

Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #52

By Mike Lawson

Greeting once again to you, the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW MT., who are the chief organizers and supporters of the "SW MT Veteran's Home.

This beautiful weather we're having, is really having a positive effect concerning the work getting done at our Vet home site. Had a good visit/briefing with both Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka. They're both pleased with how well the job is going and expect that to continue. Vet Home Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through on Friday and as usual were beyond impressed with the weeks progress. Mark took a-lot of pictures and some of them will be on our SW Mt Vet Home website, SWMVH.MT.GOV

It looks like the different SW MT Vet Home Site buildings, upon completion, will be turned over to the state. The Community Building will be first, and the rest will follow as they are completed. I expect that will happen, from September to right before the Grand Opening on Veteran's Day, November 11. It's mind-blowing to see the massive amount of work involved to put each of these buildings together, from start to finish.

The other exciting news I want to share is the new Veteran's Medical Center, which is moving from Anaconda to Butte, is going to be located very close to our SW MT Veterans Home. I was informed it will be built in the big empty field, to the South and next to the Harley Davison Motorcycle Dealership. This really will be an enhancement to our Veteran's Home, and it being in the same neighborhood, is good for Veterans and their families. Access is easy and right off the Interstate 90 at the 3 Bear Store Exit on Highland Drive.

Construction Updates

Community Center Building

Interior: This building is seeing a more finished look, every week when we go through it. The painting is close to being completed. The big project is getting the Suspended Ceiling framed and the sheet rock portions completed, with the acoustical portions to follow. This needs to happen as quickly as possible, so the sub-contractors can get their Electricians and Sheetmetal guys in to install the ceiling lighting and vent units. Having permanent overhead lighting in, will really change the atmosphere of this building. Johnson Controls continue with all their system control work. John Kotka said about half of the interior doors have been hung. On our walk-through and seeing these doors, we were impressed as to how beautiful they were. For the present they were wrapped in plastic, for protection. They had a beautiful rich birch stained mahogany color. John said he thinks the trim will be the same color.

Exterior: The Siding Crew is making progress. The front of this building, with the Columns and the big overhead Portico Section (covering the drive through entrance), have a lot of "time consuming detail application", involved. This building won't just look good it will be beautiful.

Cottage #1

Interior: The big story here is the sheet-rockers doing their tape and mud application, over the hung sheetrock. This is a big-time consuming job, as we were able to realize when they did the Community Center Building. These Cottages will even be more so, because of all the resident rooms, with each having the Bay Windows/Bathrooms. Some Mechanical work being done by both the Sheetmetal and Plumbers concerning different aspects of the heating system/piping.

Exterior: The siders are working full time on this building and have gotten the bottom flashing and first strip of bottom siding on the outside parameter. The color is a lighter, kind of grey, compared to the Community Building. This fits in with being told the colors would be different for each Cottage.

Cottage #2

Interior: The Sheetrock Hangers are busy hanging lots of sheetrock. Collin's Painting, who has this portion of the work, is having trouble finding enough guys to put to work. The Construction Industry in Montana is very busy, and many of the sheetrock hangers, are working on many of these other jobs. If you know any of these folks looking for work, send them too "Collins Painting" and they'll be put to work. We don't want this job compromised/held-up. The other Sub-Contractors, not being able to do their work because of having to wait for the Sheetrock Hangers to be done, is more than concerning. Some Mechanical work by the Sheetmetal guys and Plumbers is ongoing.

Exterior: All the soffit work is complete, and this Cottage is ready for siding. Mike Ascherman, said that another siding crew might be on site this week. Hope that will happen.

Cottage #3

Interior: This Cottage is seeing the Plumbers and Electricians winding down on their rough-in work and moving into Cottage #4. The Sheetmetal Guys continue to work on the Heating Ductwork and will be, for quite a while. Their Foreman Derek Rhinehart has his hands full in juggling the placement of all his guys, into the different buildings. This is a highly skilled trade, with no room for mistakes. He and his guys are another tribute to the superb quality of work, going in our SW MT Vet Home.

Exterior: Electrical underground site work, scheduled to be done on an electrical main line, shared by both Cottage #2 & #3. The 3M Peel and Stick Vapor Barrier with window installation is progressing well. The Foam Insulation Blue Board will go on next, followed by the Roof-Eve-Soffit Framing.

Cottage #4

Interior: Some framing continues. All the kitchen/lighting soffit walls, will be completed this week. The seemingly never-ending wall blocking and backing, continues. The bay windows/bum-outs are getting the bottoms and ceilings framed-in. These will be ready for the Core Bonding spray insulation process. Electricians/Plumbers/Sheetmetal guys, have moved into this building, to start their extensive rough-in work.

Exterior: The roofer has finished the roofing.

Cottage #5

Interior: The roof trusses didn't arrive on site until late Thursday afternoon. The Memorial Day Monday put them back by a day. John Kotka, said that at 7:00 am on Monday morning, the truss roll-up process, will begin. Remember this is the last Cottage Roof, unless we can get Cottage #6 financed at some future date. Due to the roof-truss delay, the carpenter-framers were able to get all the interior walls framed and standing. All the housekeeping cement-pads (Boiler/Exchanger/Hot-Water-Tank), have been poured. Soffit wall-framing continues. The bottoms/ceilings for the Bay Windows/Bump-Outs, are being framed and will be ready for Core Bonding.

Zemlijak Excavating continues to work on the Storm Drain System as well as putting the utilities to the different buildings. It's interesting he put them to the possible Cottage #6 site, just in case that becomes a reality in the future. Smart!!

Some things scheduled in the near future will be the pouring the big pad for the Electrical Vault Small building. Once this is done the Electricians will be able to send permanent electricity to each of the Cottages/Buildings. The next building on the agenda, is the Maintenance Building and getting it framed. This building was enlarged from the original plans. It will be used for receiving/storage, maintenance equipment (lawnmowers/etc), an area for the maintenance workers and possibly other uses to be determined.

Not anything to report from the State or Foundation this week. Everyone be safe as we go into this Covid-19, Phase #2 reopening. Until next week, I wish you all the best.