



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 17 June 2006



Remember when your best
friend lived right next door?

From Water to Fish to Felines to...

Sometimes a project just comes together beautifully (CoHo comes to mind!) and one thing flows into the next. Hopefully, this newsletter will flow smoothly from a naturalist's view of Crystal Lake, to an intriguing contest on the origins of CoHo's name, to a view of the Membership Committee, to the introduction of two of our feline friends, to an announcement about our contractor, and, finally, to the one-of-a-kind photos of our First Responders at the end. Enjoy.

Crystal Lake by Judy Hecht

A little known fact of CoHo Cohousing is that it's actually on the shores of Crystal Lake. Well, on the bluff overlooking the lake, if you could see the lake through the undergrowth. It's more a big puddle and it's not crystal clear. No one seems to know how Crystal Lake got its name but it must have been from someone with a sense of humor.



Crystal Lake is actually a remnant channel of the Willamette that has been cut off from the river. Some people refer to it as an oxbow, although it lacks the classic oxbow crescent shape. If we were in Australia, we would call it a billabong. So although we don't have scenic lakefront property, we do have a wonderful wildlife habitat.



If you take the time to sit and observe you're likely to see wood ducks, mallards, great blue herons, and great egrets on the lake. Great horned owls and western screech owls may roost in the tall trees nearby. You're also likely to see bald eagles, turkey vultures, osprey, red-tailed hawk, northern flicker, red-breasted sapsuckers,

western wood-pewees, pacific-slope flycatchers, jays, crows, chickadees, bushtits, wrens, robins, sparrows, grosbeaks, and finches to name a few. In the lake you'll find carp, nutria, and beaver.

CoHo-ites look forward to observing the wildlife from the banks of the lake and helping to preserve this incredible natural resource.



Thanks to Don Boucher, the Neighborhood Naturalist, www.neighborhood-naturalist.com for the information on birding at Crystal Lake.

A "Fishy" Tale...

Tig says...
"YUM! That is
One BIG fish!"



Snowboots says...
"That's not a fish—
it's a whale.
Help!!!!!"

Many folks are curious how CoHo Cohousing got its name. Rather than just tell the tale, readers are asked to have a bit of fun and guess which version below is the **TRUE STORY**. Send your answers by email to susanhyne@msn.com by Sunday, June 18th at noon. Results will be published in our next newsletter.

- #1** Community members were at a retreat at the ocean and went out for dinner. Someone teased the vegetarians in the group about saying "no-no to co-ho (salmon)", and one replied "But I'd say YES to CoHo Cohousing!" The group erupted in laughter and decided to adopt the CoHo name for the community.
- #2** At an early community meeting, one member said "Let's use the name CoHo—like the coho salmon, as a symbol for a healthier relationship with the environment" and the rest of the community (all three households) said, with a distinctive Corvallis drawl, "Yesirreeeee."
- #3** Community members were playing a game rearranging the letters in words to make new words. "Cohousing" became "Coho U Sing". Folks liked the reference to harmony, so adopted the CoHo name by consensus (this was the group's first consensus decision).

M&M—the Second Half



Susan, Juva, Karen and Anne

The Marketing Committee (profiled in the last newsletter) helps folks find CoHo and the Membership Committee (the Second Half of M&M) helps folks get and stay connected to CoHo.

First Responders Juva and Susan greet folks who contact CoHo for information. If visitors decide to start our 4-6 week membership

process, the Membership Committee assists with paperwork, assigns a buddy, coordinates a clearness committee, and oversees home selection.



Jessica is a long-distance member of the committee.

To support and strengthen ongoing community connections, the Membership Committee also coordinates a variety of activities. A community directory is regularly updated and shared. Wellness Retreats are held twice a year to help members celebrate their connections to CoHo and to each other. When sensitive community issues require more time and deeper reflection, sharing circles are held; the focus is on expression of feelings and needs, not on problem-solving. The Membership Committee also sponsors potlucks, social events, and parties.

Contractor Chosen

Fortis Construction of Portland, Oregon has been selected as the CoHo contractor. Fortis is known as a team player, has worked with SERA (CoHo architect), and earned great reviews from previous clients. One of their Core Values is "Relationships: Life is too short. We want to work with and for people we respect, trust, and care about." We will no doubt get along "swimmingly."



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

The clock is striking 8, marking the time that 8 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

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