

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home. Update #82-B

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 Veteran's Home.

The Community Building and Cottage #1 are being completed, and it's fast coming down to the finish line. At this stage it's all about the many Inspectors, who inspect specific parts/systems of each building and are the ones who create punch-lists, if things don't meet their criteria. It's all part of the process and is what we can feel good about, as we are assured of getting top quality built buildings, with all the systems running as they should. So far all of the inspections have passed, with the understanding that any minor issues would be corrected by the contractor/sub-contractor. Some of the sub-contractors worked through the weekend, to get their punch-list work completed. Monday will see the Butte Silver Bow Building Inspector, Mike Nation, do a final occupancy inspection. If that inspection passes, then, that will allow the Community Center and Cottage #1, to be occupied. This is a big deal as the operating contractor, Eduro and Liaison Mark Gollinger, can then move into their offices, as well as other areas within these two buildings. Another interesting development is about Cottage #5 being secure. It will be the Memory Unit for this, our Veteran's Home. All the doors will have scanners on them, consisting of a Card Scanner and a Fob Scanner. Anyone going into/out of these Cottages will have to scan their personal identification card/fob through the appropriate scanner. This is a security measure to keep these memory impaired veterans from wandering out of the building and getting lost/injured. It also allows Management to know who went into and out of this Memory Unit Cottage, as well as the time they did so. The other Cottages may have scanners on the doors but will not have the lock mechanism that Cottage #5 will have. These residents will not be in any kind of restraint situation, like the memory unit Veteran Residents in Cottage #5. This reminds me to remind everyone and stress that if you're not authorized to come onto the Vet Site, please do not do so unless you're invited to. It is still a construction site and the insurance company requires this, as they don't want anyone to be injured. My go to guys, Mike Ascherman and John Kotka, are really under the gun, in getting the final finish work done by Tuesday. This is the day both of these buildings are scheduled to be turned over to the owner, the State of Montana. Their briefing was very detailed and helped me assess what is, and continues to happen.

Construction Update:

Community Center—Interior: This is a mad-house of final punch-list activity work, created mainly by the inspectors, wanting some minor things corrected or improved upon. The fire sprinkler system, the fire alarm system and the low voltage systems passed their final inspections. The rest of the inspections will be on Monday and Tuesday, with this article coming out on Wednesday. This building will also be a "Central System Control Center" for all the Cottages, with McKinstry Construction doing work concerning that. The Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, Sheetmetal guys, Fire Sprinkler guys, Johnson Control, Flooring guys, Taper/Painters, etc., were all involved in their individual punch-list wrap-up work as of Friday. The Cleaning sub-contractor is doing a deep cleaning.

Exterior: The Siding Crew installed all the rain Gutters. RK poured the east end Patio pad, and the large Veteran Medallions were embedded in the concrete. The sidewalk handrail is on the schedule to be installed.

Cottage #1—Interior: The Fire Sprinkler System/Fire Alarm System/Low-Voltage Systems, all passed inspection. The Silver Bow Building Inspector, Mike Nation, will do a “Building Occupancy Inspection”. If this passes, then Enduro will be able to move in with the staff that will start taking care of our Veteran Residents. Again, the punch-list work is being done by all the crafts. Low voltage lights are being installed over each of the resident room doors. The Plumbers are trimmed out and have the water turned on. The Painters/Tapers are finishing their punch-list work. The Electricians are doing their trim-out punch-list. Dean, of Johnson Controls, was doing some fine tuning on their low voltage system. The Floor Layers were finishing up the flooring rubber-base work. The Carpenters finished the FF&E package work. The furniture and bed frames are in. The mattresses will be the last thing to be brought in, after the cleaning is completed. The Cleaners are doing a deep cleaning. The high-tech security scanners for both the ID cards/fobs, are installed. A&A Handicapped door openers are being installed.

Exterior: The Siding Crew have installed the rain gutter. They still have the patio column and support-beam attached to it, to put siding and fascia on.

Cottage #2—Interior: The Fire Alarm low voltage system is close to being complete. Those workers installed low voltage fire alarms/strobe-lights and magnets for the fire doors. The Fire Marshall will inspect this work. The Tile Layers are tiling and grouting the resident bathroom floors. Once those are done, they’ll tile the walls. Plumbers are trimming out the shower valves, sinks, etc. The Sheet Rockers were working in the Soil and Dryer Rooms. The Carpenters are continuing to trim-out doors/windows, hardware and trim, after the Tiler-Layers finish-up the bathrooms. They presently, trimming out the Coffered Ceiling. The Initial painting/taping is done with touch-up in progress.

Cottage #3—Interior: This Cottage is ahead of Cottage #2 in some ways and will probably make the finish date in January, with-out any trouble. The Plumbers are working on the gas lines and zone valves. In a couple of weeks, they’ll be ready for the start-up process. The Electricians are doing their trim-out. Some ceiling tile left. Johnson Controls did some work on their low voltage control system.

Exterior: Nothing at this time.

Cottage #4—Interior: The Sheet-rockers have all the sheetrock hung, including the seismograph ceilings. The Mud/Tape guys are now working on those sheet rocked walls. The Plumbers are continuing to work on their rough-in work.

Exterior: The Siding Crew continue to work on the fascia/soffits and are close to being finished. The cement sidewalks are complete around this Cottage, with only the rear Patio cement work left to do.

Cottage #5—Interior: The Electricians are doing rough-in work as well as pulling some wire. Plumbers are doing rough-in work.

Exterior: The Siding Crew is working on soffit and fascia. John and his carpenters are keeping the ground thawed, with the ground thawing heater for the rear patio and South East Corridor sidewalk.

Receiving/Maintenance Building: The rough-in wiring was completed enough for the insulators to insulate the inside exterior and interior walls as well as the inside roof rafters. This was covered by plastic vis-queen sheeting and is now ready for sheetrock.

Zemljak Excavating: Mike and his crew, prepped the sidewalks ahead of the cement crews. They also brought topsoil in and lined the outside of the sidewalks as a safety measure, to prevent people from stepping off the sidewalk edges.

RK Cement has all the perimeter sidewalks poured, as well as the lay down pads for the crosswalks. They have some work around Cottage #5, and some Patio work left at some of the other Cottages.

Once the inspections are completed/passed for The Community Center and Cottage #1, Eduro, the operations contractor, will move into both buildings. They have a lot of personal training to do and will start with just a few resident veterans. This process will be a step by step process, that will require passing operation inspections for each step. This will be done by different agencies, both federal and state. Once Cottage #1 goes through these steps and is given the green light to operate, with the total 12 residents, then Cottage #2 will go through this same process. Once this Cottage #2 is given the green light to be fully occupied, the VA will come in and do their inspections of both Cottages. It's a stringent process and is critical for our Resident Veteran's well-being/protection. As you can see, there's so much more to this, our Veteran Home, than meets the eye. Next week will be a short week, but an important milestone week. Until the next update, please be careful during the Holidays and have a very Merry Christmas.