



Newsletter | August 2021

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

### Common Misconceptions about Cohousing

Those of us involved with Heartwood Commons for a while have grown used to questions like, "Will I have my privacy?," "Is it a cult?," "Do I have my own kitchen?," "How is it different than a regular condo?"

We hope to debunk some of those misconceptions here!

#### Will I have to give up my privacy?

Absolutely not! At Heartwood Commons, you'll have both the privacy you desire and convenient opportunities for connection and socialization. Your front door is NOT always open. You decide when, where, how, and how often you interact with your neighbors.

#### It's a cult. Everyone in the community must think or believe the same.

Honestly, when we hear this, it makes us chuckle a little. Our members have wonderfully varied backgrounds, experiences, interests, and beliefs. What we do share is a common desire to live out our lives in a community of people we can depend on and who share similar values like being good neighbors and living lighter on the land. You'll find more about the values we embrace [HERE](#). None of us, not one, have any interest in joining a cult!

#### Not everyone will get along

In Heartwood Commons you're expected to be a good neighbor, not necessarily to be best friends with everyone. We also don't expect our community to be without disagreement or conflict. Members agree to treat their neighbors with respect, and to work things out that come up. While we wait to move in, we're getting to know each other. And, we're learning to really listen to one another – a skill that really comes in handy as we work together to make decisions on how the community will operate.

#### I can buy in after construction is over.

Because cohousing is new to Tulsa, we know there are many who are interested but are waiting to see what it will be like once it's built. **But now is the time to act!** With only a few homes left, we expect to be sold out before move-in day. Besides, it's really fun and exciting to be a part of creating our future neighborhood.

#### It's the same as living in a condo.

No, there are many differences. But one of the most important is who's in charge. At Heartwood Commons, we the people, who are going to live there, have been involved in making the decisions every step of the way. We're not controlled by an outside group whose focus is making a profit. *This is OUR future we're creating.*

#### And, yes, everyone home has a wonderful kitchen.

Thanks [Treehouse Village](#) for inspiring this article.

## Meet Our Newest Explorers

Carol and Steve



Carol and Steve are from Tulsa where they share their home with two dogs, Gizmo and Tripod (who has 3 legs), 3 chickens, and a fish pond. They have one son locally and another who lives in Seattle with their 3 granddaughters (ages 3, 5 & 8). Both love to travel, especially to the National Parks and to see the grands, and use a van Steve adapted for travel that includes solar power. Trips to Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia are some of their favorites.

Carol spent her career as a high school science teacher (Chemistry, Physical Science, and AP Environmental Science) and has a Master's degree in Human Relations. She is the seamstress and loves making clothing for her granddaughters who get to pick the fabric and the style. She also enjoys gardening and stained glass.

Steve is a children and family entertainer, a career he has enjoyed since 1980. As an actor he portrays Ben Franklin (his favorite), Orville Wright, Okie Dodie and the 14 flags of Oklahoma. He has a degree in Theatre Tech and a Master's in Religious Education. Steve's many interests include brewing beer, Balloon Art, pottery, woodworking, welding for fun, and puppetry. He is quite a fix-it kind of guy, recently helping his Seattle son solve a plumbing problem over FaceTime.



Carol and Steve see cohousing as a way to live out their values. They are looking forward to being useful to community. It's also a great alternative to loneliness, which the pandemic has worsened.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our site is rapidly changing, from one week to the next, we see our community take shape.

In July, our common house was transformed from stakes in the ground to outline its shape to a building with a view of the community. Buildings A & B were framed in and concrete was poured for their front and back porches.

August will bring foundations, framing and porches for Buildings C and D. We'll wrap up Geothermal well drilling on the project and begin installation of the storm water system.

We're so excited to share the following views from our Common House.

Be sure to follow our progress at [Heartwood Commons on Facebook](#)

Join us for a Tour of Heartwood Commons on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> to see our progress up close and person. Reservations required. See events below for more information.



Pictured top left: View of the community from the back porch.

Pictured top right: West side of the common house.

Pictured left: View of the dog park area from one of the guest rooms.

## August Events

### Information Presentations - Join us on Zoom or In-Person

We invite you to explore Heartwood Commons and the comfortable, social, and engaged community lifestyle it offers by attending one of our informational presentations. You'll meet community members, see our plans and pricing, learn about our timeline, and get answers to your questions. Our community is growing and we only have a few homes left. **Now is a great time to learn more.**

#### On Zoom:



#### Dig In to Heartwood Commons

Wednesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm CT

We hope you will join us on Zoom for this fun and informative presentation!

[RSVP FOR AUG 11 & GET MEETING LINK](#)

#### In Person:



#### Tours of Heartwood Commons are Back!

Saturday, August 14 at 10:00 am CT

7141 S Quincy Ave, Tulsa

Come see Heartwood Commons up close and personal. You'll hear from our construction superintendent, see our community construction progress, meet some of our members, and get answers to your questions.

Reservations are required so we can plan for the necessary safety precautions such as hard hats. Closed shoes are required and you'll be asked to complete a site visit agreement prior to the start of the tour.

[RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR AUG 14](#)



#### Learn About Heartwood Commons

Saturday, August 21 at 10:00 am CT

Zarrow Pointe, 2025 E 71st St, in Town Center Theatre Room

(1st building on your left, just past the outdoor pool)

Following the presentation, you'll have the opportunity to see our construction progress with a visit to the land.

To attend this event, you must show proof of COVID vaccination at the Zarrow Pointe reception desk. We are grateful to Zarrow Pointe for providing us this comfortable meeting space.

[RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR AUG 21](#)



#### Site Visit by Appointment

Meet up with Heartwood Commons members to visit the land, see our construction progress and get answers to your questions.

[Email to arrange your site visit.](#)

## Coming Full Circle

by Community Member, Mike McMullin



In the late 1960's, I was busy challenging everything I had been taught. On the list was the notion that we all needed separate housing and should live as if we were on isolated islands. This required everyone to own their own lawn mower, garden tiller, and all the tools and equipment it took to take care of everything.

Later during my college years, I wrote a sociology class paper on the Twin Oaks Community in Virginia. People there were experimenting with the idea that shared responsibilities, meals, childcare, transportation and many other segments of life would create a better life than the traditional individualistic approach.

In writing this report, I realized that some of what appealed to me about community living was what I missed about my childhood neighborhood where we knew and trusted everyone within a three-block radius. Everyone borrowed flour and sugar and traded tools back and forth. Because adults kept an eye on all the children, we were allowed to roam and play freely.

While I thought this was the path to take, life happened. Marriage, children, a small business to run, and other magnetic mainstream lifestyle choices led me away from some of my ideals, but the desire to live in a way that made more sense persisted.

Finally, after retirement, my wife, Audrey, and I decided to look at lifestyle alternatives. We read about an intentional cohousing community forming in Tulsa, Oklahoma that would be designed to allow people to "age in place." We attended a few meetings and discovered everything they were planning fit our notions of living in community with trusted, like-minded people who would support each other as we grew older. Property care, gardening, community meals, group bike riding/hiking/paddling were all a part of the plan.

It didn't take us long to realize that this was a chance to come "full circle." We joined Heartwood Commons and haven't look back. Thanks to Zoom we've been able to really get to know our future neighbors and participate in community meetings and socials. We are very excited to move from Fayetteville, Arkansas into our new Heartwood Commons neighborhood as soon as it is completed early next year.

## There's Always Something to do in Tulsa



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, within a quarter mile radius in downtown Tulsa you could have gone to a Green Day concert at Cain's Ballroom, watched a Tulsa Drillers baseball game, enjoyed dinner and drinks at any number of award winning restaurants or breweries, or joined your future neighbors at Guthrie Green to listen to the Starlight Band, Oklahoma's only professional concert band that has been providing free concerts to Tulsans for 75 years.

On another day, you could have taken in the "Songs of Conscience, Sounds of Freedom" exhibit at the Woody Guthrie Center or "A Luthier's Tale – the Craft of Stringed Instruments" at 108 Contemporary gallery. Very soon you'll be able to add a visit to see The Bob Dylan Archives featuring 6,000 items illuminating nearly 80 years of writings, recordings, memorabilia, film and more. Later this year, OKPOP (the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture) will open to showcase the powerful creative force Oklahoma artists have on popular culture.

Learn more about what Tulsa has to offer [HERE](#).

## Looking for more connections and a community you can count on?

Heartwood Commons has begun construction at our beautiful site in Tulsa, Oklahoma! Our anticipated move-in date is early 2022.

If you'd like to know more about the possibility of reserving one of our last homes, be sure to reach out to us soon.

You are always welcome to call or email Suzy. She is happy to answer questions and share the details of most interest to you. Contact her here:

Suzy  
Heartwood Commons community member  
[heartwoodcommons@tulsa.com](mailto:heartwoodcommons@tulsa.com)  
918-519-5298



[Visit Our Website](#)



Find us on Facebook

Email us at [heartwoodcommons@tulsa.com](mailto:heartwoodcommons@tulsa.com) or

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