



Newsletter | November 2020

Now, more than ever, we are feeling the value of belonging as we create and build Heartwood Commons. It is truly amazing to come together to create and build something much bigger than any of us could do alone. We invite you to reach out to us and join us on this journey.



Making Connections

So much of our focus lately has been on getting ready to break ground and for construction to begin. Getting our homes and common house built is definitely important but there is so much more to cohousing. **People already living in cohousing tell us they find the relationships built in cohousing to be far more important than the structures.** *After all, everyone had a roof over their head before coming to cohousing.* It's the desire for connection that propels most people to join a cohousing community.

Cohousing is built to create connections. Everything about the physical design at Heartwood Commons supports making connections easier. Having walkways arranged to connect our homes, garages, common spaces and other destinations within the community increases the chance we will interact with our neighbors and friends on a daily basis. Someone will notice if we haven't retrieved our mail in the common house or made our daily visit to the garden or dog park. Large front porches make impromptu visits with neighbors convenient.

So how are we building connections now, before we move in, and during this pandemic?

We are still managing to make connections in a big way. Our experience during the pandemic has been that our virtual business meetings allow everyone – introvert and extrovert - to speak up and participate in a meaningful way. Our on-line coffee klatches and happy hours give everyone the chance to socialize and get to know one another better.

We've even managed to meet in small groups, wearing masks and physically distancing, for several fun gatherings on the land that have included impromptu and planned picnics, fireworks watching, a bike ride, land tours, and celebrations.

For November, we plan to gather at a local park for a sit and chat. In December, we plan to visit the Tulsa Botanical Garden where we will practice COVID precautions while enjoying one another's company and their beautiful holiday display.

To help us build resiliency as a community, we've enlisted Karen Gimmig, a widely respected consultant in the cohousing world, to help us connect deeper and build our communication skills.

All of these activities are intentionally planned to continue the important groundwork of community building that will help us weather this pandemic and be ready to fully launch our community when construction is completed.



Project Updates

If you've been following us and thinking well maybe . . . Now is the time to get involved.

Why now?

- We only have a few homes left. Once we are sold out, it will likely be several years before a home becomes available.
- There's still time to select the options you want for your home. Once we are further into construction, options will no longer be available.
- You can help develop the community culture and the ways we will live together.
- You get to connect with your future neighbors and become part of the community even before moving in.

We encourage you to attend one of our "Dig In to Heartwood Commons" events listed below and consider becoming an Explorer soon.

Welcoming New Members

Kay and Bill Stauss and Gail Sloop



We are excited to welcome Kay and Bill Stauss and Gail Sloop as our newest members. Joining us from out-of-town, Gail, an artist and art teacher, will be moving just up the turnpike from Oklahoma City. Kay and Bill will return to Tulsa after 10 years of retirement living in Sun City in Georgetown, Texas.

All three used their time as Explorers to really dig in, get to know us, ask questions, and let the value of cohousing really sink in. With a Buddy to help guide them through the process, they felt quickly at ease. And, participating by Zoom in our General Meetings and on-line socials helped them feel right at home.

We invite you to consider joining us as an Explorer to see if Heartwood Commons is the community for you. Learn more at <https://www.heartwoodcommonstulsa.com/how-to-reserve-your-home>

Welcoming New Explorers

Linda and Phil Berrey



Linda and Phil downsized into a rented house anticipating a future move to Colorado. During a car trip in September they began to warm to the idea that Tulsa was as "near to a perfect spot as any" to live into their retirement years. About that time, they read a newspaper article about our groundbreaking and decided Heartwood Commons might be a good fit for them.

Born and raised in Texas, Linda is a retired newspaper reporter, librarian, church education director and worship coordinator. She was the publication editor at the world-renowned Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York. She currently volunteers with Reading Partners.

Phil was born in North Carolina and grew up in 6 different states. He is semi-retired after 45 years in the petroleum refining industry. The couple has lived in Tulsa for 14 years and share their home with feline friends, Ruby and Luna. They have 2 sons living in Atlanta and Bogota. They enjoy traveling on Rick Steves tours and have been to many European countries as well as South America and Cuba. If the pandemic hadn't happened, they had hoped to be traveling to France or Canada this year.

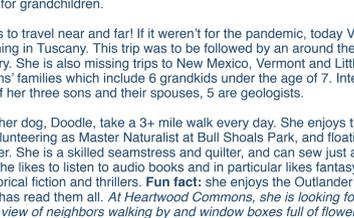
Linda likes to play board games, and in the past, has played all weekend on visits with her sister in Texas. While she doesn't enjoy performing for others, Linda plays piano "well enough for hymns" and enjoys "banging away" at the hammered dulcimer. **Fun fact:** Linda has written 2 screen plays and 30 chapters of a novel. She reports she is "unfortunately, easily distracted."

Phil played guitar regularly until 7 years ago when his son "borrowed" his instrument. Recently, it has been returned and he is limbering up his fingers and gradually learning to play again. He admits that his "best instrument is the radio." He also likes woodworking.

The couple are attracted to cohousing by the idea of "actually knowing your neighbors" (Phil) and **"belonging to a community"** (Linda). They have collected old furniture from churches over the years. Linda has a favorite one, a pew, which she thinks with a good coat of weatherproofing paint would work great on their front porch. Phil admitted they have been "arranging their furniture in their heads" for their potential home in Heartwood Commons.

Welcoming New Explorer

Vickie Martin



Vickie has been interested in cohousing for many years and has been following Heartwood Commons for a long time. In fact, she even looked at our land while we were still considering purchasing it. Having been a caregiver for her late husband and elderly parents, she is cognizant of the issues of aging in place and the importance of connections. **As the pandemic has worn on she decided now is the time to jump on board.**

Vickie was born in Harrison, Arkansas, and raised in Redding, California. She raised her 3 sons in Tulsa. After the death of her husband, she moved back to Arkansas to care for her parents. While there she also worked in real estate and enjoyed babysitting for grandchildren.

Vickie loves to travel near and far! If it weren't for the pandemic, today Vickie would be vacationing in Tuscany. This trip was to be followed by an around the world trip next January. She is also missing trips to New Mexico, Vermont and Little Rock to visit her sons' families which include 6 grandkids under the age of 7. Interesting side note: Out of her three sons and their spouses, 5 are geologists.

Vickie and her dog, Doodle, take a 3+ mile walk every day. She enjoys the outdoors, her time volunteering as Master Naturalist at Bull Shoals Park, and floating the Buffalo River. She is a skilled seamstress and quilter, and can sew just about anything. She likes to listen to audio books and in particular likes fantasy/science fiction, historical fiction and thrillers. **Fun fact:** she enjoys the Outlander series of books and has read them all. *At Heartwood Commons, she is looking forward to a front porch view of neighbors walking by and window boxes full of flowers. Also, the sounds of conversation, birds, dogs, music and fun happenings.*

Join us for an Upcoming Event



Dig In to Heartwood Commons
Thursday, November 10 | 6:30 pm CST on Zoom
OR
Saturday, November 21 | 11:00 am CST on Zoom

Join us for this Zoom event to learn more about Heartwood Commons. See our plans and pricing. Learn about our progress, legal structure and decision-making. Get answers to your questions. Explore the membership process and timeline.

NOV 10 - RSVP FOR THE MEETING LINK

NOV 21 - RSVP FOR THE MEETING LINK

Choose *where* you live and *how* you live. Heartwood Commons offers another choice.



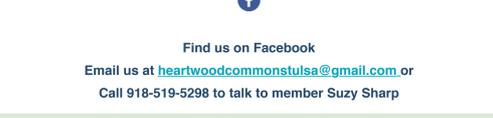
Want to Learn More?
You are always welcome to call or email Suzy at 918-519-5298 or heartwoodcommonstulsa@gmail.com. She is happy to answer questions and share the details of most interest to you.

Last Thoughts

So we've been thinking . . .
What will we do while our project is under construction?
We have some ideas . . .

1. Continue to find ways to get to know one another.
2. Welcome new future neighbors.
3. Explore the ways we will be living together.

That should keep us busy for a good while.



More About Heartwood Commons

Construction is about to begin at our beautiful site in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Our anticipated move-in date is late 2021/early 2022. With only a few homes available, now is the time to get involved. If you'd like to know more about reserving one of our last homes, be sure to reach out to us soon.

Visit Our Website

Find us on Facebook

Email us at heartwoodcommonstulsa@gmail.com or

Call 918-519-5298 to talk to member Suzy Sharp