



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 18 June 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

D&D (aka Design and Development Committee) and Interiors Subcommittee

CoHo's "get it built" committee tackles a wide range of tasks. They are often spotted poring over architectural drawings, deciphering codes, and making voluminous notes. D&Ders are fluent in construction-speak, a weird dialect spoken by folks with tape measures hanging out their pockets. They even know the meanings of stuff like FSC, ETO, ECM, BETC, and GMP! D&D members evaluate many complicated construction options and present coherent, actionable lists to the community for review, for which the construction novices in the community are very grateful.



As we approach the actual start of construction this summer, they will be interfacing even more with our contractor, [Fortis Construction](#), to develop a change management process, a construction site visitation protocol, a waste management program and a photo documentation program. Plus, D&D is the keeper of a long list of community sweat equity projects the community can tackle in the future to make our shared space even more usable and enjoyable.

The overall D&D effort is coordinated by CoHo founder and project manager, Bruce Hecht. Before taking on the challenge of organizing a cohousing community, Bruce was a construction project manager for Hewlett-Packard. D&D also works closely with Lisa Petterson, the architect assigned to CoHo by [SERA Architects](#) (shown in photo below at right wearing a red sweater).

The Interiors Subcommittee of D&D

was charged with selecting the basic interior finishes for the units and the Common House. They shared samples with the community to get agreement on the default choices. Owners may select upgrades of some finishes. The subcommittee also donned special 3-D glasses for a field trip around Corvallis to evaluate lighting options.



3-D glasses give folks a unique rainbow view of the light spectrum.

And the *TRUE STORY* of the “Fishy” Tale is...

In last week's newsletter, readers were challenged to detect the *TRUE STORY* of the origin of the CoHo Cohousing name from three possibilities.

See the bottom of this newsletter for the answer.



#1 Community members were at a retreat at the ocean and went out for dinner. Someone teased the vegetarians in the group about saying “no-no to co-ho (salmon)”, and one replied “But I'd say YES to CoHo Cohousing!” The group erupted in laughter and decided to adopt the CoHo name for the community.

#2 At an early community meeting, one member said “Let's use the name CoHo—like the coho salmon, as a symbol for a healthier relationship with the environment” and the rest of the community (all three households) said, with a distinctive Corvallis drawl, “Yesirreeee.”

#3 Community members were playing a game rearranging the letters in words to make new words. “Cohousing” became “Coho U Sing”. Folks liked the reference to harmony, so adopted the CoHo name by consensus (this was the group's first consensus decision).

Bike Trip to Site

In [issue 7 of our newsletter](#), there was an article about taking the bus to the CoHo site. This companion piece about biking to CoHo was prompted by the delicious sunny skies this spring.



Riders started from the Farmers Market in downtown Corvallis at Riverfront Commemorative Park. Taking the bike path south along the river, riders passed the skate park and went under the overpass and over the river, emerging north of the [First Alternative Food Coop](#).



At the next intersection (Crystal Lake Drive), riders turned east, switched to the bike lane in the street and finished a leisurely ride to the CoHo site.



vegetarian potluck).

The CoHo biking brigade then retraced their path back to Highway 99 (aka 3rd Street) and headed straight across for a midday lunch stop at Avery Park (the site of our [July 8th Welcome Weekend](#)



After a picnic (including strawberries from a CoHo u-pick jaunt the day before), folks headed home from the park, so exact times on biking to CoHo weren't tracked. For most trips, CoHo is literally only minutes away by bike. And when our bikes aren't out and about, they'll be happily nestled in our [HUGE bike barn](#).

Member Close-Up - Mardi

In a sociology class, Mardi was given the assignment to design "the ideal living arrangement." Her model looked a lot like—cohousing! She was delighted to discover CoHo when she moved to Corvallis from California.

Since joining the community in August, 2005, Mardi has served as our Secretary*, Marketing Committee member, Finance Committee member, Tech Team member, and webmaster. Mardi is the creative force behind many marketing efforts, including a display at the library and some of the materials at our booths (Farmers Market, Earth Fair, daVinci Days, etc.).



Mardi is proudly displaying her FIRST quilt—made with fabrics she hand dyed. Mardi is coordinating CoHo's first quilt which features hand prints of members.

(*If you are carefully reading Member Bios, you'll see that Dave and Anne have also served as Secretary. This challenging assignment is rotated, along with other positions in CoHo.)

July Welcome Weekend

If you'd like to check out CoHo "up close and personal," come to our July Welcome Weekend featuring several fun episodes—presentation (Q&A), vegetarian potluck at Avery Park, brunch, land walk, and a community meeting. We are eager to share the CoHo dream with local and out-of-town folks who share our values. Please contact Juva or Susan to RSVP so we know how many visitors will be hosting and can also let you know of any last-minute change in plans.



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

The clock is striking 8, marking the time that 8 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: cohocontact@cohousing-corvallis.com

Phone: Juva DuBoise @ 541-908-5882 →

Susan Hyne @ 541-753-4453 →



Juva's hand and Susan's hand for the CoHo hands quilt

Click HERE to read issues of previous newsletters on our website

And the *TRUE STORY* behind the "Fishy" Tale is...#2