

# Cohousing Now!

## "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"



After years of planning, meeting, and decision-making, requiring immense patience and work, my Durham Cohousing has opened. And wow! Everything is better than expected - the community, the space, the reality of it all. As a few of us walked from our downtown building to the farmers market, and later enjoyed a promptu potluck, I realized I was living my dream! Cohousing is wonderful. But as our Regional Cohousing Conference theme "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" suggests, after the doors open, real life kicks in with real life issues, and real life conflicts and their resolution. Please join us in Boulder for great conversations and ideas. Save the date also for the National Cohousing Conference. A major benefit of Coho/US is the hosting of conferences. Here is your opportunity to learn, network and to be in community with other cohousers. Each of you can contribute to our growing knowledge of how to create more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable communities. And each of you deserves to celebrate together the growth of our movement.

*Alice Alexander, Executive Director*

## Tours & Events

### Regional Cohousing Conference - Boulder CO Sept 26-28, 2014

This conference brings together a diverse program that will help you understand "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" of living in community and provide you and your neighbors with tools to work within your unique community environment. The weekend will be packed with useful information with plenty of time to network.

[read more](#)

### National Cohousing Conference: Co-Chairs Endorsed

Laura Fitch and Doug Henderson-James are a great pairing as Co-Chairs of the National Cohousing Conference (May 2015). Laura, a principal with Kraus Fitch Architects, crafted our "next generation theme." Doug is founder and project manager of Durham Central Park Cohousing, providing local leadership and urban self-development experience. [read more](#)

### Aging Successfully 2014: October 6-10, Nevada City

To learn more about the aging in cohousing workshop...[read more](#)

## Cohousing Blogs

### How Many Cohousing Communities are Out There?

Stats from the Cohousing Directory posted on coho-I by Fred Olson

Completed: 111  
Building 22  
Own or Optioned Site 27  
Seeking Site 12  
Forming 38  
Retrofitting 11

**Total active: 221 in 36 states**

The Cohousing Directory is only as good as the information you provide. Is your community up to date? [follow these instructions](#).

### Leadership for Meal Programs Increases Meals

by Sharon Villines

Action without a leader is like herding cats. It works with two and maybe three cats. Otherwise forget it -- unless you have a lot of smelly cat food available for rewards. Cohousing doesn't run on cat food. [read more](#)

### Architectural Review Policies by Sharon Villines

Architectural review policies are generally hard to write, partly because we have very different housing experiences when we move into cohousing and partly because we have never had the experience

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## Classified Ads

### Homes for Sale

- [3-bedroom home at FrogSong Cohousing in SF Bay Area](#)
- [A great find! 4 bedroom, townhome in SF Bay Area](#)
- [Come visit us! Affordable homes at Mosaic Commons](#)
- [Delightful Nevada City Co-Housing](#)
- [For Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community](#)
- [Liberty Village Cohousing is Building Phase II](#)
- [Live the Dream at an Organic Farm in Southern New Hampshire!](#)
- [Near Net Zero Duplex Condo Available in Belfast](#)
- [Timberframe/Strawbale House in Heartwood Cohousing community](#)

### Seeking Members

- [Cohousing in New York City](#)
- [Consider Jubilee Cohousing in Floyd - Heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains in VA](#)
- [Riverside living in Eugene, Oregon](#)

of living in a place where people have been so diverse with so many ideas about what is desirable. .... [read more](#)

## Last Minute Decision Making

From [The Wisdom of Group Decisions](#) copyright © 2006 Craig Freshley

**In principle**, the more information we have about something the better decision we are likely to make. We are likely to have the most information at the last minute. Deciding more than we really need to at any given moment can cause regrets later.

**Practical Tip:** Before you start making decisions, think about the order of decisions. What needs to get decided first? What next? What can wait? Break decisions up into pieces if possible, and if there is anything to be gained by waiting to decide a piece (like more people getting more information), wait. Establish a date certain for deciding each piece. The last minute, although potentially stressful, is often the optimum time for good group decisions. **"I love the last minute,"** I once heard someone say. **"If it weren't for the last minute a lot of stuff wouldn't get done."**

## End Notes

### Call for National Conference Presenters Nat'l Cohousing Conference - Durham, May 29-31, 2015 [Click here for information and application](#)

**Are People Happier Living in Community?** The FIC is teaming up with researchers to try to answer this question by going straight to the source: asking people living in intentional communities what they think. Interested communities should contact [Ian MacDonald](#) who will provide a link to an anonymous online survey.

### Coho/US welcomes new Board of Director members

**Peter Lazar** is a resident of [Shadowlake Village Cohousing](#) in Blacksburg, and a founder of [Sheeflee Cohousing](#) in Charlottesville. An award-winning technology entrepreneur, Peter has been involved in the Web since its inception. **Diana Sullivan** is a founder of [Germantown Commons/New American Villages](#) in Nashville, which she formed after returning from the 2010 Cohousing Conference. A commercial real estate broker, with non-profit leadership experience, Diana wants to create more cohousing in Tennessee and expand cohousing nationally. [read more](#)

One reason to **support Coho/US** is you appreciate Coho/US as a connector to resources and conferences. Please [Donate Now!](#)

## Thanks for reading

**Cohousing Now!** provides timely information 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 mailing lists to help spread the word about cohousing - now!

## More Ads

- [Coho/US Volunteer Opportunities](#)

## Cohousing Professionals

Connecting with professional services is easy! Visit [Cohousing Professionals](#). Interested in being listed? Email [Marketing Manager](#).

- [Bryan Bowen Architects, p.c.](#)
- [The Cohousing Company: McCamant & Durrett Architects](#)
- [Cohousing Partners, LLC & Wonderland Hill Development Company](#)
- [Kraus Fitch Architects, Inc.](#)

## In the News

- [New, Adaptive Developments - North Denver Tribune](#)
- [SAK House: Creating Green Home Kits - Belfast](#)
- [Living at Home, But Not Home Alone - Kiplinger Personal Finance](#)
- [more news](#)

## New Resources

[Cohousing Brochure](#) Use as a recruiting tool for members, and an education tool for the public.

[About our Classified Ads](#)  
Connecting cohousers and seekers with services, housing, and communities.

## Join Our Mailing List