

# Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update #70

**By Mike Lawson**

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

Lots and lots of outside ground-work activity going on at our Veteran Home Site. Sometimes during this last week, we've sat in the "Viewing Hooch" for an hour or more, just looking out the big windows, to see different activities taking place. Kind of addicting to say the least. The last construction phases of the Community Center Building and Cottage #1 aren't far off. The other Cottage's construction phases are progressing in a timely manner despite some of the issues that had to be dealt with. The Covid-19 Pandemic has been an issue with construction all over the country and our Vet Home is no exception, with delays of material getting on site on time being among these other related issues. In spite of it all, things were looking good, throughout the site, when Liaison Mark Gollinger and I walked through on Wednesday afternoon. Visited with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascherman and Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka, as I do on a weekly basis, for a more in-depth construction report. I appreciate those visits/reports more than I can express. Many thanks to them.

## **Construction Update:**

**Community Center: — Interior:** Not much happened other than the small bit of door hardware left to install, was finished. The plumbers installed a few sinks. The one I took note of, was the black hair-washing sink in the Barber Shop. Looked good.

**Exterior:** Siders are close to being done but had to work on the other cottages when the cement finishers were forming and pouring sidewalks. The Cement Finishers poured the back patio and the back sidewalk going west from this patio to the corner of the building. One more patio on the east side to pour and other sidewalks around this building. Once this is done, Becker Landscaping will move in and start their landscaping work.

**Cottage #1: — Interior;** This place is really looking good with most of the finishing work, other than the flooring, being finished this week. John's guys will be putting handrail up in the resident corridors. Some hardware, that just came in, will be installed. The Cabinet guys got all the counters installed, including the lunch counter that surrounds three sides of the kitchen area. It's impressive. Johnson Controls are working on the "Control Panels" for the Condenser and Heating Systems.

**Exterior:** The Siding guys are starting to wrap the Entry Posts with siding.

**Cottage #2: — Interior:** Tapers are taping and should be done this week which will then allow the painters to come in and paint. A little bit of catch-up sheetrock installation but not much. Plumbers were working on the heating unit zones.

**Exterior:** Nothing.

**Cottage #3: —Interior:** John Kotka said, "Big things happening in this building" and he was right. The painters finished their painting. It's the Carpenters building now, with picture rails being nailed on, doors being hung in the resident rooms/mechanical room/laundry room/janitor room. Windows are being wrapped and jams installed. This week will see them get trimmed out. The Crown Molding is installed on the Coffered Ceiling. They'll move into Cottage #2, after they're done with this Cottage. These carpenters do beautiful work and are to be complimented.

**Exterior:** Siders are close to having this Cottage completely sided and it looks great.

**Cottage #4: — Interior:** Sheetrock Tapers are taping and mudding. The seismograph metal ceiling has started to be framed. The Plumbers are working on valves. The Sheetmetal guys are working on ductwork and in the Mechanical Room. Mechanical Insulation is in progress.

**Exterior:** Siders have the trim/wainscoting work completed and are now putting the colored siding portion on. It's a light green and John Kotka describes it as looking like the color of split pea soup. Check it out and see what you think.

**Cottage #5: — Interior:** Plumber's and Sheetmetal folks are doing rough-in work.

**Exterior:** Nothing

**Maintenance/Receiving Building:** The siders are making good progress in getting this building sided.

**Jemlijak Excavating:** Has a good portion of the asphalt prep completed and is well ahead of the sidewalk prep for the Cement finishers.

The long-awaited arrival of the NW Gas crews, was a welcome site this past week. They are busy digging their ditches for the gas lines and will probably have the gas line run to all of the cottages this week. They'll tee off this main gas line at each Cottage and bring it to each Cottage's gas meter. The Plumbers will then run their gas lines from the heating units/etc. inside the buildings to these meters. For the Community Center and Maintenance/Receiving buildings the plan is to bore a hole under the road to these buildings versus digging a ditch.

Markovich will have a meeting with the sub-contractors to inform and get them all in the right sequence of knowing where things are at and their place in that sequence. This is a good move. The other thing being presented is the push to get the gas hooked up to the Community Building, Cottage #1 and possibly #2 & #3 by October 12<sup>th</sup>. The need for heat is really getting critical with our cooler Fall weather coming in on us. The floor-layers especially, need the warmer temperatures to lay the flooring, the electricity is on the site and turned on. The Electricians can now hook electricity to each building and turn the power on to them. This is a big plus, for sure.

On another note, then Veterans Section at Stodden Park is really coming along. Besides the cement work being about done, new lettering on the Korean Memorial is being installed and the big Flagpole is being set in place with the United Veteran's Honor Guard being there, performing a ceremony, in honor of this special event. This flagpole will be the same height as the one at Perkins.

I'll close for now and please practice being safe for yourself and those around you. I wish the Covid - 19 numbers were going down in SW Montana, but they're not, so let's do what we can to start bringing them down. Consider getting a flu-shot as that's my intention also.

Take care, until next time.