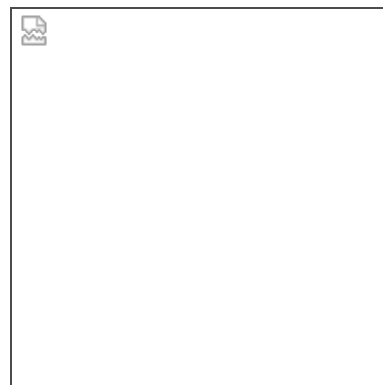


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Cohousing Now! **An Investment in Creating Community**



"It really feels like the cohousing movement and the national Association have taken a big step forward this year." Jim Leach, Wonderland Hill and Silver Sage

Cohousing is good, we know this! Good for enhancing our lives, raising our children, supporting our seniors, creating resilient neighborhoods, and improving our environment. If you are part of a community, you've created a legacy that will live on to support future individuals and families.

A great way to **advance your belief and continue your legacy** is to support Coho/US with a gift. Coho/US is well positioned to keep us learning from each other, to get the word out about our amazing model for living, to grow our movement for a more collaborative society. But we need everyone's support to keep this work going! This past year saw tremendous progress:

- * A "Next Generation" **National Cohousing Conference** enjoyed record attendance. From Chuck Durrett, "*..all the organizers and volunteers did a phenomenal job...this was the best cohousing conference I've attended.*"
- * Our **2016 Aging Better Together Conference** promises transformation.
- * The **Cohousing Directory Map** profiles our exponential growth: 157 established communities and 100 forming groups.
- * Our enhanced **Coho/US website** receives thousands of visitors looking for resources to find, create and sustain cohousing. "*Without Coho/US, I would have given up a long time ago...the organization helped me stay on the right path,*" shares Marty Maskell, Fair Oaks EcoHousing.
- * A strategic partnership with **National Cooperative Bank** has increased access to financing for cohousing, a counter to the frustration many of us have experienced educating, and re-educating, potential lenders.
- * Enhancing the vibrancy of our communities, Coho/US has encouraged the practice of **tune ups**. "*Our retreat was widely acknowledged as a valuable turning point in our evolution,*" Michael Madera, New View Cohousing.
- * A **National Cohousing Open House Day** planned for April 30, 2016 will attract the public to cohousing, and help you build a robust waiting list.

Our small but dedicated part-time staff and a national network of committed volunteers has created this progress, but it is made possible by you and your gift of support. Please consider a year-end tax-deductible gift:

- * [Donate Now Online](#)
 - * Mail a check to Coho/US, 130 Hunt St #405, Durham NC 27701
- Many thanks,** Alice Alexander, Coho/US Executive Director

Conferences & Events

In This Issue



Conference | May 20-21, 2016 | Salt Lake City
Produced by Coho/US and SageHill Cohousing

Call for Presenters - Dec 20 Deadline

National Cohousing Open House Day Saturday April 30, 2016



Whatever these words may bring up for you, one thing is for sure - just as cohousing itself is a collaborative process and group effort, it will be with this event as well. We invite your community, whether a newly forming seedling, actively growing or an established forest, to open its doors and

hearts and welcome public visitors. Coho/US is offering a national platform for each community to create a fun, educational and welcoming event [read more...](#)

Cohousing Blogs

The Cohousing Tax *Reposted from [MidAtlantic Cohousing](#)*

Ann Zabaldo, MidAtlantic Cohousing

Happily Ever Aftering in Cohousing: A Handbook for Community Living is a slim book that packs a big message. Written by Charles (a.k.a Chuck) Durrett with Bernice Gonzalez and Erik Bonnett of



McCamant & Durrett Architects, the book compiles best practices for living in cohousing....The introduction alone is the single best constructed argument of why

do cohousing in the first place posing the singular question: "If it **doesn't work socially, why bother?**" The book describes areas of best practices for insuring a healthy, working, collaborative community.... let's begin at the very end with ... **The Cohousing Tax**. Here is Chuck's description: *We all have to pay taxes to government, that's a given. Cohousing is no different. The cohousing tax is what we pay to receive all the gifts we get day after day, big and small. ...Every day it seems I receive 20 to 40 warm smiles... However, every month or so I get a frown. [Read more](#)*

The Social Portfolio

Jenny Godwin of CoHousing Solutions

What a great concept!

Social capital's a fairly common buzzword these days, but I especially like the idea of taking stock of our connections. This notion, of a social portfolio, has been on my mind all week. In our age of near-constant digital connectivity, embracing our tangible community circles seems about as important as ever. I say this as a millennial, who's blessed to live in a tight-knit town. Yet this value finds equal footing as we age - and the clip where this concept came from brings this idea home. "*Autonomy is most*



[Conferences & Events](#)

[Cohousing Blogs](#)

[Living in Community](#)

[Cohousing Map & Metrics](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Cohousing Professionals](#)

[In the News](#)

[Resources](#)

Classified Ads



[The Perfect Gift - Holiday Reading List for You and Yours](#)

Homes for Sale

[Stunning Contemporary Home in Silver Sage, Boulder](#)

[4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Home for Sale](#)

[New home in vibrant ecovillage on Maine coast with no fossil fuel bills](#)

[Beautiful 5 Bedroom Home in Shadowlake Village - Blacksburg, VA \(\\$334,000\)](#)

[Wonderful light-filled detached home in Arcadia: \\$319,900](#)

[Colorado Mountain Ranch & Farm -- 3 & 4 BD at Heartwood](#)

[3 BR home at Mosaic Commons, \\$320,000](#)

[For Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community](#)

[Burlington Vermont 3 Bedroom Townhouse \\$375,000](#)

Seeking Members

[Join an Over-55 Cohousing Community in the Land of Enchantment - Placitas New Mexico](#)

[Jubilee Cohousing in Floyd,](#)

people's biggest priority. Help is the sunny side of control." [read more](#)

The Advantages of Discussions on Email

Sharon Villines, Takoma Village Cohousing

This post is on a neighborhood discussion list and will be seemingly



off-topic but bear with me. Our neighborhood list, TakomaDC where Takoma Village Cohousing is located, started in the 1990s as a way to notify each other of crimes in the neighborhood. In 2003 when ownership was transferred to me, it had 400 subscribers. It now has

almost 3,000 who live in this neighborhood and nearby, plus representatives of the mayor's office and elected officials who respond to postings about problems - no trash pick up, open water hydrants, abandoned cars, etc. The list is the center of communication in the neighborhood. [Read more](#)

Living in Community

What a Long Strange Trip it Still Is - Aging Better Together and the Power of Community

Alan O'Hashi, Silver Sage Village (Boulder, Colorado)

I live in the Silver Sage Village senior cohousing community in North



Boulder...recently the community began discussing "aging in community" which has been on my mind quite a bit, lately....I'm making a documentary movie about my and my neighbors' experiences of growing old in cohousing and their thoughts about the future. I'm also helping produce a national conference on the topic that will be held next May in Salt Lake City...My movie won't be anything

earth shattering, but hopefully will give others wanting to start up an intentional community some insight into what to expect. These discussions are about the first ones we've had in the five years I've been living at Silver Sage Village where the topic has been about something more substantive than maintaining the buildings. [Read more](#)

Cohousing Research Network

Dr. Angela Sanguinetti, for CRN and Coho/US Board



CRN ([Cohousing Research Network](#)) is seeking to support the Aging Better Together conference in Salt Lake City next May. **We are gathering and conducting research on aging in senior cohousing and intergenerational cohousing** to share at the conference. If you live in senior cohousing or are a senior

living in intergenerational cohousing and are willing to help us by participating in research and/or distributing a survey to members of your community, please contact [Angela Sanguinetti](#), Coho/US Board Member and CRN Director, at angelasanguinetti@gmail.com or 209-277-9782.

Virginia

[Artisan oriented community forming in stunning Vermont location](#)

[Rapidly Growing - Community-Centered Neighborhoods in Charlotte](#)

[Build your Home & Life at Katywil, CO-farming, CO-homesteading, CO-housing](#)

[Join a Green, Intergenerational Cohousing Community near Sacramento!](#)

[Riverside Living in Eugene, Oregon!](#)

Cohousing Professionals

[Caddis Architecture](#)

[CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants](#)

[Kraus Fitch Architects | Home - Community - Planet](#)

[Linda Herman Consulting](#)

[McCamant & Durrett Architects: The Cohousing Co](#)

[schemata workshop | architecture & planning](#)

[Zucker Architecture](#)

In the News

How our housing choices make adult friendships more difficult

David Roberts, Vox Media Inc

Our ability to form and maintain

friendships is shaped in crucial ways by the physical spaces in which we live.

"Land use," as it's rather aridly known, shapes behavior and sociality. And in America we have settled on patterns of land use that might as well have been designed to prevent spontaneous encounters, the kind out of which rich

End Notes

Tucson Cohousing Communities Committed to Sustainability

Alice Alexander, Coho/US Executive Director

Tucson is home to three thriving cohousing communities, which I had the pleasure of visiting recently. All are mature communities, built over a decade ago. I was struck by the creative incorporation of sustainable design and community practices, a smart approach given the desert climate. A few interesting notes:



Stone Curves

Sonora Cohousing hosts a homeschooling group that welcomes homeschoolers from around Tucson;

Stone Curves Cohousing is an urban in-fill community which has integrated permaculture and renewable energy systems, with beautiful landscaping and building designs.

Milagro Cohousing is a demonstration of ecological community living, recently hosting a talk on Re-imagining Community through Local Food. "Milagro" means miracle in Spanish! The Tucson communities may host a **Regional Cohousing Conference** in winter 2018, stay tuned.

Communities Directory Campaign - the Fellowship for Intentional Community has launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$6000-the funds needed to assemble a new print version of their flagship publication, Communities Directory (7th edition).



Milagro Cohousing

Your Favorite Breakfast Place: Annual Support to Coho/US

Cohousing Communities - existing, building and forming - are encouraged to give annually. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Community by pledging to contribute each year, for five years, with a minimum of \$300 - and receive one free registration to the National Cohousing Conference.

[Read more](#)

Many Thanks to These Communities who have Given in 2015

Cohousing Directory Metrics

Established Communities = 157

Completed = 132

Building* = 25

Own Site = 21

Forming = 97

* Many building communities have residents but continue to add members and build homes.



Do you like receiving this eNews? Please consider supporting Coho/US, serving as a clearinghouse and connector to grow and nurture cohousing across the country.



social ties are built.

Extending the Family

Conogram Magazine



The Leonardsmiths and Taylors joke that their two houses are now a cohousing community, but with a new fence encircling a shared backyard, a communal tool shed with newly co-purchased lawn mower, an extra bin on one house's garbage service, and a reflector to aim WiFi from door to door, that description of their situation isn't that far from the truth.

Why cohousing communities are attracting midlife Mainers

Steve Chiasson, 63, a founding member at Belfast Cohousing &



Ecovillage, said the experience of helping create the community he lives in, the responsibility of shaping it going forward in the company of thoughtful, values-driven neighbors "*helps me feel more relevant and engaged,*" he said. "*And we all know that staying active, physically and mentally, keeps us healthier as we age.*"

Resources

C

What is Cohousing?

[Redefining Cohousing: A Fresh Look \(Part 1\)](#)

[About Coho/US](#) - Strategic Plan

[Top 10 Benefits of Early Participation in Cohousing](#)

[NCB Financial Services](#)

[Tag Cloud](#)

Thanks for reading

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Aging Better Together
Conference Flyer

Cohousing Directory Updates

Garland Ave Cohousing -
Oakland, California

Village Hearth Cohousing
Has purchased land in Durham, NC

more on the Cohousing Directory

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