



Middlesex Senior Cohousing -- Building the first senior cohousing community in New England!

Hello, cohousing friends!

Are you like us right now? We're snatching every minute we can to be outside, sucking the marrow of these warm autumn days, and hurrying to schedule outdoor meet-ups with friends and family, while we still can.

We're enjoying the last moments of solace in nature before winter, when we will surely be driven back indoors by the coronavirus.

A lot of us here are fretting about that. Are you? What would it mean if we-- if you--were living in cohousing this winter? How would things be different?

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Cohousing: Could It Be Your Next Move?

5 Reasons to Consider Cohousing for Your Next Move

by Mary Claus

Just as a home is more than its walls and windows, cohousing homes are more than standard condos.

They represent a promise residents have made to each other -- to be good neighbors, to know and care about each other, and to live more consciously with one another.

That's why writer Mary Claus thinks there are 5 reasons why you should consider making cohousing YOUR next move. Mary is a resident of Fair Oaks Cohousing, which broke ground last spring in Sacramento, Calif., and a contributor to the online publication *The Good Trade*.

Click below to find out what those 5 reasons are.

[Read the story](#)



Cohousing in the News



Putting the "Neighbor" Back in Neighborhood

Heartwood Commons is a brand-new \$14 million cohousing project that broke ground this month in Tulsa, Oklahoma. (The image above is a digital rendering of the green and common house.)

This new community is getting a lot of attention in that part of the world and is the second cohousing community to be built in Oklahoma.

Click below to read what *Tulsa World* newspaper has to say about this exciting new pocket neighborhood that's putting the "neighbor" back in neighborhood.

[Read the story](#)

The Common House: Without It, It's Not Cohousing



No Common House, No Community

What *is* a common house, actually? All cohousing communities have one, but how does it get used, and why is it considered the beating heart of these communities?

To find out, we did an informal survey of cohousers from all over the country (kudos to our member Barbara Smith, who did the research!). We had over two dozen responses representing nine communities!

The following letter from Jan Latham is typical of the responses we got. (Her responses have been edited for length and syntax.)

Jan Latham of Sawyer Hill Eco-Village in Berlin, Mass., writes:

"Our common house is the hub of our community! It gives the heart and soul of our community a

home.

"Before coronavirus, we enjoyed wonderful meals together in our common house (sometimes up to four times a week--AWESOME!), which is one of my very favorite aspects of cohousing. I live alone, and [it's great to have] the opportunity to share meals with a group of people who enjoy each other, look out for each other, and care about each other's ups and downs."



Belterra Cohousing



Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage

"In better times, we had SO many wonderful parties! Like holiday parties, themed New Year's Eve parties, birthday parties, weddings, Halloween parties, and even Snooty Food parties."

"[In normal times] people also gather in the common house to sew and do puzzles, play board games and pool, and there's poker once a month after the pot luck."

"And there's the occasional afternoon bring-your-craft-project gathering, usually in the winter, with a fire in our fireplace and a plate or two of cookies to enjoy. Just simple, wonderful people things."

"Really, in my view: no common house, no community."



Harbourside Cohousing

"Even with the Covid 19 restrictions, we've had outdoor movies projected on a building wall, cook-outs, group sings, all safely distanced. And a modest, but enthusiastic, sweet, and heartfelt celebration of our 2020 graduates."

"In these very strange times, the deep community we've built in our common house supports and sustains us."

About Middlesex Senior Cohousing



We are 12 equity member households from Metro Northwest Boston on track to build the *first senior cohousing neighborhood in New England*.

Our vision is a collaboratively designed, self-managed neighborhood of 20 or so small, privately-owned, clustered, energy-efficient homes. With abundant open space, gardens, and a large outdoor commons. Also a large common house with extensive amenities, including gourmet kitchen and great room for cooking and eating together, dancing, gatherings, and celebrations. Other common house amenities may include spaces for woodworking, arts/crafts, offices, and yoga/exercise.

To learn about cohousing, go to the Cohousing Association of America at www.cohousing.org To learn about our project, click on the link below.

middlesexseniorcohousing.org