

Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #37

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW MT., who are the organizers and chief supporters of the SW MT. Veterans home.

If you haven't seen our SW MT Vet Home in the last week or so, you're in for a new look taking place out there, as I will explain, shortly. The weather has been cooler and with flu season upon us, the work crews have been smaller, with some of the guys calling in sick. This hurts the progress of our Vet Home, for sure, when 5 or 6 workers are missing from the daily work force. Hopefully these folks will get well and stay well. In spite of having a lean work force this past week, things are moving forward. Talking with **Site Superintend Mike Ascheman** and **Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka** is always a positive and an appreciated experience. Between them, progress on our Vet Home, is on the move.

Building Updates:

The Community Center; Exciting is the first word that comes to my mind when describing all that is going on, in this building. The "Lid" (Upper ceiling) is sheet rocked and the insulation blown between it and the rafters above it. It's seam joints, will be fire-taped and the walls will then be ready to be insulated and then sheet-rocked. Before this can happen, inspections by **Butte Silver Bow Building Inspectors** will have to take place. The Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical and Structural components of the walls/building, will have to pass these inspections before they can proceed with the wall insulation/sheetrock. **Mike Ascheman** said these different inspections will probably happen on different days, during the week.

Most of the windows are in, the carpenters are installing them, except for the big "Storefront/Picture Windows" which are being installed by **Butte Glass**. They have the big window frames, but are waiting for the glass to come in, at which time they'll be installed. The hope is the glass will be in this week or at the very latest, next week. These are the windows facing east, with the beautiful views of the **East Ridge of the Continental Divide**.

GF John Kotka, plans on installing all the "**metal door frames**" this week and there are a great number of them, both with-in the interior and around the exterior of this building. There are lot of sharp things about **GF John Kotka**, and a case in point, is that each metal door frame has a serial number on it, with the hinges on a particular side. John marks the door frame serial number, with a mark-o-lot, on the correct corresponding side of the "wooden door frame stud". he then also marks the correct side of this stud, where the hinges are supposed to be. This allows the installer to know exactly where that door frame is supposed to be and the correct side the hinges

are to be located on. This eliminates costly mistakes and saves time/money in the long run.

Suspended Ceilings will be installed by an outside contractor once the walls are sheet-rocked/taped/etc... This is very critical type of installation requiring rotating lasers to mark the same level elevations throughout the building. This assures the hanging suspended ceiling is the same elevation through-out the building. The area between the "Lid", the Suspended Ceiling and Walls is called the "Envelope". It's in this area, a lot of the mechanical/electrical/etc. can be installed and gotten to for maintenance/repair/etc... The suspended ceiling will have different types of material panels installed in it, depending on the location within the building. Some panels will be acoustic panels, some will be solid smooth panels and possibly other panel material.

The exterior of the building is ready for the installing of the foam board. This will be followed by the pre-finished concrete board siding. The timing of when, will depend on having most or all of the construction carpenters, being healthy and show up for work.

Cottage #1; Ready for the fire painting from the plate-line (top of the walls) up, to be done. **GF John Kota** doesn't plan to have few, if any, framers in this building, until all the roof trusses are rolled up on Cottage #3, as well as the interior walls. Once Cottage #3 is dried-in,

the big concentration will be on this Cottage, in getting all the pick-up framing done. Once this is done, the insulating and the "Lid" Sheet-rocking can take place and what's happening with the Community Center now, will continue here.

Site Superintendent Mike Ascherman will try to get some of the Sheetmetal workers/electricians working in this building, as things slowdown in the Community Building.

Cottage #2; Roofing is probably done at this point. Some pick-up framing, taking place, but for the most part, most of the carpenter framers are concentrating on Cottage #3.

Cottage #3; This is where most of the framer work is taking place. The Roof Trusses, as of this writing, are rolled up on or one both wings of the buildings. The rest should be rolled into place this week... Getting the roof sheeting nailed in place on top of the roof trusses, will be a big push as well as all the interior walls. Not having full work-crews, slowed things down, but hopefully that will improve. The roofers will move onto this roof and get the underlayment/shingles installed, now that they've got Cottage 2 completely finished.

The painters are on schedule to start doing the fire painting on the eaves/rafters/etc.

The **Bump-Outs (Bay Windows)** were framed and secured in place. This is important as the ends of the roof trusses are secured on top of these. All in all, things are looking impressive with Cottage #3 being pushed to the point of getting dried in.

Cottage #4; again, without having a full work crew, this Cottage was put on hold. **GF John Kotka** is going to try and have a couple of framers working here this week, who will start framing walls on the cement floor and once built, will be ready to be **raised/tipped** up on the exterior of this building. Eventually, once built, the walls will be **Tipped up as Mike Ascheman says or Raised up as John Kotka says.** It's interesting to hear the differences of terminology, within the same craft. It's all good and fun to tease them about it.

Cottage #5; On hold for a few weeks.

Our **Liaison Mark Gollinger** is getting applications coming in for veterans wanting to be residents of the SW Mt Vet Home. These applications go to the State and can't be looked at until a specified time frame ahead of the **Official Vet Home Opening.** (I believe it is three months). He's also been getting inquiries from folks who want to work at our Vet Home. Once the Operation Contract is awarded to a specific Company, then it will be that company who will take job applications/resumes and do the hiring.

The Southwest Montana Veteran Home Foundation is inviting anyone who wants to enter the Southwest Montana Veteran Home "LOGO Contest" to do so. The purpose of this is to create a visual identity of our Vet Home, by creating/designing an innovative/professional logo that will help promote the mission of our **Southwest Montana Veterans Home.** To enter this contest, **go to <https://dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/homelivingoptions/montanaveteranshomes/swmvh>.** This gives any of you with these types of artistic abilities, to be part of the spirit of our **SW MT VET HOME.** Also the Foundation is now able to accept donations, which will be used to provide the veteran residents with the comforts and activities above and beyond, what the contractor/state can provide. The very best environment that's possible for these resident veterans, is what this Foundation is all about. Each and every one of you are invited to be part of the Foundation, and will be received with open arms. Something to consider, for sure.

I'll bring this to a close for now, so until next week, take care.