the inside with "fire proof paint". I saw them doing this on Saturday. (Another quality control plus!!) Pick-up framing continues and the electricians can do their wiring, now that they have a dry environment to work in. The plumbers continue to run piping to bathrooms/kitchen, etc. This will be a showcase building and will be the first one completed.

Cottage #1; The central section of this building, where there was an issue with the roof-trusses, (now resolved), should have all of the trusses standing and in place as you read this article. The roof sheeting is being laid down/nailed over these trusses on the west end. Getting this building in the dry-in stage isn't far off. The Carpenters are also doing pick-up framing on the inside.

Cottage #2; Despite the one corner wall being blown down, the day before Thanksgiving, a significant number of wall sections, could be seen springing up around the exterior of this building, this past week. What didn't get raised into place this past week will be in place this week. Once they're all stood in place, the interior walls will be framed, followed by the roof trusses, etc. Again, like the Community Center and Cottage #1, getting this building "dried-in" will be a priority so the other craftsmen can do their work (Plumbers, Electricians, etc.). Might be some snow removable that takes place but that's just part of working in Butte, Montana in the winter time.

With the ground being frozen, there isn't a lot that Zemlijak Excavating can do until spring, so not much to report on with them at this time.

Visited with SW MT Veteran's Home Liaison Mark Gollinger to see what he's been up too, concerning our Veteran Home. "Busy" is how he describes his new job. His work, at this time, consists of going over the Vet Home Site ground and building prints as well as the numerous state/federal/ local codes and regulations. He is also working on everything involved, contract

wise, with the Operation of our "SW MT Vet Home". This involves completion of the contract content, that will be put out for bid to the potential Companies who want to operate our Veterans Home. Mark's job is to make sure everyone is in compliance, while Our Vet Home is being built and afterwards, when it's in full operation.

The completion date of construction according to the contract, is September 30, 2020 and the Grand Opening is scheduled for November 11, 2020. There will be a soft opening before that with just a small number of residents. This is needed for hiring/training and getting things up to code. Whoever does get the contract, will have to pass a number of inspections before being's allowed to have it fully occupied.

The Viewing Hooch is being visited by more folks, which is great. I see the cookie-jar needs to be replenished so that's next on my "to do list". It's nice and warm in their so drop by and experience the "Vet Home Site" construction experience. Until next time, Take care.