



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
Corvallis, Oregon

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Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

The Path to CoHo

How did folks find their way to CoHo? What paths did they see or create? How long did their journey take?

A good place to start this tale is with the couple that started CoHo cohousing. Several years ago, Judy and Bruce visited Lost Valley, an intentional community near Eugene. Judy chatted with another visitor, confiding her doubts about living in a community where there seemed to be so little privacy. The woman replied—"Oh, what you want is cohousing." That comment was the "seed" from which CoHo Cohousing grew.



The cohousing seed was planted with Anne years ago in California, but it took awhile to sprout. She was a self-described "lurker" on our public list serv for over a year before she attended a community meeting. Her first "real person" CoHo contact was Juva. Anne remembered being intrigued by Juva's "finger labyrinth."



Juva was greeting folks at the CoHo booth at Farmer's Market in the summer of 2005 when Mardi appeared. She'd read about CoHo at the time of the annexation drive in late 2004, so was curious to learn more. She went to a community meeting the next night and joined the membership queue. As CoHo's webmaster, she has expanded and updated this wonderful resource, creating a lush path for the "web-savvy."



Susan's path started on-line with a quiz on www.bestplaces.net which tallied preferences on city features, such as size, transportation, weather, and educational level of residents. When the top choices came up Corvallis and Eugene, her next stop was www.cohousing.org to see if there were cohousing projects in those cities. Then the CoHo website rounded out the picture. After visiting Corvallis for three weeks in the summer of 2005, attending lots of CoHo meetings, and getting to know folks, she committed to CoHo and moved to Corvallis in the fall. Mike was Susan's initial CoHo contact, first by email and then by phone.





Mike first heard about CoHo through a friend at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Shortly after he started to attend community meetings, there was a "freeze" on accepting new members as the number of units at that time was only 24. When the units expanded to 34, new members were once again accepted and Mike joined immediately. Richard was Mike's buddy, and...



...Richard also became Peter's buddy. Peter was literally driving by the CoHo site with a realtor, looking for a home to purchase in Corvallis. When the realtor mentioned that the property at Crystal Lake and Alexander was slated for a cohousing project, Peter shifted into high gear. With hours, he connected with CoHo folks and within days he had attended several CoHo meetings and submitted his membership application. Within a few weeks, he became a member of CoHo.



While Peter was driving by the CoHo site, Stacey, Andy and Caleb were nearby in Willamette Park playing ultimate frisbee with a CoHo member who wisely wore her "Ask me about cohousing" button. When Stacey said "Tell me about cohousing..." she set in motion a rapid chain of events. She browsed through our website, sent an email to info@cohousing-covallis.com, instantly got three replies which she said was "fabulous" and made her feel very welcome, followed by an email with about 10 events to attend to learn more about CoHo. Within three months, they were members. They shared their initial excitement with Joey and Dave.

Joey and Dave read Stacey and Andy's account of their CoHo adventure posted on their internet "live journal" and decided to check us out. They had all been friends in college and were now the proud parents of little ones. How exciting it would be to have their kids grow up as next-door neighbors! Joey, Dave and Aria came to the June Welcome Weekend by train, arriving 8 hours behind schedule. But they got caught up quickly, attended the rest of the Welcome Weekend events, joined the membership queue and became members.



Linda also traveled to CoHo by train for our Final Home Selection in February (fortunately, her train was NOT 8 hours late). She first heard about CoHo 3 years ago through a Corvallis friend. She went to a meeting, and then watched from her California home until the next spring. Linda's friend's contacts with CoHo were Bruce and Judy, which takes us back to the original path in this article and the realization that....

All paths lead to CoHo!! All paths lead to CoHo!! All paths lead to CoHo!!

Member Close-Up

Xochil joined CoHo in 2000, dropped out in 2001, and—luckily for us—rejoined in June 2003 when her desire for COMMUNITY! (cohousing style) was rekindled.

Xochil serves on the Finance Committee, tracks our finances as our Treasurer and bookkeeper, and contributes to our overall spunk and sass by working on our Wellness Retreats held each winter and summer.

Knitting is a favorite pastime, one she can easily share with CoHoots on those occasional Oregon rainy days when folks are enjoying good company and conversation in the Common House.

Xochil now works as a Spanish teacher and would like to expand the list of Spanish-speaking countries she has visited—Spain, Argentina, and Costa Rica are on her list. Another adventure awaits her much closer to home. Xochil's "secret dream" is to bicycle across the United States.



P&P Provides Plentiful Pockets of Planfulness

Newsletter readers have learned about CoHo's D&D and M&M Committees. Now it's time to hear about P&P, our paperwork people.

CoHo's P&P (aka Policies and Procedures) Committee provides overall coordination of CoHo's planning process. They are the folks with an eye on what needs to be done in CoHo. When they spot a need or a potential project, they can delegate to the appropriate committee, launch a subcommittee, or sometimes take on the task themselves, such as the generation of our Workshare Policy. They coordinated the development of our smoking policy and are now working on a Home Business Policy.



P&P's specialty is policy development, including research, discussion, consensus, formatting, launch, documentation, and review. They are now working on a new policy review schedule so CoHo can periodically refresh policies at certain intervals.

To encourage accurate documentation and project tracking, they set document standards, work with the archivist to store documents, and encourage the regular sharing of work plans by all committees at our community meetings.

They are also able to decipher and interpret our condo documents, bylaws, and other governing documents even though they are written in legalese.

The only irregularity about P&P is their meeting schedule. They are now alternating days, proving that once again, flexibility is a way of life in CoHo.



Two Homes Available in CoHo

Want to visit our site, see this sign in person and get a tour of CoHo's future home? Join us for a walk on the land on Sunday, August 13th at 1pm. See our Welcome Weekend schedule for more events. Please RSVP so we know how many visitors we will be hosting.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

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Email: cohocontact@cohousing-covallis.com

Phone: Juva DuBoise @ 541-908-5882 →

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Susan and Juva point the way
to the paths leading to CoHo!



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