

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update #76

By Mike Lawson

Greeting once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/Communities of SW Mt. who have been and are the organizers and supporters of this, our Southwest Montana Veterans Home.

It's cold outside, but after all, we do live in Butte, MT., and that's our way of life. The inside work at our Vet home, has heat and won't be that affected, but the outside work will be tough on the cement workers, especially. As many of you have heard/read, some lowest of low lifers, broke into our Vet Home Site and robbed from all the contractor's equipment trailers, the Construction Office and one of the cottages. The other Cottages and the Community Center were locked-up. Whether it was an inside job or a professional group, is unknown, but if any of you hear anything that would bring these perpetrators to justice, please call the authorities. COVID-19 has affected our society on many fronts and our SW MT VET HOME is no exception. The scheduled Veteran's Day Grand Opening won't be taking place and a good guess it will be next spring. It looks like a new "COVID-19 Vaccine" is being ready to be released, which will make that Opening more of a reality.

Construction Updates:

Community Center: —Interior: The ending completion work, before being turned over to the owners, is tedious to say the least, with punch lists, last minute change orders, etc.. The Electricians have the lights on and are doing last minute change orders. The appliances in the warming kitchen have been installed. These are the two big refrigerators, stovetop/oven and dishwasher. The Painters are doing their punch-list of painting touch-ups, the plumbers are still waiting for parts to get bathroom sinks hooked-up and the heating system is working very well. This is really a beautiful building and will be extremely functional for management and our veteran residents.

Exterior: Some finish cement work was completed. Sometime time in the future, handrail will need to be installed. The siding is pretty well completed.

Cottage #1: — Interior: The biggest thing happening here is the Floor-Layers are putting down flooring. They have laid all the flooring in the west-wing resident rooms and have moved into the central area, which has the kitchen, dining-room, living-room, library/den, nursing station, etc. When finished in this area, they'll move into the north resident wing and get those six rooms done. Once the kitchen-floor is laid, the kitchen appliances will be installed. The Plumber is installing sinks and toilets. The Electricians are doing finish trim-out work that's on their punch-list. The Heating System is working very well;

Exterior: Lights installed over doorways.

Cottage #2: — Interior: The drywall and painting is going well. The Electricians were pulling wires from throughout this Cottage, to the breaker panels, as well as doing change order work. The Carpenters were trimming out windows/doors following on the heels of the painters. The Plumbers were installing gas lines and the Pipe Insulators were insulating pipe. Johnson Controls were installing thermostats and doing some rough-in work.

Exterior: The siders were doing some punch-list finish-up siding.

Cottage #3: Tile-Workers have about two weeks left to do the border tile and the grouting. This week will see one wing of this Cottage done. The Spa floors/walls will be extensive labor wise. The Electricians are doing the trim-out of the light installation, receptacles, switches, etc. The Carpenters hung the door between the Spa and bathroom the laundry room door-jam and a handicap door. They're pretty well caught-up. The Plumbers are working on Mechanical/gas lines. The idea is to have both Cottage #2 and Cottage #3 ready for the Start-Up at the same time. This is when the heating and air-handler systems are tested and then come on line so these buildings are self-heating.

Exterior: Nothing at this time.

Cottage #4: — Interior: Plumbers are doing some rough-in. King Construction has the T-Bar metal ceiling framework pretty well completed as well as in the laundry rooms of #2 & #3. Plumbing, HVAC, and mechanical insulation continues as well as Johnson Controls doing their installation.

Cottage #5: — Interior: Not much activity here until the other Cottages are more complete.

Exterior: The siders are making good progress as most of the wainscoting/trim is in place and the blue color portion siding is now being installed.

Electrical Vault building and Maintenance building have the soffit/facia siding complete.

Asphalt Stripe Painting is complete.

Zemljak Excavating: Finish grading for the landscaping on Cottage #4 & #5. Continuation of prep of sidewalks for RK Concrete.

Becker Landscaping was putting sleeves under some of the sidewalks for their future piping to go through.

Veterans Day will be next week and for the Marines it will be their Birthday. Both of these events will be very limited due to the COVID-19 Virus. This a first in our lifetime of no significant celebrations/Honor Guard formations, etc. taking place. This Virus is hitting Montana in extremely high numbers, with the death rate being at an all-time high. We, being intelligent and caring people, are making the sacrifice in following the health safety standards of masking/distancing and gathering in small groups. For my family's part, we won't gather in a big family group as we have in the past but stay in our own individual homes. Phone calls or video phone calls will be the order of the day, with the hope that next year will see this virus under control in Montana, the USA and the World. I leave you until next time, by saying take care, love each other, (especially your family members), and know good times will come again, by our being diligent in the way we live on a daily basis. Bye for now.