



COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

Sept/Oct 2006

Fire Department Calls for Volunteer Assistance

Good neighbors,

Have you felt that you don't want to fight fires but do want to do your part in supporting the CRFD? Now is your chance to step up and help us out. **The Fire Department urgently needs one or two people to take on a few regular maintenance tasks.** You would be required to keep the trucks washed and to keep the fire stations clean and tidy. We expect that a weekly or bi-weekly effort will keep the time investment manageable once a routine is established. We are seeking someone from the community to help with this task, as current volunteers are already fully committed. Please consider our request for assistance – if you are willing to commit, please call Lisa at 821-5479, or Teri at 482-3421. Even if you are not able to take on the entire job, we'd love to hear from you, as job-sharing might work out well also.

WE NEED YOU TO LEND A HAND !

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Kind friends and neighbors,

You may have seen the "For Sale" sign at the bottom of the driveway at 1192 Colestin Rd. and I wanted to take this opportunity to say a few words about why we are choosing to move and where we are going.

During the last year and a half our family has been working with a group of people to create the first Cohousing Community* in Ashland. In this project we have found ample opportunities for creativity, sharing and personal growth. Admittedly, a neighborhood of townhomes will be a big adjustment from the spaciousness afforded by living rurally, but we welcome the change and look forward to being less dependent on our car. We have yet to find the right people to buy our home, but we plan to keep looking so that we can be ready to move into our new home when its completed next summer. In the meantime, we continue to enjoy the Colestin Valley community and natural beauty. Each day here is a blessing and we intend to be frequent visitors!

While our house is for sale, I continue to offer Massage Therapy in my home office. It's been a great pleasure to work with many of you!

Sincerely,
Karen, Lyle and Jonathan Scheer
541-301-4911

***What is Cohousing?**

Cohousing is a type of collaborative housing that attempts to overcome the alienation of modern subdivisions in which people often do not know their neighbors and do not experience a sense of community. Cohousing is characterized by private dwellings with their own kitchen, living & dining room etc, but also extensive common facilities. The common house may include a large dining room, kitchen, lounges, meeting rooms, library, laundry and workshops. Residents often share several meals in the common building each week.

Usually, cohousing communities are designed and managed by the residents. They are intentional neighborhoods, meaning the residents choose to live and work together as a community. The physical design and layout of the neighborhood encourages social contact. The typical cohousing community has 12 to 30 single family homes along a pedestrian street or clustered around a courtyard with parking on the periphery. Ours will have thirteen homes. This type of housing began in Denmark in the late 1960s, and spread to North America in the late 1980s. There are now more than 200 cohousing communities completed or in development across the United States and Canada.

For more information, visit our website www.ashlandcoho.com or www.cohousing.org

❧FROM THE EDITOR❧

THANKS TO EVERYONE who updated their Buzz subscriptions subsequent to my financial report and announcement about

reducing circulation to only those who have contributed to the Buzz at least once. I apologize for not producing a July/August issue, but will do my best to make the remainder of the issues for this subscription year worth your donations! As always, I encourage everyone to send along any articles of interest, poetry, writing, humor, book or movie reviews, tips for better country living or what not – if it sparks your imagination, it will probably be appreciated by others in our community. Thanks again for your support.

Harvest Green Tomatoes Now, Enjoy Red Tomcats Later

Excerpted from Issue # 48 –
November/December 1977 Mother Earth News

Most home gardens still have bushels of green tomatoes coming on when the first frosts of the season knock the tomato plants dead.

Just pull a few of your tomato plants up by the roots (or cut the stalks off at ground level) a few days before the first killing frost. Then hang 'em upside down in the fruit cellar (or anyplace that's dark and fairly cool without being cold). The fruit will continue to ripen on the vines throughout the fall and, if you're lucky, you'll still be eating fresh, homegrown tomatoes into the early days of December ... maybe even beyond.

Really experienced practitioners of this form of "root cellar gardening" also have another trick up their sleeves: They know that storing a few bushels of apples close to the upside-down stalks will cause the tomatoes to ripen faster. (Ripening apples give off ethylene, a gas that can hasten the maturity of some other fruits and vegetables, including tomatoes.) Use the idea, or avoid it, as necessary to make your love apples table-ready just when you want to serve 'em up.

Roadside Spraying

Several months ago the Jackson County Road Maintenance Department Vegetation Control Division sprayed herbicides along the road to control "noxious weeds--puncture vine and star thistle." No notice was given to the residents ("Not required," said Mr. Frank Baratta, Vegetation Supervisor.) The herbicide was sprayed directly into a branch of Cottonwood Creek, which is the main water source of several residents. Needless to say, some of us were more than upset and have communicated with Mr. Baratta and others, who we hoped would provide some ways of preventing any future spraying of the native plants along the roadside. Creating unsightly "fried" plants on both sides of the road presents the added frustration of very combustible material which could easily be ignited.

Should you wish to join in a community effort to protect our water resources and the native plants and wildflowers that enhance our valley, please contact Mr. Baratta.

Frank Baratta
Vegetation Manager
Jackson County Roads
200 Antelope Road
White City, Oregon 97503
Phone: (541) 774-6307
Pager: (541) 858-3950
Fax: (541) 774-6320
barattfd@jacksoncounty.org

You will be sent a "no spray" agreement along with the requirements pertaining thereto. In the meantime, we are continuing to investigate the requirements pertaining to the protection of natural water resources from any questionable chemical.

Wanted

ROOM FOR RENT only 3 miles from Mt Ashland Ski Area! Mt Ashland Inn is looking for a person of excellent character to apply for position of Inn Assistant. The room for rent, furnished or not, is on the ground floor and includes in-room bathroom, electricity, laundry, wi-fi, and scheduled use of a gorgeous outdoor spa. Monthly rental is \$100 plus 20 hours per week of time working at the Inn. No smoking, pets, or loud music. Call 482-8707

LAND WANTED, or Fixer with land, in the Colestin Valley area. Please call Michael @ 831-423-6381.

For Sale

- * Honda HS928 Snow blower, 9 HP, 28" cut, track drive, low hours, \$1500 (\$2300 new).
- * Gas-powered rope winch, \$50.
- * Push lawnmower, almost new, \$50.
- * Nordic Track Walk-fit, \$75.

Call 541-821-6016.

Colestin Valley Buzz

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Next BUZZ
Deadline
Nov 15, 2006



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(not "The Buzz" per "The Bank")
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Ashland, OR 97520

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