

Our population is aging.

As individuals age, their housing needs also change. Many individuals age sixty and beyond prefer to live in single level homes where they do not need to negotiate stairs.

Accidents involving stairs can often lead to injuries such as broken bones. My own mother suffered a fall on a single step at age 67. She died less than a year later as a result of complications from the fall.

Small narrow lots with multiple level housing are not conducive to meeting the needs of this increasingly larger segment of our society.

Oregon State Goal 10, OAR 660-015 000(10), discusses the need to provide for the housing needs of the citizens of the state.

If we are to meet the needs of our citizens, we must begin to understand those needs. It is time to determine the needs of our citizens and stop trying to meet the needs of Metro, The Oregon Home Builders Association and local developers.

I purchased a home on Hazelgrove Drive in 1996 for primarily two reasons. First it was a single family home and secondly it was only a four block walk to the Tri-Met bus stop. Tri-Met has dropped the bus service in favor of building a light rail line to Milwaukie. The home I bought is located very close to McLoughlin Elementary School and thus I anticipated that my neighbors would be mostly families with young children. After moving in, I learned that was not the case. Most homes in my area are occupied by owners age 60 and beyond.

If I walk two blocks from my home in one direction and one block in the opposite direction you will count 32 homes in total. Eight of them are two story and the other 24 of them are one story. The vast majority of these homes are owned by individuals past the age of sixty.

My neighbor next door recently told me that a woman whom he did not know, came to his home and rang his doorbell. When he answered, she asked him if he would be willing to sell his home to her as she wished to buy a single level home and was unable to find any in a nice neighborhood like ours.

Respectfully submitted by
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