

SOUTHWEST MONTANA VETERAN'S HOME, UPDATE #11

BY

MIKE LAWSON

Greetings again to you the veterans/communities who are the six counties in SW Montana who are represented as the organizers and chief supporters of the "SW MT Veteran's Home".

As I'm writing this on Saturday evening the 17th of August, I can relate to you this has been quite a week at our veteran's home construction site and the neighborhood surrounding it. The first thing to relate is we had visitors, which some would say is a "good omen", in the form of three "Bull Elk". I saw them west across the Blacktail Loop Road near the old McGinnis Ranch, in one of their fields/ gully to the south of them and north of our construction site. Mike Ascheman said there were elk tracks around Cottage #1. I thought I saw two six pointers and one five pointer but Mike said two five pointers and one six pointer. Never the less they were beautiful animals and it was very unusual they were there.

Construction is moving full bore on the vet home with two corner walls stood up on the northwest corner the Community Center Building (more are built and ready to be stood). Mike Ascheman put his carpenters all on Cottage #1 getting it ready for the slab pour this coming week. He's really anxious to get all the Cottages footings/foundation/plumbing/slab work done before the snow flies. Interior foundation walls on Cottage #2 are being finished and Zemlijak Excavating is doing the backfill with the plumbers getting they're piping in. Should be ready for a slab pour the week after next. Cottage #3 should have the footings poured week after next, then Phillips Concrete will work on constructing the foundation walls. Cottage #4 has the footings dug and are ready for the footings to be built and then poured.

Zemlijak Excavating now have the cement man holes and cement pipe for the storm sewer. It's quite a sight to see them put it in. Lots of digging, setting everything to the proper grade and then getting it all buried.

Another big happening was Northwest Energy bringing underground power to the site this week. It'll take about six to eight weeks for the switch gear to arrive and then electricity will be used by the contractors during construction and will be brought to each building when ready.

One of Mike Ascherman's duties besides coordinating the different phases of the construction process so things work smoothly between all the contractors working on our Vet Home Site, is doing a "walk-through" with the inspectors, Project Engineer and the Project Architect. Those folk's responsibility is to check and see things are being built to code and according to the designed plans. They have a lot of power and can shut a job down if things aren't according to Hoyle. Mike said every one's happy with all aspects of the construction process so far. He also said when a job goes well from the beginning it usually continues that way to the end. It's been a positive process from the start, which is a tribute to all those working on our Vet Home Construction Site.

Until next week, enjoy our fast disappearing summer and visit the "Viewing Hooch". Take care.