



Forest Grove's Jennings McCall adds memory care services for residents with dementia

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on July 09, 2013 at 5:18 PM

The new 14-bed memory care living wing at **Jennings McCall Center** will allow the retirement community to provide specialized care for residents with dementia and Alzheimer's.

The wing is located in the existing assisted living facility and has been updated with new flooring, walls, decor and furniture. The memory care area will also be higher security than the rest of the center, with staff on hand to keep residents safe.

"This will help with the ones that wander," said Tina Purdy, a spokeswoman for Jennings McCall.

Planning for a memory care wing has been in the works for about a year and construction started in January. The new facility will not have much of an impact on the number of residents at the center – 212 at the moment, which is about 90 percent of the center's capacity, Purdy said. There are nine people currently living in memory care, leaving five open beds.

The center will bring on 10 new staff members. All caregivers at the memory care facility will be specially trained to work with Alzheimer's and other dementia patients, Purdy said. It's a service that is in high demand for the country's large aging population, she added.

Though memory care is new at Jennings McCall, the retirement center has been a staple in the community for the better part of a century. The **Masonic Grand Lodge** started a Lifecare program in 1922, where people could turn over all of their assets to the lodge in return for lifelong care. The Lifecare program expanded in 1989 with the construction of a new independent living retirement community, now Jennings McCall. Assisted living services were added in 1993.

All of the center's services, from independent retirement living to assisted living and memory care, are designed to let people "age in place" rather than move to specialized care facilities as their health deteriorates, Purdy said.

"It's a transition down the hallway rather than out of the community," she said.

Memory care is also provided at The Garden Enhanced Care Community and **Hawthorne House** in Forest

If You Go

What: Jennings McCall Memory Care Living ribbon cutting

When: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 12

Where: Jennings McCall Center, 2300 Masonic Way

Grove.

--Kari Bray

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