Natural disasters, like Hurricane Harvey and the resulting devastating flooding in Houston are a time for community to pull together. When Colorado experienced catastrophic floods in 2013 the WildSage cohousing community escaped major damage, then they came together to go out in the larger city community to lend a hand with sandbagging, evacuating and cleaning up the aftermath. A newly forming group in Houston has been reporting the same type of community coming together to help

From Cohousing Houston, (a group that began forming in February 2017):
Although we in Houston don't officially have cohousing yet, what we are experiencing during Hurricane Harvey & its aftermath is community coming together at its best. I know everyone has seen pictures, but driving down the street & seeing people's stuff splayed out in their yards, house after house, is surreal. Yesterday was the 1st day we had sunshine & everyone was out helping each other in mass.

A few of our stories:

- Members Tom & Kathy, we got lucky; sold our home 3 months ago & are renting in a high rise close to the Texas Medical Center (awaiting cohousing!). Brays Bayou swirled around us but we were safe & dry on the 20th floor.

- Members Kip & Lynn, Cohousing had several feet of water in their home. They immediately started the recovery process-tearing out dry walls, etc. We helped them Tuesday afternoon.

- Member Margie evacuated to member Debbie's house. Margie's house was spared but her daughter's house was flooded. We're on our way to tear out sheetrock over there.

- Friend Carol's house flooded. We spent the day dragging wet stuff out of her house. We ordered a moving van to move what's remaining into storage.

"Today is a beautiful, sunny day today in sharp contrast to the unceasing rains & floods of just a few days ago. Danger is not over as bayous & reservoirs crest & overflow. Recovery is beginning, there is a long road ahead, but there are lots of helping hands & so many stories.

The spirit of cohousing is alive & well in Houston, Texas!"

NPR has a list of ways you can help people in Houston including some of the organizations that are undertaking rescue and recovery work and how you can contribute to them.
Aging Successfully, Study Group 1 Online Facilitator Training
Presented by McCamant & Durrett Architects
Wednesdays, Oct 11 - Dec 13
9:30am - 12:30pm PST (3 hrs) for more information...

Cohousing Blog

A NEW LOOK AT GETTING OLDER: INSPIRING ADULTS 55+
TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT IT
HAS ON HOUSING AND LIVELIHOOD.

Article by Charles Durrett and Lindy Sexton

The last nails are being hammered in. Fresh paint still clings to the damp
air. In Port Townsend, Washington, residents of the newly-built Quimper
Village Senior Cohousing eagerly await moving into the neighborhood
that they co-designed. The neighborhood that not only symbolizes their
desire to take an active role in their aging scenario, but also their
commitment to supporting, listening to, and living in community with each other.

Communities like Quimper Village are cropping up around the world as
older adults are discovering the value of taking control of their lives.
Socially, financially, and environmentally it makes sense to live near
people who care about you, but until you can work with others to create
this scenario, it is just a good idea and nothing else. Senior cohousing
communities, and groups inspired by cohousing, grow from that need to
move things forward into a collective of organized and forward-thinking
activists. The result far exceeds expectations, in many cases.

Oakcreek Community Senior Cohousing in Stillwater, OK is a good
example of a neighborhood where people spend more time on their front
porch talking with their neighbors than in their private home. It happens
naturally, because the group works together to design their community
based on the values they create as a team.
Oakcreek Community Senior Cohousing in Stillwater, OK is a good example of a neighborhood where people spend more time on their front porch talking with their neighbors than in their private home. It happens naturally, because the group works together to design their community based on the values they create as a team. (read more)

Living in Community

What does it feel like to move into a cohousing home you've been building for years?
by Ann Lehman

7/31/17  On moving day. What does it feel like to move into a cohousing home you've been building for years? Exciting! The movers were friendly and right on time and carried all my boxes and furniture down three flights of stairs to the waiting truck. As the rental apartment I was leaving slowly emptied out, I had worried that I might feel sad to leave, but instead I was giddy with anticipation. When I arrived in my car at my new home, there was small group of cohousing friends there to greet me with open arms, feed me snacks, hold the front doors open, and watch the movers unpacking my belongings! My movers pulled up and I was officially moving in. We learned that the elevator was on emergency power due to a partial power outage at our new building, but at least it was working, unlike the day before.

I climbed the three sets of stairs to my apartment and was happy to note it was very doable (the three sets of stairs)! Having lived in a second-floor walk-up with another flight up to my loft bedroom for the previous year had gotten me prepared for climbing the stairs. I walked into my new space--so clean and well-lighted by natural light. For over a year I was worried because no one else seemed to want the units in my "stack" with the same exact floor plan on the first and third floors, but once I moved in, I decided that I had one of the lightest apartments in the building-which had been my dream! (read more)

Coho/US Notes

Despite its potential, 95 percent of U.S. cohousers are white, 82 percent identify as Democrats, and 66 percent hold a graduate degree, according to one study. “The joke around cohousing is, ‘[Yeah,] we have diversity in our neighborhood—we have Subarus that are three different colors,’” says Alan O’Hashi, a Boulder cohousing resident who leads cultural competency workshops. (read more)

***********************************************************************
New Grown-Up Dormitories Are One Way to Beat the Seattle Freeze
The unique dwelling arrangements can help neighbors connect to form a community.
By Stephen Strom

Shared spaces are a hallmark of cohousing communities. These intentionally planned neighborhoods include private homes with jointly owned, communal spaces. Members commit to sharing space-and, to some degree, sharing their lives. But while most cohousing communities are composed of traditional single-family homes located in suburban towns, Capitol Hill Urban Cohousing (Capitol Hill, 1720 12th Ave.; 206.285.1589), completed in June 2016, is a multistory, multi-unit building in a highly urban setting. (read more)

***********************************************************************
How the Triangle Became Ground Zero in the Cohousing Movement
By Cole del Charco

(refer to the website link for more detailed information)
It's Almost Budget Season, please support Coho/US!

As many communities get ready for budget season we'd like to gently remind you that Coho/US is a national non-profit raising awareness of the benefits of cohousing and supporting the development of cohousing communities nationwide. Running an organization like this requires an operating budget.

Alice Alexander from Durham Cohousing says "Supporting Coho/US through annual contributions is a terrific way to ensure our association continues as a connector and clearinghouse to help our communities thrive." She recently included this language in her Durham Cohousing's budget package as justification for continued annual support to Coho/US:

$300.00 - Annual dues to support the Cohousing Association of the US (Coho/US), which benefits Durham Cohousing by (1) serving as a vehicle for recruiting community members by providing credibility for the cohousing model, and attracting the public to cohousing; and (2) providing learning and networking opportunities through resources, conferences, and connections to the cohousing world to enhance our own community.

Coho/US suggests each community contribute $300 or more per year, or $25 per person (the later would equate to $900 if there are 36 units). Donations are greatly appreciated and can be made here.

Cohousing Directory Metrics
Established Communities = 166
---Completed = 149
---Building = 17

Forming** = 141
**Thirty five forming groups have acquired land they plan to develop

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Like receiving eNews? Please support Coho/US, serving as a clearinghouse and connector to grow and nurture cohousing across the country.

Thanks for reading
Cohousing Now! provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! From Coho/US, the Cohousing Association of the United States, Cohousing Now! is emailed monthly. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

Copyright 2016 The Cohousing Association of the United States All rights reserved. Privacy policy - www.cohousing.org/privacy
Coho Now #105: Cohousing Communities Coming Together in Disaster

https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Coho-Now--105--Cohousing-Co...