

## Southwest Montana Veteran's Home, Update, #8

By

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Greetings again to you the veterans/communities in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of "SW MT. Veterans Home". This is the \*6th update" on our Veteran's Home and there's a lot that has happened on our construction site this week. I'll address the different parts of the building progress that have taken place this week and continues to take place as you read this present week's "Butte Weekly". I'll then address the continuing Engineering aspect taking place throughout the construction time frame for our SW MT Veteran's Home .

We continue to feel that element of excitement as we watch our veteran home site develop. I visit the site on a daily basis and have an idea of what all is going on but to get the accurate details, I go to my "Go to Guy" Site Construction Supt. Mike Ascheman . The Community Center had some delays but is ready for the slab to be poured by "Steed Concrete Construction" out of Helena.. The yellow plastic "Vapor Barrier" , which lays on top of the 6 inches of self compacted gravel, is in place and glued to the foundation walls. The slab rebar was laid by Markovich carpenters, which is the final step before the slab pour. Once the slab is poured it will be sprayed with a product called "J-11", which helps prevent the concrete from cracking, and then it must cure for two days before the "carpenter framers" can start framing the walls and the roof. We should start to see walls going up that 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> of August week. To see that will be a spirit lifter for sure. Two truckloads of plywood ,for the Community Center, were delivered to the site with dimension framing lumber to quickly follow.

Cottage #1 has had the dirt filled/compacted inside and outside the foundation walls. The Plumbers can now put in the water utilities, fire water lines as well as well as the sewer lines, etc. (Electricians may have to put in conduit as well). Once that is in place then the same process that was used for the Community Center Building, to prepare for the slab pour, will also be followed for Cottage #1. Probably a couple of weeks out before framing will start.

Cottage #2's footing are built and ready to be poured. If you visit the site you can see vertical rebar sticking up in the air and evenly spaced. These footing should be poured this week also.

Cottage #3 is ready for Mike Zemljak Excavating to dig its footing, (may have started already), which once completed will enable Phillip's Concrete to jump in and start building #3's footings.

As in any construction job when building the same thing a multitude of times, a system develops and the time and expertise methods get better and better. I can see this happening on our Veteran's Home Construction Site. Kudos to the Veteran Home Contractors and their workers.

Another piece of the puzzle is the material testing and making sure the plans are followed throughout the construction process. This is the responsibility of the "Division of Architecture and Engineering ". They assign an Engineer who is the "Site Liaison" . This person coordinates between all the contractors and is responsible for "material testing" throughout the construction process. The desired "end result" is to have and maintain the "Highest Quality Control" from the first day of construction to the last day of construction. Very important person.

Mike Ascheman said all the testing so far has passed with flying colors. Tests for compaction, concrete strength, excavation projects, building according to plan, and the list goes on. An example is the testing of the concrete. When making a pour , four cement cylinders are taken from the cement delivery trucks. One of these cylinders are broken per week for four weeks. It takes a special machine that can calibrate the pounds per square inch it'll take to break that cylinder. All the cylinders for all the cement pours on out Veterans Home site have had excellent results of breaking over 4,000 pounds per square inch.

This is it for this update. Enjoy your summer and come check the Vet Home site out at our "Viewing Hooch".