Cohousing: Neighborhoods for People

Peter Lazar

February 12, 2020

What is Cohousing?

Cohousing is a neighborhood with:

- Clustered homes
- 100% pedestrian-oriented
- Open space
- Shared amenities
  - a club house
  - playground
  - community gardens
  - other (e.g. pool)

Cohousing residents:

- Make decisions via a Condo Association or HOA
- Share activities which may include cooking, dining, child care, gardening, and governance of the community.

What is Cohousing?

Cohousing creates a village where people can more easily interact.

Cohousing puts people in front, not cars!

Photo: David Shankbone, GNU Free Documentation License

Sunward Cohousing
Photo: Mc on avon, GNU Free Documentation License

Cohousing moves parking to the exterior

Exterior parking...

... keeps the interior safe from traffic.

Cohousing balances Community & Privacy

Privacy is an integral part of cohousing.

Community

It is the kind of village that really does raise children.

Community

People spontaneously socialize in cohousing.

Affinity groups

Cohousers naturally find social and interest groups within their community.

Events & Traditions

Club House

The club house (Common House) is the center of the community.

Club House

Common guest rooms are well-used and allow personal homes to be smaller.

More fun, Less stuff

Sharing resources, Sharing time

Other cities with cohousing

- 11 within 5 miles of Boulder, CO
- 6 around Raleigh Durham
- clusters around the country
  - SFO, SEA, BOS..
- 50 in 2005, 165 today

Harrisonburg is an ideal market for cohousing

- College town
- Compatible with Harrisonburg *Vision and Goals*
  - "Neighborhoods that are
  - quiet,
  - safe,
  - beautiful,
  - walkable,
  - enhance social interaction, and
  - offer a balanced range of housing choices."

Cohousing advantages to Harrisonburg

- Provide an attractive housing model in Harrisonburg
- Help families live happy and healthy lives
  - Roseta, PA
  - Wall Street article about centarians and where they live

Emerson Commons, Crozet VA

Emerson Commons, Crozet VA

Hearthstone Cohousing

Oak Creek Commons

Quimper Village, Port Townsend WA

Tacoma Village Cohousing

Silver Sage Cohousing

Mountain View Cohousing, Mountain View CA

Temescal Commons Cohousing, Oakland CA

Bellingham Cohousing, Bellingham WA

Frog Song Cohousing, Cotati, CA

Nevada City Cohousing, Nevada City CA

Mosaic Commons, Berlin MA

Hearthstone, Denver CO

Germantown Commons, Nashville TN

East Lake Commons, Decatur GA