

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home. Update #85

By Mike Lawson

Welcome once again, to you the Veterans, counties, and communities of SW Mt, who are the organizers and supporters of the Southwest Montana Veteran's Home.

It's a somewhat of a different world at our Veteran's Home Site, these days. There's a definite division between the construction side of Cottages #2, #3, #4, #5 and the finished Community Center and Cottage #1. The Vet Home Site Construction fence along Blacktail Loop Road, has been moved to the inside of the Site and separates these two portions. The main reason for this is to keep the construction workers separate from the Enduro personal who are operating our Veterans Home. Some of this is due to the Covid -19 virus, which makes it important to keep these two groups separate, as a safety measure. Cottages #2 & #3 are scheduled to be finished by the end of this month of January. Once this takes place, the construction fence will be moved to separate these two Cottages from Cottages #4 & #5. As more Cottages get completed the construction focus will fade away and more of the operational activities will be mentioned. These are exciting times! My go-to guys from Markovich Construction, Mike Ascherman and John Kotka, continue to keep me updated on the construction side. Liaison Mark Gollinger gives me an overall assessment, but his focus will be more on the Operational side, as more Cottages are completed.

Construction/Operation Updates:

Community Center: -Interior: Enduro, who is operating our Vet Home, is in full control of this building. The Markovich Construction workers have completed their punch-list work with some minor work to do, once their back-ordered material comes on site. This is very minor stuff like the signs for the public restrooms and other specific offices, etc. The Data control guys from Complete Communications are continuing to get their low voltage wire hooked up for when Charter gets their service to this building. This concerns the Internet, tv, etc. Charter Communications had their underground cable to our site property line as of Friday and should have it to the Community Center this week. The Cottages will have their hook-ups for these services at the Community Center.

Exterior: Little bit of rain gutter and handrail to finish up this week.

Cottage #1: Enduro also has control of this building and is close to having the first three Resident Veterans admitted. Markovich has everything punched-out with maybe one worker coming in to do minor work. This is concerning back-order material work, like signage on Resident Doors/Public Restroom Doors/Nurses Station Door/etc.

Exterior: Little outside clean-up and a small bit of front entry handrail and flashing of an overhead beam in the Rear Patio area. All of this is scheduled to be finished this week.

Cottage #2: -Interior: Electricians are continuing their trim-out of lights/plug-in receptacles/light switches/etc. Yellowstone Acoustical has all the T-Bar suspended metal ceiling framework complete, with the border acoustical tiles installed. The Tile guys continue installing tiles on the resident bathroom walls. The Floor Layers are installing floor linoleum in the kitchen/soiled room/dryer room and carpet in the living room. The Tapers and Painters are doing their punch-out lists. The Carpenters continue hanging doors, trimming out-door casing, and installing door

hardware. They were also trimming out the lighted soffit shelves in the Living Room. Johnson Control was working on the programming of the air-handlers. The mechanical controls for the mechanical system passed inspection. The air handler control system will be inspected this week and on passing inspection, we will see this Cottage be self-heating. That is a big step forward. The data company, Complete Communications, continues to pull their low voltage wire. A point of concern worth mentioning is that McKinstry Contracting, who have two guys doing the start-up programming for each building, have been hit with Covid-19. One of them have it and the other is under quarantine. Hopefully the one with it recovers and the other won't have it. This is putting their work on hold for the time being, unless they can get replacements sent in. Cleaners will be doing an initial cleaning this Friday.

Exterior: Cement work is all done with the Veteran Military Medallions embedded in the border cement around the rear patio. A cement pad was poured. Patio handrail fence needs to be done and will be this week or next.

Cottage #3: -Interior: Like in Cottage #2, the Floor Layers are installing linoleum in the kitchen area/soil room/dryer room and carpet in the living room. The Electricians are still trimming out but are close to finishing up. The Plumbers are trimming out the bathrooms and installing sinks and toilets. The Tapers/Painters are doing their punch-list finish-up work. Johnson Control was working on the programming for the air-handlers. The Data Control guys continue to pull their low-voltage wire. As in Cottage #2, the mechanical start-up inspection passed, and the air-handler control inspection will happen this week. If everything goes well, this Cottage will also become self-heating. This Cottage is a bit ahead of Cottage #2 and will likely be ready to be turned over to the State ahead of Cottage #2.

Exterior: The cement is all done around this Cottage. The Veteran Military Medallions were embedded in the border cement around the back patio. A bench was also poured. The back handrail fence is left to be installed in the near future. The patio column needs to be covered with siding by the Siders, in addition to having them put metal sheeting on the overhead laminated beam connected to it.

Cottage #4: -Interior: The sheetrock tapers are really moving on getting the taping close to being done. It's very possible that the painters will start painting this week. The Plumbers are working on the gas line piping and rough-in work.

Exterior: The cement work is complete around this Cottage. The Veteran Military Medallions were embedded in the border cement around the rear patio. A bench Pad was also poured.

Cottage #5—Interior: The Bay Window bump-outs were all core-bond insulated. The Electricians did some rough-in work. This week, sheet-rockers will be hanging sheetrock in the corridors and then the Mechanical Room, followed by doing the resident rooms.

Exterior: The Siders are working on the soffits and fascia. Cement work is finished at this Cottage. The Veteran Military Medallions were embedded in the border cement around the rear patio and a bench pad was poured.

RK Concrete is finished with their work on this jobsite.

The big Emergency Generator hook-up/start-up to the Electrical Vault, went very well. It was recorded by Markovich as the factory representative provided training as well.

Receiving/Maintenance Building: The Plumbers are running gas and water lines. The block garbage-dumpster cement block walls are finished.

The Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Foundation had their monthly meeting in the large meeting room in the Community Center on Monday, January 4th. When we came into the building, we were each required to sign in and get our temperature taken by standing in front of a machine with a screen that took your temp when you centered your face it. We had to be masked. Enduro was very professional and kind. We had a good meeting and are anxious to see the first three residents admitted. There's a sequence that has to be followed, the first hurdle is to get licensed by the State of Montana to operate, which has the requirements of meeting the Life Safety Codes. Once that's done, the three residents will be admitted. This will be followed by getting certified by Medicare/Medicaid. More residents will be admitted afterwards and once 22 are admitted, the VA will make their inspection and hopefully certify our vet Home upon passing the certification requirements. At this point the VA resident funding begins... and everybody gets paid. It all takes time but once this is all done, it is done for evermore. I'll close for now. Please be safe and follow the Health Departments guidelines. Until next time.