



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 3 February 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Current Members Select Homes

When it came time for CoHo members to select their homes, you might think the emphasis would be on coHOUSING. But for CoHo members, the emphasis is on COhousing, the core commitment to living together in community.

CoHo members met for two afternoons in mid February to reaffirm their connections to each other and celebrate their future intentional neighborhood. And in the process, twenty-four households selected homes from the thirty-four units in the project.



As **Denny** and **Bruce** shared in their opening and project overview, CoHo members have successfully conquered many challenges and consistently found ways to move forward as a group. Using NVC (non-violent communication) as a model for communicating in a clear and caring way has enabled members to hear each other and work toward solutions that meet the needs of both individuals and the whole community.



The process of the two-day workshop was simple and interactive. Households individually shared their home selection preferences, needs/wants, and priorities. A frequent refrain was "what's most important to us is living in CoHo—the home is secondary."



Possible changes in home selection were reviewed to better meet members' needs for housing and affinities (affinities are building-dependent projects such as solar hot water). Members contemplating changes spent one last night thinking about options. At the second session the following afternoon, members shared their final decisions, and the group took a final look at overall satisfaction.



To celebrate our home selections, each household decorated and mounted a "front door" on our site map, to a chorus of "Welcome Home!" from the rest of the group. Bruce and Judy (photo at left) got a warm welcome with special appreciation for their efforts in launching CoHo seven years ago.



Photo at right: Jeremy holds cell phone so Steve (who couldn't attend the session) could hear his "Welcome Home!" greeting.



When Valerie gives CoHo talks to local groups, she is often asked "Is the community built yet?" She answers, "Yes it is. And construction on our homes starts this summer. Our community already exists in the friendships and partnerships between people, in our caring and sharing. We're neighbors who don't live next door to each other yet."



CoHo members eagerly welcome new COhousing neighbors who share their strong commitment to community, environmental sensitivity, and an extended family lifestyle. Two-, three-, and four-bedroom homes are available.

CoHo Welcome Weekend March 3-5, 2006

Meet us, get a project update, walk the land, smile and EAT!

Friday, 7pm, Cohousing—Creating an Old-Fashioned Neighborhood in a New Way

An overview and project update from members of CoHo Cohousing at the Corvallis Arts Center, 700 SW Madison (across from Central Park)



Saturday, 10:00am - **Walk the Land** (and stop at First Alternative Cooperative for a snack). Visit the 6.8 acre cohousing site at Crystal Lake Boulevard and Alexander. CoHo members will bring site maps to show the placement of our units, Common House, garden, and other shared community spaces.

Saturday, 5:30pm - **Vegetarian Potluck Social** at Karen's home, 1325 NW Alta Vista, 758-3347

Sunday, 11:00am - **Brunch** at New Morning Bakery, 219 SW 2nd

Sunday, 5:15pm, **Community Meeting**, Corvallis Neighborhood Housing Services, 257 SW Madison (above Albright & Raw Pharmacy at the corner of 3rd and Madison)

If you're visiting from out-of-town and have additional sites in Corvallis you'd like to see on your trip, let us know. For information on events or help with housing arrangements, contact the folks listed at the bottom of the newsletter.

	<p>The Old Oak on the CoHo site...</p> <p>in June (left) and in January (right)</p>	
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To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

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10 of 34 homes available