

# Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update #59

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW Mt who are the chief organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home.

Every week there seems to be a new twist on things and with our Governor mandating everyone to wear a facemask, it was interesting to see some of the construction workers on our Vet Home wearing facemasks. The other place I saw people wearing facemasks, that was impressive, was at the Rest Stop near the Anaconda turnoff near Opportunity. We, the Marine Corps League, were doing one of our five coffee/cookie stop fundraisers we do in the summer. I was surprised that about 98% of the folks coming through were wearing facemasks, which was very encouraging in the battle against Covid-19. It is alarming at the high death rate at some of the rest/nursing homes around Montana and the nation and the reality, we're building one for our Veterans, who at this stage of their lives need a safe wonderful place to go. Whoever does end up getting the contract to run this our Vet Home, you can rest assured the SW Vet Home Foundation and Veteran Organizations in this area will watch with an eagle eye in making sure our resident Veterans are getting the best care possible and are safe. With that said, it's time for some construction updates. As always, I get great briefings from Site Construction Mike Ascheman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka. SW Mt Vet Home Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through on Friday. Some good stuff happening all over the site as you'll now read about.

## Construction Activities:

**Community Center: - Interior:** This building is well into the finishing stages of construction. The painters are pretty much done. John said the fire extinguisher cabinets will be installed this week. Still some trim-work on the windows and doors to finish -up on but that is close to being done. Most of the doors have arrived except for a couple and have been hung with the door hardware installed. The two main bathrooms are all tiled, with the other two expected to be done this week, providing the waited on material has arrived on site. The back-order situation is a common problem that interferes in getting things accomplished in the expected time frame allowed for that particular job sequence. The fiber reinforced plastic (FRD) wall panels and ceiling hatch were installed in the janitor's room, as well as the permanent steel rung wall ladder going to the mezzanine. This is where all the mechanical equipment for the building is located. John expects all the cabinets to be set this week.

**Exterior:** Construction material is going to be moved out from under the Portico entrance area so the siders can finish this last portion of siding for this building.

**Cottage #1: Interior:** The dominate work being done here is the drywall taping/mud work. A lot of it is done and the painters are expected to do some painting this week or next. Mechanical/electrical work tune-up, by a couple of the plumbers and electricians, is on-going. All the exterior doors are set.

**Exterior:** Siders are pretty well wrapped up on this building.

**Cottage #2: Interior:** A couple of sheetmetal guys are working on ductwork. Plumbers are running their water and gas lines from the mains to the bathrooms and to the heating units. The pipe insulators are insulating the pipe through-out the building and the seismograph ceiling T-Bar metal grid frames are being installed.

**Exterior:** The siding-crew are moving well in getting this building sided with a real catchy green and grey color combination. You can see it pretty well from the Blacktail Loop Road.

**Cottage #3: Interior:** A couple of Plumbers/Sheetmetal guys are finishing up some piping and ductwork. Pretty quiet here at the present. Metal ceiling and lighting install in the bedrooms are complete.

**Exterior:** Waiting to be sided.

**Cottage #4: Interior:** Mechanical insulation and control installs are on-going. The Mexican sheetrock crew from Bozeman is going to start hanging sheetrock this week. They were waiting for the inside of the exterior wall's insulation and the sound insulation on the interior walls to be completed before coming back and that is now done.

**Exterior:** Exterior soffit framing is now complete.

**Cottage #5: Interior:** Framing of blocking, backing, soffits and other miscellaneous framing is completed. The Plumbers/Electricians/Sheetmetal guys are heavy into their rough-in work. Fire-painting of the trusses is close to being done. The setting of door frames is scheduled for this week.

**Exterior:** The roofing has been held up due to the backorder of "style D flashing" not showing up. Again, this type of back-order problem puts things on hold. Should be in this week, which will allow the roofer to complete shingling this roof.

**Maintenance/Receiving Building:** this building saw a lot of activity this past week and will continue to see that continue this week. All the exterior/interior walls are standing, and the roof trusses arrived on Thursday afternoon. GF John Kotka is hopeful that all the roof trusses will be rolled up into place and sheeted with plywood, by the end of this week. He also wants to set the door frames through-out this building, this week.

**Elk Horn Electric:** All the underground high-voltage and low voltage conduit, to all the buildings, has been run and at a later date they'll pull wire through that conduit to each building. They set two exterior "Electrical Switching Gears" on cement pad next to the Electrical Vault Building Site cement slab floor.

**Zemlijak Excavating:** Doing some fun-to-watch setting of pre-cast cement retainer blocks in the building the retainer wall at Cottage #1. Drive by on Black Tail Loop Road and take a look as it's very impressive. They also leveled/prepped pads for the Air Handler/Air Condition Units, for each cottage.

Not much happening on the state or political end, other than the facemasks. Still waiting for the Contract Operation Bid to be awarded. So far, the fire season has been quiet. Hopefully you're all doing well and enjoying the weather. With that I'll close.