

# Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #61

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.

I have to say that I'm excited in watching the tempo of all that's being done, both inside the Cottages/Buildings and what's happening on the site outside. It's beyond impressive as you'll read about later in this update. It is with a bit of sadness to report that two of the young apprentices on this SW MT Vet Home Construction Crew have tested positive for Covid-19 and are quarantined for 14 days. Another Navy Veteran close friend, John Thompson, is very sick in the Ft. Harrison Hospital with Covid-19. Being careful and following the Health Guidelines is imperative, especially in seeing our local Covid-19 numbers increasing daily. The construction guys on our SW MT Vet Home Site are really doing the distancing, eating in their own cars, etc., etc., as much as they can. Moving on to the building of our Vet Home, I again can't thank Site Superintendent Mike Ascheman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka enough for their great briefings. It's also always a great finishing touch going with Liaison Mark Gollinger for our weekly walk-through on Friday.

## Construction Update:

**Cottage #1: - Interior:** This building continues to be getting more and more finishing touches. As we walked through it, we could see most, if not all, of the painting is complete. The toilet partitions are completely installed, and John's guys installed doors on the bathrooms. All the window trim is finished, and it presents a beautiful aspect to the eye, for each room. The HVAC trim-out is in progress. The by-fold doors in the Community Center big room are expected to be installed this week. They are on overhead tracks and when not dividing the room in half, they fold into the wall, being out of the way. The other thing coming up in the very near future, is the flooring. This is exciting as this is one of the last finishing pieces to the puzzle in making this building complete.

**Exterior;** Nothing going on until the siders return to finish the Entryway.

**Cottage #1: - Interior;** The painters have painted out the North Wing of this Cottage and are scheduled to paint the West Wing this weekend. We visited with one of the tile-laying guys who was doing the pre-work needed to be done before being able to lay the tile. He said they would be on it this week. I was so impressed with the tile work in the Community Building, that I'm excited to see it in Cottage #1. All the ceilings Metal T-Bar is framed in which enables the HVAC trim-out to continue. The FRD (Plastic Paneling) is being installed in the soil and mechanical rooms. John said the interior doors should all be installed this week and that the window trimming should get started.

**Exterior;** The cement guys poured and finished the Entry Back Patio and Chiller Pad. We also saw that the Air Conditioning Unit was set on the Chiller Pad. Siders have some Roof Eave metal covering left to install.

**Cottage #2: - Interior;** The exterior doors were all installed The Fire Sprinkler Hydro Test

was passed. The suspended ceilings in the bedrooms are done. We visited with the Duct and Pipe Insulators who were doing the extensive insulation work required for all of the piping and ductwork. The Plumbers and Sheetmetal guys continue doing their Mechanical/Plumbing tuning rough-in.

**Exterior;** Entryway, Back Patio and Chiller Pad had the concrete poured and finished. The Air Conditioning Unit was set on the Chiller Pad. The Siding is getting close to being done.

**Cottage #3: Interior;** Some sheet rock hanging was going on but most of it is hung. The Mechanical and Plumbing rough-in continues. The Fire Sprinkler Riser Room piping is part of that. The Electricians are installing lights in the metal ceiling framing. The sheetrock metal framed ceiling is in progress.

**Exterior;** The Siders started the exterior trim. The cement guys poured the back patio and are expected to pour the Entryway this Week. The exterior doors are expected to be installed this week, with the hardware closures included.

**Cottage #4: -Interior;** The Mexican Sheet-Rockers were hard at it with their lively Mexican music going full-bore. Plumbing, HVAC and Mechanical Insulation and Control Installation in progress.

**Exterior:** Patio Dirt work preparation is done.

**Cottage #5: -Interior;** This is a busy place for the Plumbers, Electricians and Sheetmetal guys, who are doing their continued rough-ins. This includes a lot of detail work for each of these crafts.

**Exterior;** The soffit framing is complete, and the roofer can now finish the roofing with the long awaited "Style D Flashing" finally getting here.

**Maintenance Building: - Interior;** This building is completely framed/dried in. The North side of roof is shingled and will see the complete roof shingled this week. All the interior and exterior door frames are installed.

**Exterior;** The 3M Vapor Barrier sheathing is complete with the foam Blue Board close to being done.

**Elkhorn Electric:** These Electricians have been busy standing the outside light poles and pulling wire to them. The Light/Lamp Posts are very unique and striking to look at. If you have the opportunity to drive by on the Blacktail Loop side, look through the gate, up through center of this site and you can see them. It also gives one an idea of how the cul-de-sac drive through area is going to look. The Electricians have also been working on installing the big electrical control switch-gear boxes. Once these are done then the framers can frame the walls and roof over the small Electrical Vault Building. That's down the road a bit.

**Zemljak Excavating:** Mike Zemljak and his guys are running hard. This is a guy who owns and operates his company, working from the seat of his excavator or back-hoe. He is an excellent operator and knows what he's doing. They installed the sewer line to the Maintenance Building. They're also continuing to work on the Retainer Walls, which are impressive. The driveway elevation preparation dirt work has been another push to get done, on Mike's list of priorities. This particular push is necessary as they want to get the curbs poured and have the pavement in sometime with-in the first two weeks of September.

In other happenings, we'll have had the Southwest Montana Veteran Home Foundation monthly meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. At that meeting some of the "Eduro" Operating Contractor Reps., for our SW MT Veteran's Home, will be introduced. It'll be exciting to meet and visit with them. Our Liaison Mark Gollinger has been busy receiving the many items to be used in our Vet Home, from pot/pans, linens, dishes, etc.. the big Connex metal shipping container, he rented, is quickly filling up.

In wrapping things up, it's easy to see that it now being August and that two of the Buildings, the Community Center/Cottage #1, are scheduled to be turned over to the state in September, that the reality of this project being completed by the Grand Opening on the November 11<sup>th</sup> is knocking at the door. This 2020 Veteran's Day Opening has seen the Veterans of SW MT work/anticipate this for over a decade. It's our profound hope that nothing delays it, like the Covid-19. Markovich Construction and their sub-contractors are using safety standards and may need to use more in keeping their guys healthy. Let's all live, function and work safe and keep this terrible virus at bay. Looking forward to November 11<sup>th</sup>. Until next time, take care.