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Local land trust wins national building award

Affordable housing project to be celebrated at dinner

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN

The Clackamas Review, Oct 26, 2011

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The U.S. Green Building Council presented Clackamas Community Land Trust's Juneberry Lane project with its national award for Outstanding Affordable Housing Project this month.

Juneberry Lane is a LEED Platinum Certified development of 12 duplex-style homes on .73 acres in Oregon City.

These newly constructed homes are available for purchase by first-time homebuyers with modest incomes, and will be kept permanently affordable for generations through CCLT's stewardship.

Influencing the award were Juneberry Lane's numerous energy efficiency strategies, including the use of modified hydronic forced air gas furnaces and tankless water heaters. Homebuyers benefit from the eco-friendly features and also contribute to building a cohesive, aesthetic community by investing "sweat equity" through landscaping and home-maintenance. This project, funded in part by Community Frameworks, is also the first certified residential Earth Advantage Community in the nation.

"We are really proud of these homes," said Loretta Walker Kelly,

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homeowner coordinator for CCLT. “We took great care to make them as healthy for our homeowners and the environment as possible. It’s wonderful to be receiving national recognition for this project.”

CCLT will celebrate its Outstanding Affordable Housing Project award at its fall “Raise the Roof” dinner and auction, to be held Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Abernethy Center in Oregon City. From 6 to 8:30 p.m., guests will enjoy dinner, a hosted bar, a live and silent auction, and a raffle drawing. The public is invited to attend this event. Tickets are available for advance purchase at www.clackamasclt.org. All funds raised will benefit CCLT’s affordable homeownership programs for people of modest means in Clackamas County.

New executive director

Steven McDowell, whose background in residential construction and development originally drew him to the Clackamas Community Land Trust’s board of directors, will be the nonprofit’s executive director starting Oct. 17. He is the former founder and president of Eire Building and Development, a Clackamas County-based company where he built homes using sustainable building practices.

“I became aware of CCLT from a volunteer at a local fair in Oregon City,” McDowell said. “As a builder I immediately understood the challenges of land costs related to the ability to provide affordable home ownership opportunities.”

McDowell holds a degree in business administration and marketing from Portland State University’s School of Business. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife of 13 years, Justine, and their two sons Aidan and Keegan.

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