

Southwest Montana Veteran's Home. Update #21

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you, the Veterans/Counties/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 write this update I'm sitting in our "Cook Tent" at Hunting Camp on the West Fork of the Madison River. We set up camp yesterday (Friday) which was a nice balmy day but today is a snowy day with temperatures dropping. Makes me wonder how the weather in Butte is and it's affect on the construction work at our Vet Home site this coming week.

I called Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman on Thursday afternoon before I left to get the construction update on our Vet home site. It's exciting to see the continued progress and as always I appreciate Mike's breakdown on the work being done there.

The Community Center Building is a center of activity. The carpenters have built a jig on the ground, to build the roof gable for the west end of the Community Building. Constructing this roof section on the ground is much safer than doing it in the air. Once built, it will be lifted into place by a Construction Crane followed by the rest of the roof trusses and roof gable ends. Included is the drive through overhang roof, where, once building is completed, vehicles will drive under this to drop off passengers, etc. Once these are in place, the roof sheeting will then be nailed over this, followed by roofing paper and asphalt shingles. This will allow working inside, in a drier environment. It will also allow the other speciality contractors to do the finish work, which will be considerable, before it's ready for occupancy. This building will be the first one completed and will set the standard for the rest being built. Exciting!!

Cottage #1 is booming with construction activity. Exterior walls are up and interior walls are well on the way to being completed. The Roof trusses are ordered so it's safe to assume that Cottage #1 will see roofing take place in two or three weeks.

Cottage #2 is ready to frame as soon as Cottage #1's interior framing is completed and that construction crew can move over to it. Some of the walls are built and laying on the floor, ready to be stood-up for the exterior walls.

Cottage #3 is quiet for now waiting for the framing on Cottage #2 to be completed.

Cottage #4 had the slab floor poured and is now quiet like Cottage #3

Cottage #5 should have the "Interior Foundation Walls" completed about the time this article comes out for your reading. This will see the completion of "Phillips Concrete's" work on our Veteran Home Construction Site. Many thanks to them from the "Veteran Community", for a job well done. The work will continue on this last Cottage #5, in completing the steps it takes to get to this "last" slab floor concrete pour. The weather is now a definite factor, so we'll pray it can be done without too much trouble.

The SW Mt Veteran's Home Liaison position should be filled within a week or so. This will a big plus for the Veterans. We'll let you know whom that is when we find out.

The "Viewing Hooch" has been insulated and the wall sheeting put in place. This has happened just in time considering the weather we're having. The coffee table is back in place and ready for you to make and have a cup or two.

From our Hunting Camp on the West Fork Of the Madison, I'll close for now and hope you stay warm. Until next time.