

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home Update #49

By Mike Lawson

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

Lots of activity continues to go on at our Veteran's Home Site, located on Blacktail Loop Road, just south of the Three Bears Store in Butte. The spring weather is improving, which helps the working conditions, which in turn, is an incentive for more work getting done. I talked to the Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka on Thursday and got a good briefing. Site Superintendent Mike Ascheman was getting a little surgery and was put under anesthesia, and unable to visit on Thursday. On Friday he called me and gave me a good run-down, on things going on, at our Vet Home Site. When talking to these two guys, you get the real deal, which is the "Gold Standard" for these "Updates". Liaison Mark Gollinger and I did a walk-through of the Site on Friday. This as usual, was an eye opener, in one way or the other. These next two to three weeks, are really going to see visible advancement, in terms of exterior wall coverings and outside framing of Cottage #5. I encourage any of you, when you're out taking a ride, to make this one of your destinations to drive by. Seeing is believing and you won't be disappointed, as you take a view from the Blacktail Loop side or the Continental Drive side.

Construction Updates:

Community Center Building: Interior: Collins Painting, which has the the Sheetrock hanging/taping/painting/ceiling, is starting the "Seismograph Ceiling" framework and is also ready to put the 5th coat of sheetrock-mud (with a machine) on. Possibility of some painting starting this week. The Community Bathroom, has all the specialized sheet rock/tape/mud, concerning the wall/ceiling, processes completed. There was one Plumber working in the Boiler Room, working on the intricate piping for this system. This is a picture in itself. Once the ceiling is in the HVAC Sheetmetal guys and the Plumbers can start doing the finish work in making this building complete.

Exterior: The siding crew continues to make progress and have most of the siding on, up to the top of the walls. Mike said that another siding crew is supposed to be on site this week, with a lift machine for them to side the peak sections above the walls, on the end of the building. This will really bring a finished look to the Community Center.

Cottage #1: Interior: All the sheetrock is hung, and this building is in the hands of the sheetrock tape/mud folks. As we saw in the Community Center, this is a huge and long undertaking, that will take at least 3 weeks. The Plumbers are doing some work here as well as the HVAC Sheetmetal guys.

Exterior: It's ready for the siding crews, which might happen next week.

Cottage #2: Interior: Lots of sheetrock going on here. The main push is getting the double layer of sheetrock hung on the bottom of the roof trusses, which already have the, heavy duty Visqueen, plastic sheeting vapor barrier in place, for it to go over. The other big push is to get the corridors sheet rocked, this will enable the Plumbers and HVAC Sheetmetal guys to continue in doing their work, after this part of the process is completed.

Exterior: The windows and 3M Vapor Barrier Peel and Stick sheeting, will be !00% completed this week. Most of the Insulation Blue Board, will probably be installed. Things are on the move here.

Cottage #3: Interior: The big push here is the Electricians getting their wiring/conduit/receptacle boxes roughed in. I always marvel at how symmetrical their conduit and wiring is, once installed. Very pleasing to the eye. The HVAC Sheetmetal workers are also putting the components, making up the heating/air-conditioning system, in. Lots of parts and pieces.

Exterior: The 3M Vapor Barrier-Peel and Stick guys, are scheduled to start that installation process, as well as starting the window installation, this week. Always good to see this start.

Cottage #4: Interior: The busy-ness continues in and outside, this building. The big push is in getting this building dried in. The Sheetmetal guys have their roof penetration ductwork through the roof and have moved material into the building. The Framers are working on soffits/blocking/backing. They're also putting in the floors of the Bay Windows/Bump Outs, which will enable the Core Bonding insulation spray process to take place. John figures it will be two weeks before things can be turned over for the Electricians to come in, and also to a greater extent, the Plumbers and Sheetmetal guys.

Exterior: The Gable Roof Entry Way has been completely framed and roof sheeting plywood, nailed down over that. The roofer is busy in putting a titanium ice water shield sheeting material down, along the bottom portion of the roof sections as well as in the valleys, where the roof sections join with one another. He then applies a different titanium sheeting material, over the rest of the roof. This is followed by the shingles. It's all a big part of the "Drying In" process.

Cottage #5: The two "Resident Wing" portions of this building are standing. The 15' and the 13' walls of the "Common Area" are being framed and should be stood up this week. Mike said the Roof Trusses should be coming on the job site on the 20th of this month of May. John said his guys will also be working on framing the interior walls. This is the last Cottage, so excitement is building and that light at the end of the completion tunnel is getting brighter.

The news from the state is pretty quiet, but expect to hear more, before the end of the month. We are all concerned about, the picking of a "Contractor" to operate our SW MT Vet Home.

The SW MT Vet Home Foundation is a bit on the cautious side about meeting this month, but I expect we will meet next month, in some way or manner.

Things are opening up for Montana, concerning this "Coronavirus Stay In Place Order" from our Governor, which has been very effective in keeping us on the low end of infections, nation wide. We don't want it to flare up here, so please be safe, keep the 6' distance rule when out and about, wear a mask when possible and have respect for those around you. Wishing you all well.