

PRESS RELEASE – July 13, 2009

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HAINES ASSISTED LIVING ON TRACK FOR FALL OPENING:

Haines Assisted Living is on track for a Fall opening at Union and Third in Haines. Contractor Dawson Construction is completing interior finish work on the residence. Delivery and installation of flooring, appliances and finished cabinetry will occur through August, as will the remaining site, drainage and exterior building work.

Haines Assisted Living's mission is to assist our seniors in continuing to live with purpose, meaning and happiness by providing a healthy, active, connected, relationship based community with the best care possible, given the extraordinary resources available in Haines.

The guiding philosophy of the organization is to help residents to be as active and independent as they desire and are able. Residents will have a role in directing the residence through a board of directors and will be encouraged to participate in the activities they are used to participating in, such as food preparation, hobbies, music, and regularly scheduled outings and activities. The balancing of risk involved with greater resident independence is largely offset by the technology, residence design, and trained/prepared staff.

Installation of a cutting edge system for tracking of resident services and managing care, the Care System by Advanced Process Solutions, will be installed at the end of August. The system includes a variety of features to assist residents, from automatically opening the right resident door without a key and allowing immediate calls for assistance anywhere in the area with the push of a button, to allowing family members to go online and check on the status and services provided to their loved one. State licensing inspections will occur once the building is completed. Barring any unforeseen licensing issues, common furnishings should be in place and the residence ready for move-in by the end of September.

Haines Assisted Living will host a "Community Walkthrough" in late August or early September; please watch for notices of this event.

Each apartment has a separate living area, bedroom and bathroom. A "main street" design leads residents to common areas and kitchen. Haines Assisted Living will provide 24-hour care for residents who need assistance with activities of daily living. A



chef will prepare daily meals and personal assistants working around the clock will assist residents with other daily tasks such as transfers, walking, and other activities as needed.

Although not a “skilled nursing facility,” Haines Assisted Living will have a contracted Nurse on-site more than two hours per day. Provided by SEARHC, the nurse will oversee all health related issues and will work closely with Haines Assisted Living staff and the residents’ regular healthcare providers. Since there is not a Nurse on-site 24 hours a day, persons needing 24 hour nursing assistance, such as those with serious ongoing medical issues, will need a higher level of care than can be provided at Haines Assisted Living. The level of care needed is identified in the assessment process, now underway with potential residents.

Five staff attended 3 and 4-week on-site training sessions at EliteCARE in Oregon, which successfully operates under an active, resident-directed philosophy. Administrator/Community Manager, Vince Hansen, who attended the training, is also a Certified Nurse’s Aide. Mr. Hansen and four other staff learned the key elements of the EliteCARE service philosophy, participated in developing and cooking exceptional menus, became familiar with residence features, used the CARE technology system and practiced care and activity techniques; all done to reinforce a sense of belonging, influence and purpose in each of the residents.

The community of Haines will have a large part to play in helping to make the residence central to the community. The community has already played a significant role in the development and in the funding of the project. Active involvement is expected to continue through volunteer participation in the daily lives of residents.

In addition to over one-half million dollars in local individual and business donations, the project is funded by the Denali Commission (through AHFC), the Rasmuson Foundation and the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded an additional \$1 million dollars for five senior independent living units to be constructed adjacent to the current building. Completion of that portion of the project (St. Lucy’s Senior Living) is expected in late Fall of 2010.

Haines Assisted Living is working with applicants for residency on a first come, first serve basis. Many interested individuals and couples have submitted applications for the 8 apartments over the last two years, but additional applications are encouraged both because not all wait list applicants are ready for a September move-in and being placed on the wait list ensures future priority.

For more information, contact Haines Assisted Living at 766-3616. Visit the Haines Assisted Living website http://hainesassistedliving.org/contact_us.html for easy access to Placement Application and Rates & Services.

