

Southwest Montana Veteran Home Update #57

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW MT who are the chief organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home.

As I sit here writing this, from my East Ridge Home at 11:00 PM, I'm watching the fireworks that many Butte folks have purchased and are firing away. It's impressive and must have cost a small fortune. It doesn't matter as Americans love fireworks and it's a wonderful way to celebrate our 244th birthday celebration. These are tough times with the Covid-19 Pandemic enveloping our country and the world. I truly believe we are a country of resilience and will come through this as a stronger people. It's important to live and follow what the Health Officials recommend as those around us, especially the older folks, are most at risk. This new SW MT Veterans Home will be home to many older Veterans and these types of places have been getting hit the hardest. Let's respect each other and realize what we do in the name of safety can save lives, as this is not a joke. I have 6 family members who have been infected and it's not been easy for them. Thankfully none have died, 4 have recovered but have ongoing aftereffects and two have just got it, with one being very sick. Enough said on this.

Things are moving on many different facets, of this our Veteran's Home and one can really see that "light at the end of the tunnel" for this Vet Home to be completed in time for the 2020 Veteran's Day Grand Opening. I got reports from my go to guys, Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascherman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka and then did a walk-through with Liaison Mark Gollinger. Some buildings have more work going on than others and new developments have been taking place. The whole project is moving forward and it's exciting to be able to watch on a weekly basis.

Construction Updates:

Community Center-Interior: A number of things going on here but two notable jobs on hold are now able to continue. The ceiling in the community room was on hold due to a lighting change that had to be made by the architects. That came through, which now allows the sheetrock to be hung on the metal ceiling framing and allows the electricians to install the ceiling light cans. The other holdup was siding material that was on backorder, to come in, which it did. The siders can now finish-up the siding for this building. The tile for the bathroom floors was laid and the walls were started. It's a beautiful large grey-slate type tile. (Another extra top of the mark material) Mike expects this to be a two-week job. John had a couple of framers trimming out windows, followed by putting the inside screens on. This building is close to being ready for the flooring then it will be complete, for all practical purposes.

Exterior: As was mentioned, the "Siders" are back to complete the siding, now their back-order material has gotten here.

Cottage #1-Interior: The "Seismograph Ceiling" metal framing is close to being completed. The electricians will install their light fixtures and the sheet rockers will start hanging sheetrock when that's done. The Plumber's did a little bit of piping.

Exterior: Siders are getting close to being done on the siding installation.

Cottage #2-Interior: The Sheetmetal guys are close to having their HVAC rough-in complete. The Plumbers did a small amount of pipe work in the Mechanical Room.

Exterior: The Siders started the siding on this building.

Cottage #3-Interior: The tapers are starting to tape/mud the sheetrock. The “Seismograph Ceiling” metal framing may get started this week. The Sheetmetal guys were working on ductwork in the Mechanical Room. The Plumbers were working on gas pipe-lines.

Exterior: Waiting for the Siders.

Cottage #4: -Interior: With all the bay windows in, the bay window bump outs were core-bond insulated. The vapor barrier on the trusses is done. The Plumbers and Electricians have started doing their rough-in work. The inside of the interior walls are ready to be insulated. The sheet-rockers have been bringing in their sheetrock, so this week should be a sheetrock show.

Exterior: The 3M Peel and Stick Vapor-Barrier is done with the foam insulation blue-board close to being done.

Cottage #5: -Interior: The framers are close to having the blocking/backing and soffits close to being done. The other crafts (Sheetmetal/Electricians/Plumbers) will be moving in this week or next.

Exterior: The roofer is doing the ongoing shingling. The Carpenters are doing the 3M Peel and Stick Vapor Barrier sheeting.

Other Site -Work: The last big “Cement-Pours” by Steed Concrete, were completed. These were the foundations for the Maintenance/Receiving building, the Electrical Vault Shed, the Well House and Shower Pads in Cottage #4 & #5. Next week will see the start of framing on them. Zemlijak Excavating worked on re-positioning a Fire Hydrant, some leveling and getting ready to set the interlocking cement-block walls as part of the storm drainage system. Two semi-loads came every day last week with these blocks. It’ll be interesting to see how these go in.

Not much else going on. May you all stay healthy and take the recommended measures to stay that way. Until next week.