



Monday, June 14, 2010

Living life to the fullest

Clatsop Care Center facility has all the right characteristics

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Anyone who struggles to find appropriate residential care for themselves or relatives will celebrate last week's news of a fantastic new Clatsop Care Center facility at Mill Pond Village.

In a time when demographic trends are leading inexorably to a vast increase in the number of senior citizens, it is essential that all communities create safe, affordable, comfortable housing options for people who need varying degrees of help with daily living.

Astoria's planned Innovative and Memory Care Residence complex is an ideal start toward meeting the needs of people with dementia or traumatic brain injuries, along with those who are physically heavy and thus difficult to serve in less-specialized facilities.

This pilot project for the state of Oregon will be much studied to see whether a community can leverage its resources to do right by neighbors in need of special help. It is guided by a particularly appealing philosophy. In the words of the health district's boss: "They won't be playing bingo. They'll be living life: baking cookies, peeling potatoes, folding laundry."

Living life to the fullest is all that any of us can ask for, at any age or state of health. Clatsop Care is to be commended for giving folks the boost they need to do so.

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