

Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #19

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home”.

Where is our “Indian Summer”, I keep hearing from others and asking myself. Mother Nature is hitting us with snow and cold about a month early. This has hit our Veterans Home construction schedule in the seat of the pants, so to speak. I have to say though, many of the guys working there, especially the carpenters, worked every day. They’re to be commended, for sure. I visited with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman to get an accurate breakdown of this past week’s progress. He said the weather really slowed them down, but he is optimistic/hopeful, this week will see some important movement take place.

The construction breakdown is as follows:

The **Community Center Building** is on hold waiting for the roof trusses to get here from Great Falls.

Cottage #1 has seen a lot of activity. All the exterior walls ,except for one small section on the East Ridge side are standing and secured.. It’s surprising how large a building each of those Cottages are after seeing the walls up. Work on the interior walls will be the big focus now.

Cottage #2 is seeing wall layout and the building of them on the slab floor. Once built, these walls will be stood up and secured like Cottage #1 is doing.

Cottage #3 is pretty quiet for the time being.

Cottage #4 is ready for the vapor barrier heavy plastic to be spread and glued to the inside of the foundation walls and around the pipe/conduit stubs, sticking up in the air. This is followed by the rebar and hopefully, weather permitting, Steed Construction can pour/finish the floor slab.

Cottage #5 is scheduled for Phillips Concrete to pour the exterior walls this week, weather permitting. This is the last Cottage so I’m hoping it will happen.

Zemljak was off for a couple of days because of the cold weather but has a lot of dirt work left to return too.

The “**Viewing Hooch**” continues to improve and is going to get warmer, compliments of Builders First Source Building Supply, (Former Pro Build). They are donating insulation and sheetrock, which we’ll waste no time getting both put in place. Many thanks to them for remembering us the Veterans. The log-book shows folks from out of state signing it, so please do the same when you come to visit.

A couple of **Veteran Events** coming up are worth considering to go too. They are The Veteran’s Day Ceremony and the Marine Corps Ball. The Veteran’s Day Ceremony will be at the Civic Center Annex at 10:00 am on Nov 11th. The Marine Corps Ball will be at the Quality Inn on Nov 10th starting at 5:30, the public is invited. For more information call me , Mike Lawson at 406-560-3591.

That’s it for now until next time so visit the “**Viewing Hooch**” and stay warm.