

Hager Homestead Newsletter Spring 2023

Building the first 55+ cohousing community in New England



Spring Potluck: Flowers from Victoria's garden and discussions about how each of us finds "renewal."



Join Us!

Info Session: June 4 7:00 pm EDT on Zoom



Our Hopeful Move-In Date: December!

Only a few homes remain. Join the info session for news about the available homes and prices.

Fill the next chapter of your life with new friends and new experiences in Hager Homestead. Turn the page of life and be surprised! Now is a great time to discover if cohousing fits into your future.

Who are we? We're people who share so many values: honest talk and teamwork, learning and doing...we love family and friendship, gardens and chickens, and we all want to enjoy life together. (To be honest, we came together because none of us like living alone.)

We may be getting on in years, (are we? really?) which means more than ever, we want to hang out with people we like -- just to watch a movie together and not have to drive home! That's a little bit of what cohousing is all about, and we invite you to learn more!

[Join this Zoom event and meet some of our members](#)

Learn More about Hager Homestead

June 4 at 7:00 pm EDT

Hear about plans, the timeline,
and learn more about cohousing.



"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." – C.S. Lewis

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Spring Potluck with Bouquets of Flowers

"People who love to eat are always the best people"

– Julia Child





On Saturday, May 6 we met in the hall of the Congregational Church next to Hager Homestead for the first of our upcoming monthly potlucks. Victoria supplied all of the flowers from her garden and we raffled them off at the end of the evening. We

observed the King's coronation with a heaping bowl of Coronation Chicken (A New York Times recipe & highly recommended!!). As you can see, Karen, in a blue dress, celebrated by wearing a whimsical fascinator.

The theme was "renewal" and after eating we talked about what "renews" us spiritually or physically, and also what each of us was letting go of in order to start something new, such as this community. Serious conversation, and very uplifting to have it together.

Can hardly wait until we can do this every week, in our own kitchen, and our own dining hall!

Getting Rid of Stuff!

That's all your house is: a pile of stuff...with a cover on it."

– George Carlin



Members Ellen and John de-Staff their very spacious home in Medford,

"That's the whole meaning of life, isn't it? Trying to find a place for your stuff..." – George Carlin

So many things to get rid of! Some of us hold yard sales; some rent storage lockers for temporary (as if!) use. Several of us with driveways on busy roads drag out our stuff and tape on a "Free" sign. There's also the Salvation Army or the Goodwill truck, or the Acton transfer station's Swap Shop, and don't forget the kids, except they don't have space for their own stuff.

Construction Update:

Countdown to December Move-in!



It's all coming together: Today, (above) the cottages in front look almost finished. The multi-family building has windows! The Federal House renovation has been undertaken painstakingly, board by board, to retain the structure's integrity.

A site walk on April 1 (below) allowed the community to don hard hats and stroll through the property and the buildings, and even find their own unit. Yes, it was wet, but as Taylor Swift proved to a crowd of 70,000 in Gillette Stadium recently, pouring rain can actually make it a Time!



Inspiration:

Antidotes for Loneliness

Maybe the pandemic made the media turn its spotlight on loneliness. Or maybe after the baby boomers retired & the kids moved out, we looked around one day and thought: "Wait a

minute: *where is everyone!?*" A psychologist can tell you that you need to be your own best friend... but we also need other people. This month we recommend:

◆ Architect and cohousing member Grace Kim has a Ted Talk, **"What Happens When You Design a Home With Community in Mind."** <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/24/842655151/grace-kim-what-happens-when-you-design-a-home-with-community-in-mind>

◆ We also like **Hanging Out: The Radical Power of Killing Time**, by Sheila Liming, an associate professor of communications. She writes about the "quiet catastrophe" of loneliness many of us face and asks: what would it look like to reconfigure our world to make social connection easier for all of us? Cohousing is one answer.

[Visit our Facebook Page](#)

...to see more about what we're up to



Hager Homestead, 336 King Street, Littleton, MA, 978-907-0432

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