



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 31 February 2007



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Dreams Take Shape

For many years, CoHoots have shared a collective vision of how their shared neighborhood would look. That vision is now rapidly taking shape, with the most visible addition to our homes being walls and roofs. During scheduled site visits in January and February, CoHoots met with our architect and contractor to get closer views of our future homes.



Folks can track the construction progress via our website—check out the photos updated often on our [Watch Us Build](#) page.

The site tours gave CoHoots a chance to see more of the “green” features at this stage in the construction of our community.

A basic green feature that impacts both construction cost and energy cost is the design of the buildings themselves. Our multi-family structures will house 3 to 5 units per building. The shared roofs and walls mean fewer materials will be used in construction and less energy will be needed to heat the buildings.



Our radiant in-floor heating system is another energy saver. The radiant heating elements are embedded within 5” of concrete. Large south-facing windows also enhance passive solar heating.

CoHoots look forward to seeing more of our green features throughout the remainder of the construction process.

Watching Those Cracks

No, we're NOT referring to cracks in our foundations! Our new Coordinating Committee (CC), comprised of representatives from each of our main committees, makes sure that important tasks don't "fall through the cracks." With committees working full speed ahead on many projects, CoHo saw the need to coordinate efforts more closely. CC typically meets twice a month and does a check-in on the progress of all committees. Projects that need attention may be assigned. Projects that overlap between committees may be delegated to a short-term blended subcommittee.



The Coordinating Committee also serves as the primary communications link with our Project Manager, Bruce, so that he doesn't have to attend multiple committee meetings. With all points of view represented, CC is able to take quick action on issues needing input from the community in a short time frame.

Community Clean-Out Challenge (by Sue)

Count 'em up - there are only 12 more business meetings before September is upon us and folks will be moving into CoHo. With 34 families, and many CoHoots downsizing for the move, that translates into a lot of "stuff" to be sorted through, weeded out, disposed of, and packed up. A small band of members posed the question, "What if we simplified the process and started cleaning things out now?" Wow, what a thought! And that's how the "Clean-out Challenge" was born.



Beginning with a clothing swap at the January wellness retreat, and continuing at our twice-a-month business meetings, CoHo members have so far purged themselves of excess clothing, bathroom sundries, linens, and office/desk supplies. Items that don't get claimed by members are donated to local organizations (office/desk supplies went to Lincoln Elementary, just four blocks from CoHo). With each semi-weekly adventure, loads get lighter, others get to benefit from donation of the excess items, and the upcoming move begins to seem a little less daunting.

Three NVC Practice Groups Underway

Most local CoHoots have completed the 14-week NVC (nonviolent communication) training program offered by the community. A new member, Meta, brings much experience with NVC to the group and she is coleading three NVC practice groups with other CoHoots. The three groups focus on anger and harmony, anger and self-expression and empathy. Practice groups give folks an opportunity to enhance their NVC skills in a small-group setting over several months.



Interest in Meal Plan Design Is Rising

The success of many cohousing communities depends a great deal on one key “ingredient”—the meal plan. The Meal Plan SubSubCommittee (part of the Food Folks SubCommittee) has been meeting regularly to investigate meal plans at other communities, develop a “menu” of features, and request input from community members.

An initial open-ended question was posed to tap folks’ dreams--“Based on your knowledge, experience, and/or dreams, what do you think the basic outline of our meal plan should look like?”. Nancy’s comment, after reading the input, is evidence of her discerning palate—“We have a certain collective brilliance. Lots of thoughtful responses. I am impressed.”

A matrix of possible meal plan features was shared to give folks some basic topics to “chew on.” At a community meeting, folks were asked to line up along a continuum to show their “appetites” for options on different topics. To enable the meal planners to study the results more closely, Valerie eagerly hopped up a ladder and took photos. The preferences from out-of-towners calling



into the meeting were recorded for the photos by local CoHoots at the meeting holding up fingers.

Though the meal plan is still in the early discussion stages, the first line-ups revealed that CoHoots would like to eat together regularly, are willing to work (planning menus, setting up, cooking and cleaning), and support a simple meal pricing strategy.

CoHoots are planning a “real meal” for Saturday, April 21st to “get a taste” of what it will be like to enjoy a common meal prepared by a Meal Crew. Please RSVP to Anne at 541-974-1739 to join us.

Two Homes Available in CoHo

The two remaining 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 Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS) at 541-752-7220 or 800-403-0957.



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 prior to move-in.

If you’d like to meet CoHoots and explore the possibility of membership, join us for an orientation on Sunday, March 11th at 5:00pm, followed by a Meet & Greet with vegetarian potluck (with an Asian theme) at 6:00pm at 101 NW 23rd St (corner of Monroe and 23rd across from the OSU campus). **Please RSVP to Anne at 541-974-1739.**

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

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Anne, Mike and Juva agree that having four common meals a week sounds good!

Click [HERE](#) to read issues of previous newsletters on our website. Share this link with someone who may be interested in CoHo!

