



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 28 November 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Saving and Investing Your Time

Living in cohousing gives you some unique options for saving and investing your time...

- Reducing meal prep and clean-up time by sharing meals in the Common House several times a week
- carpooling, sharing errands, and "shopping" at the Common House pantry



- getting oriented to a new community by tapping CoHoots' network of contacts
- sharing chores with neighbors



- trading child care or pet care with your neighbors
- washing three loads at once in the Common House laundry
- calling on any of your neighbors for help in an emergency
- getting referrals, information, and tips by posting a message on community email
- enjoying activities with nibblings (neighborhood siblings) rather than driving to "play dates"
- commuting to meetings (the Common House is only seconds away!)
- enjoying more spontaneous, shorter socializing episodes (like a 17-minute birthday party)
- sharing or buying items collectively instead of purchasing, cleaning, storing, moving, and insuring lots of "things"



But what about all those meetings--where's the time savings? Meetings add time, but they are also an investment in 1) getting to know your neighbors, 2) learning transferable skills—nonviolent communication, collaboration, consensus, 3) becoming a stronger team, 4) decreasing the likelihood that solutions won't work (a real time waster!) due to lack of research or buy-in, and 5) efficiently "taking care of business" so there's more time for fun.



The "return on investment" you get with time spent and saved in cohousing is priceless. Having the "time of your life" is a reality in CoHo.

We're Saving a Place for You! (aka Top Ten Reasons to Join CoHo NOW)



Alex, Katie, Jodi, Greg, Louie and Jasper (and the rest of the CoHo family) are eagerly awaiting your arrival. There's a home available (symbolized by the empty chair on right) next to this incredible family. Greg and Jodi are looking forward to the village-like setting where they will be part of the CoHo extended family.

Alex (at right) is already bonding with her future neighbor, Anne, as she crawls up her torso to land a big smooch on Anne's cheek.



Sue, our newest member, is a self-employed graphic artist. She has reserved an upper two-bedroom flat and is happy to show her unit layout (complete with her furniture to scale!) to her new neighbor that chooses the two-bedroom flat still available in building 3. Sue wanted to live in CoHo, but didn't think she could afford it. Then she talked with CNHS. *"They were great! I discovered that their programs for income-eligible homebuyers make it possible for me to buy a home."*



Patricia (seated next to her future neighbor, Chaser) came to our July Welcome Weekend and writes *"I was impressed with what I saw and heard"* so she decided to complete the membership process even though no homes were available that met her needs. After a few weeks on the Waiting List, she was able to reserve a home that came open. She writes *"CoHo's values are close to mine, such as compassionate communication and sustainability. I am joyful about my pending move to Corvallis and being part of CoHo with like-minded people."* Patricia (and Chaser) are looking forward to greeting you.

So we're saving a place for you and hoping that one or more of the following Top Ten Reasons to Join CoHo NOW will bring you into our neighborhood...

- 10 You can attend our November 18-19th Welcome Weekend (it may be the very last one!) and get a good preview of CoHo in one short weekend.
- 9 You can delight us with your culinary talents at upcoming potlucks and community meals.
- 8 You can join the CoHo contingent in any Corvallis parade (you may have to negotiate who gets to be the tail in the CoHo "fish").
- 7 You can meet Bruce, our project manager and neighbor, before his hair turns TOTALLY gray.
- 6 You can enjoy the benefits of community living NOW, months before we actually move in as next-door neighbors (see Living in a Neighborhood of Neighborly Neighbors).
- 5 You can join a committee and learn to decipher our secret codes (P&P, M&M and D&D).
- 4 You can fulfill that perennial New Years Resolution to "create more community in my life!".
- 3 You can take part in our January 13th Wellness Retreat (a great opportunity for "bonding").
- 2 You can select upgrades to your home at the same time as the rest of your neighbors, which could mean more choices and greater discounts.
- 1 You can have the best chance at getting a home in CoHo now or in the future.

CoHo California Contingent

A two-day camping trip, plus a train ride to the beach, were the highlights of a September gathering at Henry Cowell State Park for California CoHoots Ted, Meredith, Mason, Jessica, Joey, Dave, Aria and friends (see Aria waving in the center of the photo at right).



Conversation and connection topped the list for Oregonian member Juva, when she visited her daughter and a friend in California in October, and also enjoyed dinner with Peter, John Jo and Elizabeth.



Jeremy is headed in the opposite direction (from California to Oregon) for a job interview in November. No doubt he will dazzle the interviewer with his experience as a mentor to young, eager trainees (aka daughters Shoshana and Rachel).

Corvallis Corner

From Pacific Power's Renewable Energy Update Forecast comes good news: "The Environmental Protection Agency has named **Corvallis, Oregon, the first green power community on the West Coast**. With residents, businesses, city government, Renewable Northwest Project and Pacific Power representatives working together, **Corvallis has become only the third community in the nation to earn this high honor**. In order to qualify, communities must purchase a percentage of their annual electricity usage from renewable energy."



Three Homes Available in CoHo

These three homes will be sold to income-eligible buyers (for some of the loan packages, you DON'T have to be a first-time homebuyer). For more info on income and asset criteria for a variety of loan packages, contact Brigetta at Corvallis Neighborhood Housing Services (CNHS) at 541-752-7220.

If you are NOT income-eligible, you are still encouraged to start the membership process and join our Waiting List. CoHo could have additional market-rate homes available in the next year.

These homes will be sold to folks who have stepped forward, joined our membership queue, completed the steps in 4 to 6 weeks and then joined our Waiting List. While they wait, folks are strongly encouraged to be active in CoHo, join committees and come to meetings, share social time and plan for CoHo's future.

What's Happening at our Site?



The color of the leaves isn't the only thing that's changing at the CoHo site! Check the week-to-week progress with photos on the "[Watch Us Build](#)" page on our website.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

Website: www.cohoecovillage.org
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[Susan Hyne @ 541-753-4453](tel:541-753-4453)

Jenny is showing her appreciation to Susan and Juva for spending time with her at the July Wellness Retreat



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Share this link with someone who may be interested in CoHo!

