

## **Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update #24**

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you the six counties in SW Montana who are represented as the organizations and chief supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home.

It's been somewhat of an exciting day for me on this Friday, November 15. I was invited to a meeting with our state DPHHS Bureau Chief Shaunda Hildebrand and SWMTVH Liaison Mark Gollinger, concerning our SW MT Vet Home. This was an eye-opening experience as to what is involved during construction and the many steps to the actual running of this our rest/nursing home. The many steps involving "many must pass inspections" by different government agencies, for the contractors building our rest home and the contractor who will operate are incredible. Our Liaison Mark Gollinger will be one busy guy in making sure everything meets the inspection standards set by the different agencies involved. This is good for us, the veteran, to know things are being done right. We completed this meeting by going to the SW MT VET site and doing a walkthrough of the construction site. We walked through the Community Center plus Cottage #1, and both of them, have most of the interior walls framed and in place. I was impressed and I now have an idea of just how beautiful the interiors are going to be, with big windows looking out on the East Ridge and the Highland Mountains. Being in the interior of Cottage #1, allowed us to walk into the individual Veteran's rooms, which were very roomy with nice sized bathrooms. The kitchen and dining room areas were designed with plenty of room and a great view of the Highland Mountains. This, our SW MT Vet Home, will be a showcase, for sure.

As always, Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascherman filled me in on the construction progress that happened this week. I'm always very grateful he takes the time to do this.

Community Center Building - Trusses are on and the carpenters are getting the fire treated plywood roof sheeting placed over/on them. These special treated plywood sheets come from Texas and are just another verification of the quality of materials and workmanship going into our VET home. Once the roof is completed, the push will be to get the exterior of the building wrapped with exterior building wall wrap and then the fascia over that. The drive-through portion located over the front entrance is on hold, as it's not critical to the overall structure. When there's a lull in some portion of the overall job, Mike can send people there to complete that.

Cottage #1 - The roof trusses are on site and it's very realistic to assume that at the time this article is in your hands, the roof truss crew will be putting them in place. This will be followed by roof sheeting, etc. Exciting, for sure.

Cottage #2 - Framing the exterior walls will be the focus, so look and see exterior walls being stood up this week and next.

Cottage #3 - On hold and curing (Mike Ascherman's verbiage) until Cottage #2 is framed.

Cottage #4 - On hold and curing.

Cottage #5 - Finally this, the last our Cottages, had its slab floor poured by Steed Concrete on Thursday. Mike made the decision to cover this newly poured cement floor slab with insulated blankets and to make sure the setting/curing process took hold. The process of Zemlijak Excavating getting the water and sewer lines dug and connected to the main water/sewer lines completed can now take place. This will be followed by digging the dirt away from the outside of #5's foundation walls, for the waterproof sealant to be painted on followed by the cement insulated foam panels glued on over this. Once this is completed Cottage #5 will be on "hold and curing" until the carpenter framers move from the other Cottages, that have the framing completed, to this our last Cottage.

I continue to marvel at the engineering and quality of materials/workmanship happening with these Veteran Home Buildings. The building process gets more complicated as time goes on, as the builders will get more scrutinization, with the different government entities looking over they're shoulders. This involves many inspections/compliance issues that are performed on the different phases of construction, on our SW MT Veteran's Home complex. I have confidence that Markovich Construction Superintend Mike Ascherman and his construction crews are up to the task and in fact have passed all inspections up to this date. That says a lot.

Until next time, keep warm and take care.

kmh