



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 10 April 2006



Remember when your best
friend lived right next door?

CoHo Groundbreaking...“The End of the Beginning” And “The Beginning of the End”



Tuesday, April 18th, 2006 was a day of many “firsts” for CoHo Cohousing...

- ...the first opportunity to meet and thank many of the folks behind the scenes who have been helping CoHo become a reality,
- ...the first tours of our Common House,
- ...the first “welcome” visits from several neighbors,
- ...the first community meal in our shared dining room, and
- ...the first pizza delivery to our community!

Our groundbreaking marked the **“End of the Beginning”** pre-construction phase of CoHo development. Years of work via countless meetings, brainstorming sessions, annexation efforts, presentations to and supportive votes by the City Planning Commission, emails, information booths, parades, phone calls, potlucks and consensus decisions brought CoHo to this special day of celebration.



Officials (including the Corvallis mayor shown at left) shared their congratulations for the contributions of many individuals, organizations, and government agencies. Joining in the celebration were all three Benton County Commissioners, two city council members, the previous and current state representatives, a previous state senator, two representatives from the State Office of Housing (a major source of special funding for income-eligible households statewide), and a representative from our construction loan provider Key Bank.

Gold-bladed shovels were used to turn the earth. In the initial wave of honored shovelers, CoHo was represented by Bonnie Wald, who will be living in our HomeLife unit and the Cravens—Greg and Jodi, with their daughters Katie and Alex.



Then everyone got a chance to “dig in.” Our community gardeners were no doubt keeping tabs on a couple of youthful diggers who could be talented recruits for tilling the CoHo garden plot.

Visitors were given tours of the Common House. The rooms were outlined with colorful tape and signs to provide the framework for visitors' imagination as they toured our pantry, kitchen, dining room, living room, rec room, kids room, music room, octagonal entry, and bathrooms.



After the formal festivities, CoHo members and Friends of CoHo rallied for a very memorable event—the first community meal in our dining room. Our non-verbal “applause” (wiggling fingers!) was captured in this photo by Ken high atop a 10-foot orchard ladder (see his shadow?). Folks feasted on potluck

salads and another “first” for CoHo—pizza delivered to our “door.”



Our groundbreaking also marked “**The Beginning of the End**”—the construction phase of the project, when earth will be moved in much larger quantities, buildings will begin to take shape, and the reality of CoHo Cohousing will be much more visible.



Of course, the end of construction will mark another “**New Beginning**”—the time when CoHo members will move in and become next-door neighbors. At that point, their physical proximity will match the neighborly closeness they currently enjoy as members of a close-knit caring community.

Photographers were spotted high and low at our groundbreaking. If "a picture is worth a thousand words," then the thousand or so pictures taken at the groundbreaking will speak volumes.



It seems only fitting to let the photos tell the rest of the story.... Please visit the [Photo Albums](#) page on our website for many, many more photos of this wonderful celebration.



Welcome Weekend Saturday/Sunday May 6/7

Local and out-of-town visitors are invited to join us for a presentation, walk on the land, social events, and a community meeting. For details, visit our [website](#).



Is it time to make your dream of living in community come true?

The clock is striking 11, marking the time that 11 homes are still available in CoHo!

This clock is on the Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis. Built in 1889, it is the oldest active courthouse in the state of Oregon.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

Website: <http://www.cohousing-corvallis.com/index.shtml>

Email: info@cohousing-corvallis.com (answered by [Mike Volpe](#)) (seated)

Phone: [Juva DuBoise](#) @ 541-908-5882 (plaid shirt)

[Susan Hyne](#) @ 541-753-4453 (blue sweatshirt)

Photo: Work crew marking the Common House for the groundbreaking celebration



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