

Southwest Montana Veterans Update #75

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities of SW MT who are the organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veterans Home. So much for our "Montana Indian Summer" and warm temperatures, the beginning of this past week!! The outside Site work came to a screeching halt, for a few days other than the Siding Crew working on Cottage #5 and the Maintenance/Receiving Building. The latter part of the week, saw the Cement Crews and Zemljak Excavating, working outside. Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through of all the Cottages and the Community Center on Friday. It's always exciting to see the progress taking place from week to week. Mike Ascheman and John Kotka, also gave me a good run-down of what happened during this past week and what is expected to happen in this week we're in. This is always appreciated and helps, in putting this article together.

Site Construction Updates:

Community Center:—Interior: The big news is, the heat in this building is self-sufficient. The start-up of the mechanical systems passed inspection, which means the boiler is lit and supplying heat, the air exchange systems are running, dampers are working and the Johnson Control systems/programming, to run all of this, are complete and making everything run according to plan. Anytime the start-up crews do their start-up in a new facility, there's going to be adjustments that need to be made. Fortunately, everything went smoothly with only a few minor adjustments needed. The Electricians were finishing their final trim work, concerning light switches and light fixtures. Lights are expected to be on for sure, this week. The Ceiling tile is moving fast. All the flooring is complete, with the tile guys moving on into Cottage #1, this week. Moving furniture into this building will happen, in the very near future.

Exterior: — The patio on the East End was poured and all the sidewalks around this building are poured.

Cottage #1 :— Interior: The first thing I noticed when entering this Cottage, was that the lights were on. We made it a point to turn the lights on and off in different sections of the building and were pleasantly impressed. The indirect lighting was well done, especially. This will have a very positive desired effect on the residents, once they arrive. The Electricians are close to having their trim-out work complete. As with the Community Building, the Mechanical Systems are complete and are up and running, This Cottage's heat is self-sufficient, and the lights are on. The Plumbers were installing sinks/toilets. The Carpenters installed one of the missing doors that finally came in, as well as the Spa Bathroom Door. John said the only ones left are a closet door at the nursing station and the door between the soil and dryer rooms. The Flooring Crew are now in Cottage one and have a lot of flooring to lay down. This Cottage is really close to being done.

Exterior: — Some of the sidewalks were poured but still some left to be done.

Cottage #2: Drywall/taping and painting about done in the east resident wing and are now concentrating on the north resident wing, as well as the central area. The Carpenters are trimming out/hanging doors within the Resident East Wing. They'll move right into the Resident North Wing once the east wing is completed. Johnson Controls are running their wires for their rough-in.

Exterior: — Nothing at this time.

Cottage #3: — Interior: This Cottage is well ahead of Cottage #2 and biting at the heels of Cottage #1. The Plumbers are continuing to do gas line installation. The Tile Crew are doing the labor-intensive work of laying tile. All the bathroom floor tile is laid, and the wall tile is installed up to the border tile (about 5' high) in all the bathrooms/showers in the East Wing. The border tiles haven't come in yet, so they'll move into the other Resident Wing and get those wall tiles installed. The Carpenters are following close behind installing doors and are starting to install shower/toilet grab bars and shower curtain rods.

Exterior: — Nothing at this time.

Cottage #4: —Interior: The Metal ceiling framework continues. HVAC and mechanical insulation continues. Johnson Control continues to do their programing.

Exterior: The siding is still in progress.

Cottage #5: —Not much happening here. When they can break free to do some work on this cottage, the Plumbers, Sheetmetal Workers and Electricians continue to work on their rough-in work.

Exterior: The Siding Crew are getting close to having their wainscoting siding installed and are close to getting the colored portion of the siding started.

Maintenance/Receiving Building: Some soffit/facia work. The garage doors are expected to be delivered this week; at which time they will be installed.

Site-work:

Zemljak continues to do sidewalk prep for the cement finishers as well as the final ground grading.

RK Concrete: Continuing to form and pour cement for mainly sidewalks and some patios. Due to the cold weather the ground must be heated and the insulated ground blankets have to cover the concrete, for it to cure correctly.

As you can see, progress is being made, more so in some buildings than others as is the overall expected building procedure. It's fully expected that residents will be admitted in Cottage #1 before the end of the year, with Cottage #2 & #3 not long afterward.

Not a lot of Veteran News this week. The new Veteran Medical IBOC building did get footings poured and the footing walls are being formed. Probably get poured this week or next.

Please stay safe by masking and distancing so these Covid-19 numbers start to come down. We're in a frightening time and I pray by this time next year we'll be a healthier nation with a vaccine and medicine to treat those who are sick with it. Take care until next time.