

## **Southwest Montana Veteran's Home, Update #13 8/31/2019**

by

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Greetings again to you the Veterans/communities who are the six counties in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veterans Home". This is the 13<sup>th</sup> update on our Veterans Home.

I'm at my computer putting this update together and it's the evening of August 31st. Our summer is fast coming to an end and our Veteran's Home is moving right on schedule in its construction. I was fortunate to get a ride with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascherman, in his pick-up this week. We drove around the entire SW Vet Home site which enabled me to get a good ground level view/understanding of the many facets of the different contractor's work, going on. Mike did a good job explaining things as we went.

The Community Building has really been impressive this last week in August. All the exterior walls on the North/East/West and about half of the South have been stood and anchored. Steel columns are being fabricated and will be put in place after which the "laminated ceiling beams" will be placed on top of them and secured. This has to take place before the "roof trusses" can be put in place. It's surprising to see how big this building is going to be.

Cottage #1 is ready for walls to be framed but until the other cottage's foundations and floor slabs are completed it may be awhile. Getting more carpenters freed up from the many other construction jobs Markovich Construction has going will be and is a challenge in getting them on our Vet Home construction site.

Cottage #2 has all the plumbing/electrical ground piping/conduit in place. Zemljak Excavating dug/buried the trenches for these to be put in. They also put the self-compacting gravel on top. A lot of work in leveling this gravel to grade. The carpenters will put heavy duty, plastic yellow vapor barrier in and glue it to the inside of the cement foundation walls. Then they'll put all the reinforcing rebar in for the slab floor. All of this takes time but it's possible a cement pour could happen this week but realistically it'll probably be next week.

Cottage #3 hasn't changed from last week. Still needs the foundation wall forms put in place before a cement pour can take place. Phillips Concrete had to go to

another offsite job for a short time, which put #3 on hold. This is just for a short duration so hopefully walls forms will be put up this week.

Cottage #4 hasn't changed from last week. Its footing ditches are dug and just waiting for Phillips Concrete to get back on site to get the footing forms built.

Cottage #5 is in somewhat of a dilemma in that a corner of the huge stockpile of dirt, moved to get the site ready for construction, is on top of part of it. This is in the process of being moved. Once that's done, the layout and the digging of the footing ditches can take place.

The "Viewing Hooch" is there for anyone to go into to relax and see what's going on concerning the construction of our Vet Home Site. The SW MT Marine Corps League Det #724 has put their Logo Poster up and challenge all of you "6 SW County Veteran Organizations to get yours to the Viewing Hooch and put up on the wall. We now have a door installed, compliments of Markovich via Mike Ascherman. It looks like two windows will be donated by Butte Glass for the openings in the front of the building. It'll be a cozy dry place for us to visit.

The piece of the puzzle for our Vet Home this week is a continuation of our Veterans Home Foundation Guidelines which I'll label "Foundation Guidelines: Part #2"

We, the foundation, will be able to do a lot of activities for our Veteran Rest home Residents. The important thing is, anything we would like to do, we need to request approval from the State of Montana after working with/through our State Of Montana Veterans Home Liaison. Some examples that have been approved for other Vet Rest Homes: 1) Personal items like electric shavers, throws, etc. 2) Welcome gift to each resident - one Foundation gives embroidered fleece jackets. 3) Paying for cable and/or wi-fi access for residents. 4) Replace or purchase furniture, TVs, equipment, etc. for residents. Sponsor an outing like a lake cruise, county fair, etc. 5) Sponsor/coordinate someone or a group to provide entertainment. 6) The list is never ending

Another thing the Foundation can do is "Fundraising for an approved project". Some examples from other facilities are: 1) replacement of a laydown tub; 2) replacement of an "Activities Van"; 3) benches for a walking path; and 4) possibilities galore

The SWMTVH Foundation is going to be able to make a difference in our Veteran Resident's lives. We'll do it because we care. Next week I'll address what the STATE OF MONTANA is responsible for concerning SWMTVH.

Take care and visit our vet site "Viewing Hooch"