

## Cohousing Now!

### Like Living in a Zoo



#### Like Living in a Zoo

##### Sky Blue, The Fellowship for Intentional Community

Communities are like exotic animals. They may be extraordinary, but the fascination comes more from the novelty, the unfamiliarity, and the association with an untamed land. Communities are used to having lots of guests, and also often give tours to the curious public. It's easy for members to sometimes feel like they're an attraction at a zoo, or being observed in their natural habitat.

Communities tend to attract idealists, who are also like exotic animals, with beliefs like colorful plumes or twisted horns that make you think, how is that possible?! I've rarely met a person living in community who didn't have at least a little bit of an idealistic streak. Meaning, as much as they live in community for themselves, they're also doing it for reasons beyond themselves. As much as they might get tired of living in a zoo, a part of them wants people watching, exclaiming, like the people at the zoo, that's amazing!

There's a quintessential tension in all but the most reclusive communities about how much they want to be in the public eye. There are always those who want the world to see what their community is doing, to be an inspiration for change, and don't care how many tourists pass through. And there are those who are no less proud of their community, but who want to change the world more quietly, simply by living a more peaceful and harmonious life. This is not so much a conflict of values as it is one of desires, strategies, and priorities. There is no right answer, but few would disagree that there are times when the community should open its doors.



I was very excited to hear that the Coho/US was hosting a [National Cohousing Open House Day](#). Open houses are great opportunities for communities to recruit members and educate the public, but coordinated open houses across the country become a national event with the potential to exponentially increase attention. We want cohousing to become mainstream. We want people to be able to say cohousing without thinking about whether others will know what they're talking about. We want the ideas, the models, the principles, the culture of cohousing to infiltrate and fundamentally alter the conventional wisdom of residential development.

The National Open House Day is an opportunity to inject cohousing into the public consciousness in a major way. There are over 75 communities across the country banding together to tell the world what is possible when people live together in a closer, more cooperative way. These are your partners and allies, your brothers and sisters in building community in a world often hostile to anything that challenges individualism as the core value.... Building community can seem like an impossible feat sometimes. The world needs to see the people attempting the impossible, because seeing people attempt the impossible is how people realize that more is possible than they ever imagined. [read more...](#)

#### Conferences & Events



[Conference](#) | May 20-21, 2016 | Salt Lake City  
Produced by Coho/US and SageHill Cohousing

##### Early Bird Rate Ends March 31st!

[Conference Schedule Here](#)   [Full Program Here](#)  
[Questions & Answers Here](#)

##### Senior Cohousing 101 with Charles Durrett

[Add this to your conference registration, or participate separately]  
There is a quiet grassroots movement, among Boomers, to reject the current options for housing older people - managed-care facilities, retirement homes, nursing homes, and so on. This group, who began turning 60 in 2006, does not want to retire or grow older in the same kind of

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#### Classified Ads

**Homes for Sale**

aging institutions in which they placed their own parents. So it should come as no surprise that Boomers are embracing cohousing as a tool for maintaining their independence, building community, living light on the planet and caring about each other. In this inspiring pre-game show, learn why senior cohousing is such a big deal today and how to get them started.

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[Silver Sage Village](#)  
[Village Hearth Cohousing](#)

**[National Cohousing Open House Day](#)** Saturday April 30, 2016



Over 75 cohousing communities across the country are welcoming the public for tours. Join us!  
**[Communities learn more here](#)** We'd love to have you sign up!  
**[Visitors see the list](#)** of Participating Communities. Visit close by or travel outside your area.  
**[Press and Promotions here.](#)**  
Follow the conversation on [Facebook](#)

**[Getting It Built Workshop April 9-10, 2016](#)** Fremont, Calif  
Conducted by Kathryn McCamant and Charles Durrett  
Avoid reinventing the wheel! Join sponsor Mission Peak Cohousing

## Cohousing Blogs

### [Aging Gracefully in MultiGenerational Cohousing](#) [David Entin, Rocky Hill Cohousing](#)

*Join David Entin at the Aging Better Together Conference*

Have you noticed that folks in your cohousing community are getting older? You moved in five, or ten, or fifteen years ago and people who were about sixty are now in their seventies. Your



community may have begun to wonder how you will handle aging in community. As folks get frailer, can they remain in your community? Can your community help maintain your senior citizens in their cohousing homes as they age? Are your oldest members wondering how they can still contribute and how they will be

supported in community? Has your community formed an "aging in community" group or committee?..... We encourage every cohousing community to send representatives to the national

### [Lovely Home in Durham's Solterra Cohousing](#)

### [Liberty Village, Maryland Home for Sale](#)

### [Cozy custom built home available for sale by owner](#)

### [3+ bedroom in Pathways Cohousing, Northampton Mass](#)

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

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

### [Two Lovely Cottages in Fantastic Vermont setting](#)

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

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

### [Mosaic Commons! 1 bed \\$197,00/ 4 bed \\$399,000 FSBO](#)

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

### [Downtown Nevada City CoHousing Home for sale](#)

## Seeking Members

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

### [Jubilee Cohousing in Floyd, Virginia](#)

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

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

### [Village Hearth: Adult Cohousing on 15 Beautiful Acres](#)

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

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

## [Cohousing Professionals](#)

[Caddis Architecture](#)

[CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants](#)

conference in May....I hope we will have the opportunity to meet you in Salt Lake City and share our experiences of this new, vibrant, and challenging phase of life..... [read more](#)

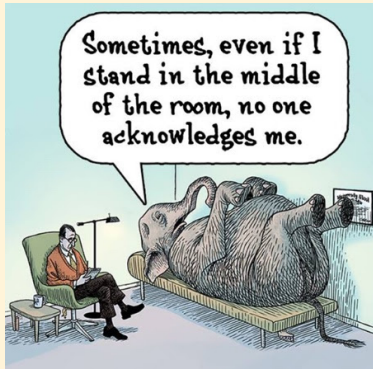
## The Elephant in the Room

**Ann Zabaldo, Board of Directors, Mid Atlantic Cohousing**

[This is a repost from Ann Zabaldo's MidAtlantic Cohousing blog; join Ann and Janice Blanchard at the Aging Better Together conference.]

Do you know that

\*\* 90% of the care given to elders is given by family members?



but ... almost 25% of the population retiring now at age 65 are "elder orphans"? They are either widowed, divorced, or single-never-married. They have no children and no siblings.

\*\* the current cost of nursing home care can easily exceed \$100,000 per year? yet, fewer than 30% of those retiring have even \$50,000 in savings or income beyond Social Security? What's happening with the other 60%+?

\*\* 70% of us will need 1-3 years of health care assistance?

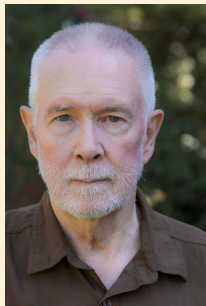
and ... we're all living longer and longer lives? .... [read more](#)

## Kindness and Civility Within Community

**Philip Dowds, Cornerstone Village Cohousing (Cambridge MA)**

We often discuss the mechanics of creating and maintaining cohousing; we don't discuss as often issues of kindness or civility within communities.

Cornerstone Cohousing has been up and running about 15 years now, and our 32 households (approximately 50 adults, various kids)



know each other pretty well. We tend to know who has a sense of humor, and who is easily angered; which kids seem to be having a problem with a parent; who won't eat meat, and who can't eat cheese; who is a good cook; who's living on a tight budget, and who has some financial flexibility; who can be trusted to follow through; who is available to lift heavy objects - and so on. Moreover, the normal courtesies and kindnesses of coho life are well established: We offer help to those who incapacitated in some

way, or temporarily inconvenienced. If a household needs a ride to the airport, an onion, or some emergency babysitting, a single e-mail usually solves the problem in five or ten minutes. [Read more](#) ...

## Building Community

### Fitting Historic Houses into Bristol Village Cohousing

**Jim Mendell, Bristol Village Cohousing (Vermont)**

Vermont is a state of small towns, and among them, the village of



Bristol is unique. It is the commercial hub of five rural townships, featuring an old-fashioned Main Street lined with shops and restaurants. A turn-of-the-century Town Hall rises in the center of the village, one part municipal office, one part cultural center. Across the street is the town green, with a new wooden playground, a band shell for summer

concerts, and benches for taking it all in.... In this central part of town, just across from the village green, are three historic structures, the future site of Bristol Village Cohousing. In a town filled with postcard-perfect older homes, these buildings are an important part of the town's self-image. So when all three were placed on the market, there was an opportunity to preserve a piece of the town's history, while creating an infill community to enliven the town today. . . . [Read more](#)

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

[Linda Herman Consulting](#)

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

[schemata workshop | architecture & planning](#)

[Self-Help Credit Union](#)

## In the News

### Communal Living & Cohousing - Types & Benefits of Intentional Communities

*Money Crashers*

All in all, joining a cohousing community is a big responsibility. You have to share in the work, attend regular meetings, and be prepared to work through disagreements with others. But if living in cohousing is more work, it's also more play. You get to share meals, parties, games, clubs, and other activities with all the other residents - a perk you're unlikely to find in a basic housing development.



### From Shared Values to Shared Quarters

*Bloomberg Business At Ecovillage Ithaca, sustainability means organic farms, solar panels, a reuse room, and a car sharing app....*



"People who live in a community live healthier and happier and have more fun," says Pat Hundhausen, who co-founded [Quimper Village] with her husband, David. "We wanted to be more proactive about aging and not get caught up in some corporate or medical model," she adds. . "

### Developers use innovative strategies to deliver affordable housing

*Seattle Times highlights*

*Capitol Hill Urban Cohousing*

"We're collectively making the decision to live together in a very collaborative

## Coho/US Notes

### Finding or Starting a Community - Communities Magazine

The Spring 2016 issues of Communities Magazine has some terrific articles. We're reposting a couple of excellent ones. [Consider subscribing!](#)

### Kindling New Community: Village Hearth Cohousing

Pat McAulay, Village Hearth (Durham NC)



Our vision has followed a long path originating 15 or more years ago with long weekends at the beach....when our gang started to retire, we faced the reality of actually living together under one roof permanently, as well as the standard reply, "I'm going to stay in my home until I can't." That forced us to seek out other solutions. Having the

close-knit community with a balance of privacy in cohousing is where we landed. [read more...](#)

### Finding a Healthy, Happy Cohousing Community that Fits Your Values

Cynthia Dettman, The Commons on the Alameda (Santa Fe NM)  
How does one go about locating a cohousing community that is a good personal fit? Here are my suggestions on how to go about finding a healthy, vibrant, and happy community. [read more...](#)

### Cohousing Directory Metrics

Established Communities = 162

---Completed = 136

---Building or Expanding\* = 26

Forming\*\* = 123

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

\*\*Twenty four forming groups have acquired land they plan to develop



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## 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!

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*way so our children have the chance to live in a multigenerational community in the heart of the city with a pretty good quality of life, and that's not something any other multifamily project is striving for," Grace Kim said.*

### Conscious Aging in Cohousing (from ChangingAging)

Jenny Godwin  
Wise words from a veteran of intentional living: Willow from Sand River



Cohousing reflects, "I thought a wonderful way to age in place was to age with other people who are also at that point in their lives where we were finished raising our families,

and really embarking on a new adventure ."

## Resources

### National Open House Day Flyer

[Community Marketing Ideas](#)  
from Iowa City Cohousing

### Senior Cohousing: Existing and In-Process Communities

[Tag Cloud](#)

## The Cohousing Directory

[Add or Edit your Directory Listing](#)

New Listings:

[Bristol Village Cohousing](#)  
Bristol, Vermont

[Dragon Belly Farm](#)  
Pt. Ludlow, Washington

[Kumah South Florida!](#)  
Boynton Beach, Florida

[Ecovillage Charlottesville](#)  
Charlottesville, Virginia

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