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## ***Letters to the editor***

***Published 12:00 am PDT Monday, April 7, 2008***

### **The co-ho is the way to go**

Re "Yes to Sycamore Village," editorial, April 3: I'm not connected with Sycamore Village, but I lived two years in a Sonoma County "co-housing" project. Don't worry, Orangevale, you'll love Sycamore Village.

Co-housing is:

- Environmentally sound: Central parking means less concrete; neighbors carpool, shop in bulk, lend groceries, hand down clothes, share laundry facilities, tools and expertise.
- Community-minded: Neighbors help each other with illness, surgeries, aging and loss; share gardening workdays, host music nights; celebrate holidays, give comfort in crises (such as 9/11).
- Good for kids: They grow up like cousins and become personable teens. Adults without kids help with homework, celebrate milestones, attend games and school plays.
- A traffic reducer: As an active single, I'd happily stay "on campus" from Friday till Monday morning – potlucks, margarita parties, game nights, picking fruit, baking with kids, borrowing a dog – there was no reason to leave.
- Stable: Co-housers work to be part of a community. In nine years, only two of 14 homes changed hands, and one was bought by a family who lived a block away.
- Welcoming: Locals who had resisted our community have joined our dinner club, asked us to house-sit and even held a wedding and a memorial service on our property.

- Connie Van Horne, Folsom

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