

## Southwest Montana Veteran Home Update #65

By Mike Lawson

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

The Sub-contractors are really feeling the need to keep on task so as to not hold the Sub-contractor following behind them up. They each have deadlines to finish their work on time. The summer is close to being over and the start of turning the first finished buildings over to the state, is but a month or so away. Markovich Construction Site Superintendent Mike Ascheman has his hands full in keeping the different sequences of work done and completed on the timetable each sequence is supposed to be done in. This close-to-end work is really visible to the eye and amazing to watch. I, as usual, got good updates from my go-to-guys Mike Ascheman and John Kotka. These guys are on top of things and keep things going smoothly. Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through on Friday and our excitement continues to build, to see the progress quickly move forward. Later in this article I will make some comments about the Veteran's part of Stodden Park, that is undergoing some great restoration.

### Construction Updates:

**Community Center: -Interior:** The finishing-up work continues. All the soap dispensers, wastepaper dispensers and bathroom accessories are complete. The Plumbers continue to work on getting the urinals and sinks installed. This will allow getting the water hooked up to them and the toilets. The rest of the missing doors came on site and were installed with the swingers and hardware. John said the Carpenters are about done in this building. The wallpaper is complete and adds a look of richness to the rooms that it's in. The big story going on is the Floor Installers, installing the flooring. This building, for the most part, is being turned over to them so they're unhindered in getting this flooring laid. When we walked through, on Friday, the floor installation of the large Physical Therapy Room was in progress. (Very labor intensive)

**Exterior:** Mike Ascheman is having the Siders working on the entry-way portion of this building this week. They now have their back-ordered material and the cement finishers are finished with their cement work in this area. This siding work should be completed with-in a couple of weeks and will make this building 100% sided.

**Cottage #1: -Interior:** All, except for about 6, of the resident-room doors are hung with door hardware in place. Door trim-out is happening at the same time. These doors are a beautiful heavy wood door and is another example of what's being built into this Flagship Veteran's Home, we're privileged to have in Southwest Montana. Collin's Painting is complete with their painting. The Sheetrock Tapers are done except for some fire taping in the Mechanical Room. John is expecting the trim package for the Coffered Ceiling/etc. to arrive this week. This will have the Crown Molding as well as some hand railing and other trim. It's possible the Cabinet Guys from Great Falls will be starting to install Cabinets this week. Entryway had some minor Engineering changes that are now resolved, so that area should be finished up this week or next. The expectation is for the Community Center and This Cottage #1 to be complete by the end of September.

**Cottage#2: —Interior:** Cottage #2 & #3 are both on equal footing as far as both of them in the Construction Process. The seismograph T-Bar metal ceiling framework is in place with the Sheet-Rockers starting to install sheetrock. The electricians are putting their lighting wire and light holding fixtures in place before this sheetrock process starts. The Plumbers are continuing doing pipework and the Sheetmetal guys are working on trim-out on the ductwork. The FRD (Fiber Glass Reinforced Panels) were installed in the Janitor and Dryer Rooms.

**Exterior:** The Siders did a little pick-up work but not much going on here.

**Cottage #3: —Interior:** The Plumbing and Sheetmetal Mechanical rough-in work is ongoing. The seismograph T-Bar metal ceiling framework is getting sheet rocked once the electricians get their wiring and lighting fixture holders in place. The Sprinkler Guys were also doing work on the overhead sprinkler heads.

**Exterior:** The Siders have most of the trim and wainscoting in place and only have the portions that get the colored siding to do. Again, the waiting for this material to be delivered is a factor.

**Cottage #4: —Interior:** Fire sprinkler rough-in continues. Everything is sheet rocked with the exception of the ceilings that get the seismograph T-Bar Metal Ceiling Framework. These will be installed once #2 & #3 are caught up. Plumbers are continuing on their piping and mechanical work. The insulating of the HVAC and Mechanical components continue as well as the control system components installation.

**Exterior:** Butte Glass got their exterior glass installed, The Siders are moving well on the trim and wainscoting.

**Cottage #5: —Interior:** Some rough-in work with the Sheetmetal guys, Plumbers and Electricians. Until the other Cottages get further in the construction process, for each of them, this Cottage is somewhat on hold.

**Exterior:** The Siders have started putting the base flashing along the bottom of the exterior walls.

**Electrical Vault Building** is framed, with the 3M Vapor Barrier (Peel & Stick) Fabric installed and the blue insulation board put in place over that. The roof is completely finished, the Exterior door is hung with the door hardware installed. It is ready to be sided.

The Electricians are working on the site switch-gear. Electricity to the building, starting with the Community Center, isn't too far off.

R&K have finished the cement curbs and are getting ready to build forms for the sidewalks. Zemljak is prepping the sidewalk bases before these forms can be built. John Kotka told me that there will be a 5 ft wide sidewalk that will follow along the inside of the whole distance of the curbs. There will be a 10 ft. wide sidewalk from each building, that will connect to the 5 ft. sidewalk. Once the sidewalks are in and the driveways are graveled/paved (two weeks?), Becker Landscaping can come on board and start the landscaping. The gates will be locked once this all starts, with entry taking place to the rear of the north property next to this Vet Home site. The drum-beat is getting louder as the finishing puzzle pieces are falling into place.

I mentioned another Veteran's project taking place at Stodden Park. As you drive into this Park on the north entrance, off Dewey Blvd., you will come to the new "round-about" and on the south side of that, is the Veterans Corner of Stodden Park. In 1984-85 I was part of a Viet Nam Veteran group called "Trip Wire". We did fundraising, purchased the material, got one of our member's Engineer brother to draw the plans and once approved by the County, built the Amphitheater that is presently there. Over the years, through the Veteran's organizations and the United Veterans Council, Monuments honoring Veterans from WWI, WWII and the Korean War have been moved from other locations around town to this location. The Korean War Memorial is newer and was built at Stodden Park. Grant money donated by the Denny and Phyllis Washington Foundation, has benefited all portions of Stodden Park. This Veteran's part of Stodden Park was included and is getting a much-needed renovation. An 80 ft flagpole, new cement sidewalks, cement pad in front of the Amphitheater Stage, Handicap ramp/stairs unto the stage, new metal roof, wiring, lighting and sound system capabilities are all part of this. All this is starting to happen with a great portion of it happening next week and through September. Once completed it will be a great place for the community to have special events happen there. We the Veterans are very grateful to the Washington Foundation, Anthony Laslovich, Project Manager/Engineer, Water & Environmental Technologies and SBC Parks & Recreation Director JP Gallagher for coming and talking to us at our United Veterans Council Meetings, for our input. They then followed up with those recommendations, with the result of the Veteran's part of Stodden Park being a great section to this "Showcase Park". I would encourage any of you to check things out in the weeks ahead at Stodden Park.

I'll close for now and again ask that you keep safe and keep others safe by following the masking and safe distancing requests our health officials recommend. I fully believe we'll beat this Covid-19 if we are patient and follow the guidelines. Until next time.