

Southwest Montana Veteran Home Update #67

By Mike Lawson

Greeting once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities of SW Mt who are the organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veteran's Home.

Lots of construction happening outside and the weather changing is very concerning. When this article comes out on this Wednesday of Sept 8th, we'll have seen if the predicted snow on Labor Day has in fact happened. Hard to believe that our summer is so close to an end. Getting the sidewalks, gravel/paving done and a good start on the landscaping has really become a concerned push for Markovich, the General Contractor. Site Superintendent Mike Ascheman has his hands full in keeping the sub-contractors coordinated and on task. Timing is so important and one sub-contractor finishing the portion they're doing so another sub-contractor can follow, with the part of the job they're doing, can really make or break a job. Mike Ascheman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka are the key people on this job site for Markovich Contracting. They are in constant motion in keeping the progress moving forward, solving problems and coordinating. The main gate going into this Vet Home site is being locked until the paving is done. The gate at the rear of the site will be the entryway for the contractors/work crews to get on to the jobsite. The other situation is the viewing Hooch being in the way of the construction phase in that area. It has to be moved, so we the veterans are scrambling to see if we can get it moved across the road from the front gate. We have a call into the Harringtons who donated the land for the Vet Home and own the property across the street. We also have a call to Cory Markovich to see if this is possible. I'll keep you posted.

Construction Updates:

Community Building: — Interior: This building floor installation, is the big story. Not a lot happened this past week as some of the floor layers were on other off-site jobs, but it is continuing, with the anticipation more floor installers will be put on this process. Temperatures are a factor when installing floors so with our weather getting cooler, heating is going to be a big factor. Plumbers have been working on the other Cottages but still have the water hook-ups to do in the near future. All the doors are in with hardware install completed. Side and rear door glass left to install.

Exterior: The Siders are finally back doing the siding in and on the Pontica Shea Front Entrance area. Zemljak Excavating is prepping the rear patio as well as the sidewalks that will go around this building.

Cottage #1: — Interior: Lots of activity going on here. The Cabinet guys are installing/setting cabinets in the kitchen and will continue through the rest of this cottage, especially in the bathrooms. The tile layers continue tiling in the bathrooms with one resident wing close to being done. The Carpenters can then follow them to install bathroom grab bars. John is waiting for the bathroom doorjambes to arrive so he can get those installed followed by the bathroom doors. His guys are also working on the upper light shelves in the dining and living rooms, but again waiting for material, in this case the crown molding. Wood trim continues and the HVAC trim-out is ongoing.

Exterior: Handrail posts are being set. Front entry-way posts are being framed, with finish-work following.

Cottage #2: — Interior: The seismograph metal T-Bar ceiling framing is almost done with the sheetrock being hung on it after the Electricians get their lighting receptacle hardware installed. The FRP panel install in the Soil Room and the Janitor's Closet was completed. Sheetmetal and Plumbers were in and out of this building.

Exterior: Nothing this week.

Cottage #3: — Interior: The Mexican crew are doing the Mud/Tape process. Sheetmetal/Plumbers were in and out working on mechanical and piping, rough-in work. John wants to install the metal ladder for the attic access this week.

Exterior: The siders are installing the colored areas, which happens to be a good looking blue for this Cottage. Remember each Cottage has a different color.

Cottage #4: The Electricians, Plumbers and sheetmetal guys were working on rough-in work for the HVAC, mechanical, etc. The Mechanical insulation is ongoing as well as Control installations. All these trade workers are bouncing around into and out of all the other buildings during the course of the week. The Carpenters were working on the coffered ceilings in the living room, Fire sprinkler rough-in is done until the building envelope is sheet-rocked.

Exterior: The siders were installing siding trim.

Cottage #5: The Plumbers, Electricians and sheetmetal were in and out doing their rough-in work. The Carpenters set some doors. Most of the work is being concentrated in the other buildings.

Zemljak continues to do prep-work for sidewalks, patios, etc. Also doing site work in moving dirt and getting ground levels to grade in preparation for paving, etc.

Elk Horn Electrical continues to work on site switch gear and once ready, Northwest Energy will install the meters. Hopefully the site will be powered up this week, which will enable each building to have power to them, when ready.

The Wishlist is to have the sidewalks done in two weeks, get Becker Landscaping on site in two weeks and having the paving started in three weeks. Different factors come into play to make these things happen, for sure. Let's hope.

Not much happening here but I would congratulate our Veterans in Anaconda for their new Vietnam Memorial Monument they unveiled and had a ceremony for this past week. Labor Day is now over, and our Fall Season is soon to be upon us. Enjoy all the vibrant colors, practice the safe guidelines our Health Officials have asked us to do. We will beat this virus if we think about keeping those around us safe by wearing masks, safe distancing and washing our hands. It can be a pain, but in the end, we'll be glad we helped beat this Covid-19. Take care.