

Southwest Montana Veterans Home - Update #62

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 Veteran's Home.

The groundwork is really moving and becoming more and more visible to the passer-by on the Blacktail Loop Rd, who can look through the front gate of our Vet Home Site. Markovich Construction, the General Contractors, are very serious about getting the curbing in place and having the pavement completed by the middle of July. In my briefing visit with both Site Superintendent Mike Ascherman and Carpenter General Forman John Kotka, it was very obvious they're pushing hard to get things done on the scheduled time format each phase is expected to be completed in. All the issues that come into play like Covid-19, or one subcontractor getting behind, which makes the contractor following him, having to wait before being able to start his part of the building puzzle. It's Mike Ascherman's headache to resolve those issues and keep things on track. In spite of these issues, every week when Liaison Mark Gollinger and I do our walk through, we see more things completed, moving forward or seeing a new phase started.

Construction Updates:

Community Center Building: - Interior; Everything of major importance is pretty well done, other than the flooring. The bathrooms have all the tile completed, the wall partitions for the toilets/urinals installed. The grab-bars in all these bathrooms are completely installed. The installation of toilets/sinks/urinals will happen in the near future. Touch-up painting is ongoing but mostly done. The Bistro is wall-papered, looks great, with the Community Center Room to follow, on the lower portion of the walls. Some of the ongoing jobs in progress or that will be in progress, include the Electricians installing lights, entryway hot-water heating unit /controls to be installed, continued HVAC trim-out, hanging back exterior door and hanging eight interior doors that haven't been delivered to the site as of yet.

Exterior; Some siding left to do on the Entry Way part of this building. Due to the wait for material and concentrating on the siding of Cottages #1, #2 & #3, this is on hold for now.

Cottage #1: Interior; Most of the painting is complete, especially with both resident wings being done. The Common Area was scheduled to be painted out over this past weekend. With all the tile preparation complete, the tile layers are installing tile in the twelve resident bathrooms/shower floors with small size tile which looks good. The Carpenters installed exterior door hardware and the panic bars on exit doors. The next phase for them will be the trimming out the windows/doors as well as hanging doors. The FRP (plastic paneling) has been installed in the Soil and Janitor rooms. The steel runged-ladder to the attic was also installed in Janitor's Room. The front Entry-Way Doors are scheduled to be hung, this week or next depending on the electricians getting their wiring done there.

Exterior; The siders are putting the sheetmetal roof eave facia covering on, which will complete the siding process on this Cottage.

Cottage #2; - Interior; The Plumbers are finished in the Mechanical Room. The Sheetmetal guys are doing some duct-work. Most of the pipe and duct insulation is complete. The metal

seismograph metal ceiling is ongoing with the sheet-rockers following up with hanging the ceiling sheetrock. The exterior doors and hardware have been installed.

Exterior: The siders are almost done with the siding but as with the Community Center, they're having trouble getting material. Many local stores are telling me they are dealing with the same problem due to Covid-19.

Cottage #3: - Interior; The Plumbers and Sheetmetal guys are ongoing on their rough-in work (piping/ducts/controls). The sheetrock on the metal framed ceilings is in progress. The sheetrock tape/mud process has started.

Exterior; The siding has started. The Entryway and Back Patio has had the concrete poured and finished by R7K Concrete. Air Conditioning Unit was set on the Chill Pad.

Cottage #4: - Interior; Plumbers are working on shower valves and piping. The HVAC and Mechanical insulation and control installation is ongoing. Sheetrock is ongoing and once done in the coffered ceiling area, the Carpenter Framers will do coffered ceiling soffits. The Front Entryway Doors were hung.

Exterior; Back Patio had concrete poured and finished by R&K.

Cottage #5: Interior; The Electricians, Plumbers and Sheetmetal guys are busy doing their rough-ins.

Exterior; Carpenters are framing the exterior soffits. Now that the Roofer has received the long-awaited Drip-Edge, he is just about done with the shingling of Cottage #5.

Maintenance/Receiving Building: Interior: Dry-in complete and on hold for now.

Exterior; Roofer will continue to roof this building once Cottage #5 is completely roofed.

Elkhorn Electric: Pulled heavy wire to all Cottages and the Community Building from the Electrical Vault Building. The Northwest Power Company is expected to be on site to install their electrical transfer unit with-in the next two weeks. Ninety five percent of the light lampposts are installed.

Zemljak Excavating: They are all over this site, installing the collection boxes for the downspouts at the Community Center and Cottage #1 buildings, prepping for curbs, working on the storm sewers, and excavating for the SW MT Vet Home Entry-Way Sign base/footings and walls. The forms are in place for this so the cement pour should be coming up shortly.

R&K Concrete: Built 200 feet of curb forms and then poured them with concrete.

As you can see, our Vet Home Site is a flurry of activity. Shaunda Hildebrand gave a couple of walk-through tours this past week. One of these was with two representatives of Enduro who will be operating our SW MT Vet Home. She also introduced them to the SW MT Veterans Foundation at their monthly meeting. They're excited to be on board and we're excited that we now have an Operations Company in place. With that I'll close. Please be cautious and safe. Until next week.