

Southwest Montana Veterans Home Update #40

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 Veterans Home.

It continues to be gratifying to see the progress going on in the four buildings that are standing and being worked on, at our SW MT Vet Home Site. Mark Gollinger and I were very fortunate to walk through all these building, with Carpenter General Foreman John Kotka being our guide. His excitement in showing/explaining the things being done, by the different craftsmen, was catching to say the least. He's on top of everything and has a lot to keep track off. The weather has been on the mild side except for a few days of high wind. Being able to work inside these building, was the saving grace, on those windy days. I did get in contact with Site Construction Superintendent Mike Ascheman, who gave me a good overall assessment for work done this week and for what is to come in the next couple of weeks.

SW MT Vet Home Construction Update:

Community Center: Inside— The activity in this building was impressive, especially with the sheetrock (drywall) that was nailed to the wall studs. There's an incredible amount of sheetrock that needs to be hung. It really looks more and more finished as the sheetrock goes up. Some of the sheet rocked rooms, had the tape and mud applied to the sheetrock (Drywall) joints. Once finished, throughout the building, the painting can take place in the sequence that Superintendent Mike Ascheman, gives them the ok to do so. We continued on our walk through this building and saw see a lot of the HVAC (heating system) ductwork, hanging from the upper ceiling/support structures etc... Most of the insulation is done as well as the fire painting. All the metal door frames were installed except for two, which came in wrong and replacements are on the way. Storefront window systems are mostly installed with the glass entrance doors scheduled for installation this week.

Outside — The outside exterior wall's 3M Air Barrier peel and stick material is completely wrapped around this building, as well as the blue foam insulation board, installed over that. The Carpenters were framing the outside soffits that go from the top of the walls to the edge of the overhanging edge of the roof. Mike Ascheman expected the siding contractors, from Great Falls, to be on the job site this week, to begin the siding process. Anxious to see the color as well as the overall finished look.

Cottage #1; Inside— This building, as GF John Kota explained, is where the big concentration of getting everything completed enough, to enable the Sheet Rock workers (Hangers) in to start hanging sheetrock. The "lid" which is the sheetrock nailed to the bottom of the roof trusses, will be the first order of business, for them. The other important part of the construction is having the man-lift sub-contractor, install the man-lift tracks in each of the resident rooms. (Hopefully next week for sure). The fire painting is completely done. The shower and bath backing are completely framed in. (Big Job!!) The electricians are all over this building, getting their rough-in wiring put in the walls/ceiling/outside/etc... Mike Ascheman and John Kotka both said that the big push is to get the different building construction sequences completed, so what's happening at the Community Center Building, can also happen here. **Outside**— With all the outside framing pretty well done, the 3M Air Barrier, peel and stick material is being wrapped around this building. As was said in previous articles, once this material is applied, then the blue foam insulation board is installed over that, followed by the window installation. We could feel GF John Kotka's enthusiastic, concentrated all out push, in getting all the Cottage #1 framing completed. It is happening, as we were privileged witness.

Cottage #2; Inside— This building is going to see more framers and electricians moving from Cottage #1 to here as #1 gets completed. The big push from #1 will continue to Cottage #2, then to Cottage #3 and so on.. With GF John Kotka leading the way, talking a mile a minute on all the going ons, you could feel the momentum of this construction, leaping forward. The fire painting is complete. The never-ending framing of the blocking and the bathroom backing is ongoing. The roofing is completely finished. Next week will probably see big and busy things happening here.

Cottage #3; Inside — Not many framers working here as the big push is on #1& #2. The framers that are working here are working on the seemingly, continuous work of blocking and backing. The plumbers are doing the in-wall plumbing/vents/etc... **Outside** — The roof with the roof sheeting is done except for the Gable Entry Framing. Site Superintendent Mike Ascheman is pushing to get the roofers on these roofs this week. Once the roofing underlayment is down, and then the shingles, this building can be dried in, which then enables some of the other tradesmen to come in and do their particular inside work.

Cottage #4; With the high winds of last week and the big push on Cottage #1 and #2, it was hard to justify having anyone working on this building, this past week. GF John Kotka intends to have a couple of framers here this week, building window and door headers, followed by some wall framing. Seeing walls standing on this Cottage is probably a few weeks out.

Cottage #5; Things are on hold here for now, although GF John Kotka wants to start snapping wall lines on the floor if he can find the time.

Our SW MT Vet Home Liaison Mark Gollinger was busy with his Drone Operator friend on Saturday. They flew the drone over our SW MT Vet home construction site, so check out our SW MT Vet Home web site and see the "from the sky views". That Web Site is **[SWMVH.MT.GOV](https://dphhs.mt.gov)**. Remember the **SW MT VET HOME LOGO CONTEST** and design and submit a Logo for our vet home. The address is:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/homelivingoptions/montanaveteranshomes/swmvh> .The Southwest Montana Veterans Home Foundation is working on ideas and are looking forward to our Veteran Home opening so we can take action in helping our future resident veterans. Our meetings are always the first Monday of the month at the new American Legion Hall on Winn Ave. Come at 12:00 and have a little lunch and the meeting is at 1:00.

Until next time, take care.