For Immediate Release

Contact: Neshama Abraham
303-413-8066 or Neshama36@comcast.net

NAPERVILLE AND LISLE RESIDENTS CREATING COUNTY'S FIRST COHOUSINGNEIGHBORHOOD:

NATIONAL COHOUSING EXPERT COMES TO AURORA AUGUST 23

AURORA, IL; August 6, 2003 – A group of Naperville and Lisle residents are working to create the first cohousing neighborhood in Kane County. Called HomeTown Village, this neighborhood will include privately owned homes as well as community-owned land and buildings.

To help the project move forward, nationally recognized cohousing expert, Zev Paiss, will be giving a free talk on **Saturday, August 23, from 10 to 11:30 am at the HomeTown Aurora Café and General Store, 1002 Four Season Blvd., in Aurora**. This multimedia presentation is entitled "Creating Healthy Neighborhoods," and will include slides and video footage showing examples of completed cohousing neighborhoods across the U.S.

Naperville residents Sarah and Matthew Brady are among the future neighbors in the cohousing community. The Brady's are planning to have children and are drawn to cohousing because it offers an especially safe place for raising a family. Says Sarah Brady: "We came upon cohousing and see this kind of neighborhood as a way to share our lives with others in a close knit and safe community. We also look forward to starting a family in an environment that would be very supportive for raising our children," The Brady's will be among a group of future residents who will meet with Paiss during his visit to Aurora. Paiss is the founding Executive Director of the Cohousing Association of the United States and a cohousing resident since 1994. He is working with the cohousing group to guide them in building their membership and learning how to make long-lasting decisions together. "It's very exciting and rewarding to be able to help a group in this early stage of formation.

Future resident Sara Bogdanove of Lisle is excited about the cohousing project because she seeks a neighborhood with community, and she is intrigued about the skills she will learn in the process of building the project. ""I respect the colloborative approach that cohousing uses to create the neighborhood. Cohousing also provides an opportunity to learn skills, such as consensus decision building, which is useful in work and other areas."

HomeTown Village Cohousing will be situated within HomeTownAurora,, a neo-traditional project which already has 540 residents living onsite. "HomeTown Village is the fourth example in the country of a growing trend where a cohousing community is included within a larger planned neo-traditional or new urbanist neighborhood," adds Paiss.

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Other examples include Muir Commons in Davis, California, the first cohousing neighborhood completed in the U.S. in 1991, Hearthstone Cohousing in Denver, Colorado, which was completed two years ago, and Wild Sage Cohousing, now under construction in Boulder, Colorado.

HomeTown Village Cohousing will have 27-30 homes nestled on a two-acre site within the larger community of HomeTown Aurora, a 1,300 home project now under construction on 173 acres at Montgomery Road, approximately one mile north of Ogden Avenue (Route 34).

In addition to owning their own homes, cohousing residents will also share ownership and usage of the land and of a club house, also called a Common House, which the future residents will help design according to their needs. Typically a cohousing Common House will contain a sitting room/library, overnight guest rooms, children's play areas, an office, and a large dining area and sizable kitchen for residents to prepare community meals together several times per week.

The August 23 presentation will be Paiss' third visit and meeting with the cohousing group in Aurora. The cohousing homes will range in price from approximately $150,000 to the low $200,000's for two to four bedroom townhomes. The developer and building for the cohousing neighborhood is Bigelow Homes. Says Perry Bigelow, president of the company, "I believe that HomeTown Village will become a neighborhood with a strong sense of community where neighbors will know each other, and be better able to stay connected and help one another."

HomeTown Village will be using a streamlined development model "which will make it considerably faster and easier for future cohousing residents to move through the process of creating their neighborhood," says Paiss. "When an experienced builder/developer takes the lead on a cohousing project and already has secured a site, that takes away one of the main obstacles for groups - finding land."

People wanting to reserve a seat at the free cohousing talk can do so on the group's website at HomeTownVillage.org For additional information about the August 23 talk or to learn more about the cohousing neighborhood, interested people can contact Sarah Brady at 630-605-8370.

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