



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 11 May 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Saying "YES" to Cohousing

CoHo has hosted several *Welcome Weekends* to encourage local and out-of-town visitors to meet us and potentially begin a 6-week membership process to see if they would like to join our community. For both visitors and community members, there is often the feel of "courtship blossoming into commitment."



(Photo: 4/1 group dinner)

A recent visitor at a CoHo Welcome Weekend asked—how do I make the decision about living in cohousing? What should I be asking? What really matters?



Cohousing membership is by self-selection, so the decision-making rests with the prospective member. How do you decide if life in cohousing is your "dream come true"? How do you know if partnership with a particular community is right for you? How do you feel about living in this city, in this neighborhood? When you think about meeting your future neighbors, are you anticipating "love at first sight" or a more gradual unfolding of deepening connection? Can you see yourself living in a particular home?

Well, there is no eharmony.com for selecting a cohousing community, but here's a simple framework to use (especially helpful for out-of-towners who have a short time to gather data and impressions during an on-site visit).

Zev Paiss in [The Cohousing Handbook](#) by Chris Hanson says that folks who end up living in cohousing are saying:

- Yes**, I want to live in cohousing
- Yes**, I want to live on this site
- Yes**, I want to live with these neighbors, and
- Yes**, I want to live in this unit

Yes, I want to live in cohousing

Excerpts from our *member bios* center on three themes why CoHo members said Yes! to living in cohousing. Notice which responses speak to you.

Sharing

"I see cohousing as a place where...my neighbors and I share more than just a street."

"I look forward to... sharing life's events and running with the pack of kids (ages 0 -100+)."

"Sharing resources just makes so much sense!"

"...much of the pleasure in life is not in owning and possessing, but in sharing."



Caring



"I'm looking to cohousing to be a 'village' for my family."

Cohousing "...seems to attract loving people with wonderful energies."

"I love the opportunity of experiencing the natural closeness that cohousing provides."

Living Sustainably

"I want to live in cohousing...because it is a more sustainable living solution for our planet."

"I am pleased to be a part of CoHo to have the joy of sharing in an environmentally concerned, non-violent community."

"I want to be part of something that is bigger and more important than I am...."



Yes, I want to live on this site

As with any home selection, an important variable for many folks is location, location, location—and with cohousing that includes state, city, and neighborhood. With 80+ built cohousing communities across North America, there are a range of choices.



Urban or rural. Large city or small town. Spacious neighborhood or compact enclave. University environment or down-home country living. New construction or retrofit. Cold or hot. Close to family or across a continent.

(Photo at left: part of 360° view from Mary's Peak, 30 minutes from Corvallis)

If your options are wide open, consider taking an on-line survey (www.bestplaces.net) to identify communities that match your preferences, then crosscheck to see if cohousing is already there. Or meander state-by-state through the community listings on www.cohousing.org. Visit cohousing community [websites](#). Go on [cohousing tours](#).



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

The clock is striking 10, marking the time that 10 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: info@cohousing-corvallis.com (answered by Mike Volpe) →

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Mike...



Juva...



and
Susan...

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watching
a parade
go by!

