

Southwest Montana Veterans Home - Update #20

By Mike Lawson

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

Our Veteran's Home Site was a beehive of activity this past week. Because the weather was better, the working conditions for the construction crews were better, which I'm sure helped productivity. I saw a lot happening and visited with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman to get an accurate assessment of the different work activities that took place.

Cottage #1 saw lots of work, building interior walls as well as completing the exterior walls not completed from the week before. Included in the interior were some steel tube columns which support overhead steel beams. These steel beams will have glue-on main beams on top of them. Eventually the roof trusses will rest on these. The roof trusses should be on site in a week or so and be ready to be put in place.

Cottage #2 is ready to stand some of its walls that the carpenters have been building on the floor. Mike is hopeful that happens this week.

Cottage #3 is still on the quiet-side although Zemljak Excavating was putting in the storm sewer there.

Cottage #4 had a lot of hands working there as they were trying to get it ready for Steed Concrete to pour the floor slab on Thursday. They did have it ready, but Steed Concrete couldn't do it because of other commitments. The pour is hopefully for the Monday before this article comes out.

Cottage #5 is scheduled for the foundation walls to be poured this week, by Phillips Concrete. A side-note is that Phillips Concrete will also pour the cement pad for the big "Permanent Generator" that is now on site. This generator will supply power for the entire completed Veteran Home site if there's a power shortage/blackout.

The Community Center has been quiet also, but as of Thursday, the long awaited “roof trusses” arrived. This is the first building to get a roof and that will be worth celebrating, for sure.

The SW MT Veteran’s Home Liaison interviews are complete so we should hear who will be hired for this position within the next couple of weeks. This is good news for the veterans and the state.

The “Viewing Hooch” is in the middle of getting insulation and thin plywood over that, as I’m finishing this update on this chilly Sunday. Hopefully before the day’s out it’ll be finished. Many thanks to Builder’s First Source for supplying the material, to Mike Ascherman and Markovich Construction for allowing the veterans to do this and to Butte Silver Bow’s Fire Marshall Doherty and Fire Chief Miller for giving us the green light to proceed with this project. We had visitors from Boulder, Mt come and visit while Tom Goyette and I were putting in insulation. They were State Bureau Chief Shaunda Hildebrand and her husband Dean and their daughter. They were in town and decided to see what this “Viewing Hooch” was all about. We had a good visit and they signed the Log Book. This being said, I would encourage both you, from out of town and in town to visit and sign the Log Book before you leave.

Take care until next time.