

# Southwest Montana Veteran's Home. Update #64

By Mike Lawson

Greetings once again to you, the Veterans/Communities/Counties of SW MT who are the organizers and supporters of the SW MT Veteran's Home.

The best way for me to express what's happening on our Vet Home Site is the word "EXCITEMENT". Seeing the pieces of the puzzle of this Veteran Home Construction Site coming together is literally pure excitement for anyone that's been involved with this dream veteran home for the past 10 plus years. In reality, rather you just came on board then or just recently, it's exciting. Things have been done and continue to be, inside these buildings that consist mainly of the Cottages, the Community Center and Maintenance/Receiving building. The big thing happening in this summer weather, is the tremendous amount of outside project work, that can easily be seen from outside the gate/fence on Blacktail Loop Road. Drive by and check it out. More will be said about that, later in this article. I am very fortunate to get a weekly inside report from my go-to-guys Mike Ascherman and John Kotka. I also do a weekly walk-through with Liaison Mark Gollinger and get that "see is what you get" experience. Those three sources are what the "backbone" of what these weekly updates are all about.

## Construction Updates:

**Community Center — Interior:** Walking into this building, we walked on vinyl flooring in the entryway and front hallway. This flooring installation will continue for a couple more weeks. All the toilets were set in the four bathrooms with the Plumbers continuing to install the sinks and urinal this week. The soap/paper towel dispensers and bathroom accessories will also continue to be installed. The wallpaper in the Community Room has been hung. The accordion-divider-door that folds into the wall when not in use has been hung. The back-ordered doors have arrived on site and will be installed with hardware this week.

**Exterior:** The Entryway Portico Driveway cement pad was poured by R&K Concrete. This was a big pour and now they're putting in curb forms, going to this Portico Driveway pad. This curbing should have a cement pour done this week. The work in this area has prevented the Siders from working on the unfinished siding here. They would like to get this buildings siding wrapped up this week or next.

**Cottage #1 — Interior:** The Tile-layers have all the bathroom floors tiled and are continuing to tile the walls and showers. Remember that's 12 resident room bathrooms, the main building's restroom and the spa area. The Carpenters are continuing the window trim and installing door jams. They're also working on the front entry soffit framing and getting things to the point of finishing the columns there. The Sheetmetal guys are installing ductwork grills and finish HVAC trim-out work. A small amount of catch-up taping/painting is taking place. Butte Glass was installing glass in the entryway as well as other locations on the exterior of this Cottage.

**Cottage #2 — Interior:** The Sheetmetal/Plumbers continue on their rough-in work. The sheet rockers are doing a lot of fire-taping above the ceilings, which when done will allow for the T-Bar metal seismograph ceiling frame-work to be installed. This will then allow the sheetrock to be installed to this framework. Dean the control guy was installing low-voltage wiring that will be wired into the controls that are controlling all the Mechanical parts of this building (heating, air-conditioning, etc.). All the ceiling man-lift hardware was installed, which allows the sheet-rockers to install their sheetrock around them.

**Exterior:** Little bit of siding left to do. Butte Glass was installing glass on the exterior of this cottage.

**Cottage #3 —Interior:** The Sheet-rockers are sheet-rocking the bathroom seismograph metal ceiling framework. The Plumbers and Sheetmetal Guys continue working on their rough-in work.

**Exterior:** Siding trim-work continues. Butte Glass was installing glass in exterior doors and windows.

**Cottage #4 —Interior:** The Plumbers, Sheetmetal and Electricians are doing ongoing rough-in work. Dean, the Control guy continues to do Control installation. The fire sprinkler guys are continuing to do sprinkler rough-in. The insulation of the piping/ductwork continues.

**Exterior:** The Carpenters are working on the front entry soffit. The Siders are starting to put siding trim on.

**Cottage #5:** pretty much at a standstill for the time being. Some rough-in work going on but not much.

**Maintenance/Receiving Building:** Exterior man-doors were installed.

**Site-work:** Zemljak continues to prep the gravel bases for the curbs and gutters, staying ahead of R&K Concrete. The Electricians finished site-light concrete bases, continue to pull wire as well as work on the gears for the electrical transformer in the electrical vault building. Northwest Energy set the main transformer and wired it. This is a big deal as now all the buildings can have electricity turned on to them for lights, appliances and all the mechanical devices, etc.. The Carpenters are framing the walls for the Electrical Shed and will follow this up with the roof trusses and roofing plywood sheets.

With everything happening on site, most of the parking is outside the fence. These next 3 or 4 weeks are going to be a huge time of visual changes for this site. Make a point to drive by on a weekly basis to see this happen. Remember the visitors “Hooch” is open with packaged goodies to sample, if you like.

With this Covid-19 causing society to refigure how we live and act, to protect each other, our Vet Home will be affected in some ways, I’m sure. The Grand Opening and how that’s going to look, is of great concern. Hopefully this virus will be in a more controlled status by then. The most important thing is the safety of our resident veterans who will be there. It’s a few months away so it’ll be a “wait and see” as to how the Covid-19 situation is at that time. Let us all follow the safety guidelines our Health Officials recommend and hopefully we’ll keep our health intact. I truly believe we’ll come through this. Until next time.