

SOUTHWEST MONTANA VETERAN'S HOME, UPDATE #5

BY MIKE LAWSON

Greetings again to you the veterans/communities who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veteran's Home". This is the 5th update on our Veterans Home and the excitement of seeing continued progress taking place at our site, can't be expressed enough. The Groundbreaking also was total excitement. I'll start with the construction progress first.

As always I go to Construction Supt Mike Ascheman to get an accurate assessment of where things are at for this week. Cottage #1 has the footing poured with re-bar sticking 4 feet up in the air from them for the strengthening the foundation walls. These wall are scheduled to have the forms in place and cement poured in them this week. Once again the cement has to set for a couple of days before the forms are removed and then the dirt can be filled/compacted inside and outside these foundation walls. Cottage #2 with it footings already dug should have the footing built and poured this week also. Remember Phillips Concrete from Dillion is doing this work. Mike Zemlijak, (Zemlijak Excavating), told me he is really pushing to get all the Cottage Sites prepared, footings dug, etc..before winter sets in. After the foundation walls are in place, filled in and compacted with the floor slabs poured, the carpenters can then frame the structures for the Cottages, Community Center and Maintenance Building. Being able to work throughout the winter months is critical for this project to be built on time and be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2020. Remember you can visit the Vet's viewing "Hooch" to see what's happening on the site, so come and relax, visit ,bring a lunch, etc.. We've put some more things inside and mounted an American Flag on the front in the "Spirit" of making it our on site home until the construction is completed.

The "Veteran Home Groundbreaking" was a resounding success with an estimated 250 people attending. The politicians, dignitaries, the Veteran's Color Guard, different News Outlet representatives and yes, all the veterans from our involved 6 SW Montana Counties, who seemed to come out of the woodwork, made this Ceremony a tribute to all Veterans in SW Montana. Speaking of Veterans it was very gratifying to see Veteran Representatives from all our 6 SW counties of Jefferson, Madison, Beaverhead, Powell, Deer Lodge and Silver Bow in the Color Guard Flag Line presenting their various Veteran Organization Flags. It's a good reminder that this Veteran Home is a SW Mt Veteran Rest Home that happens to be located in Butte.

I can't say enough good about all the contractors building our Vet Home. Bill and Cory Markovich leading the way with Mike Ascheman coordinating the different steps of the construction. They have provided us a viewing "Hooch", and just welcome us the Veteran during this construction process. This has been more than heartwarming. The excavation by Mike Zemlijak's crew has been most visible thus far, followed by the Phillips Concrete Crew doing the footings/foundation walls. Feel free to visit with them the contractors given the opportunity.

Next week I'll address more of the puzzle pieces involved in the makeup of how our Vet Home will be run and in one of the following weeks address the question of the admittance process. In the meantime go to the Viewing "Hooch", bring a lunch, a deck of cards or whatever and watch our Vet Home come together. Until next time, take care.

Mike