



Newsletter | February 2021

Building Community in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Now more than ever, we Heartwood Commoners believe in – and experience every day – the value of community. We continue to move our project forward and are excited to share with you our latest news.



The word *heart* has many meanings. It's a hollow muscular organ that circulates blood around our body and keeps us alive. It's a playing card. It's the central, essential, or most vital part of something. It's used to refer to one's character or the place within a person where feelings or emotions are considered to come from.

When describing the "heart" of cohousing, three things come to mind. *The Common House, Shared Meals, and a sense of community.*

The **Common House** is the heart of the community. No single physical element is more important to the health and vitality of a cohousing community than the Common House. Its design facilitates social interaction and the workings of the community. It's both the physical and the communal anchor of the community. It is the link between home and neighborhood.

At Heartwood Commons, our Common House is where we will share meals, play and work together, and celebrate special occasions. It is one of the places where we will create, and teach and learn from one another. There we will share time over coffee or a glass of wine and enjoy face-to-face conversations, stories and getting to know one another. From our common house we can watch sunrises and sunsets. It's where "neighbor" gets put back into neighborhood.



The Common House is where neighbors gets put back into neighborhood.

Shared meals are at the heart of cohousing. In every culture around the world, shared meals with friends or family are a way of connecting with each other. Talking about the day, getting and giving encouragement. Making plans together. Shared meals can enhance our sense of well-being, lower our stress, increase our feelings of optimism, and help us maintain perspective.

Sharing food with people builds trust and respect. It makes working together easier. It can also make for quicker decision making and consensus. For all these reasons and more, at Heartwood Commons, we expect to share meals several times a week. Maybe it will be a dinner cooked by a team of neighbors. Perhaps it will be a pot-luck. Or possibly a happy hour with shared snacks. The possibilities are endless.

The **sense of community** is at the heart of cohousing. Increasingly it's what people are looking for these days, as COVID has contributed to a growing feeling of isolation and has shown a light on the vulnerabilities of our single family home lifestyle and traditional retirement options. In sharp contrast, cohousing offers a neighborly lifestyle, where we know our neighbors and share everyday life with them. It stimulates a feeling of belonging that we each matter to one another and to the group.

To promote the sense of community at Heartwood Commons, we make connecting with one another easy. That's why we have big front porches, paths that take us past each other's homes, shared activities spaces and, of course, a centrally located Common House and Shared Meals. We have built in ways to have fun together, share experiences, support each other, and give one another space when needed. We will also make decisions together in a way that gives everyone a voice, the opportunity to participate, and with a shared goal of what's good for the overall community.



Construction Update



The delivery of the construction trailers made it all very official.



The landscape of the site has changed dramatically as the topsoil has been removed (and saved). Check out the video at <https://youtu.be/11k3CODNuM>.



The Common House begins.

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

Don't Let Your Options Run Out

If you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time. As construction proceeds, home options will begin to close. For example, while you can still select your color scheme (cool tones or warm tones), back door options are no longer available.

We only have a few homes left. Once we are sold out, it will likely be several years before a home becomes available.

Home Type	Size	Total # of Homes	# of Homes Available
A – 1 bedroom/1 bath	753 sf	4	2
B – 2 bedroom/1 bath	1,006 sf	10	5
C – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath	1,184 sf	18	5
D – 2 master suites, office & 2 living areas	1,508 sf	4	wait list

To learn how you can join our community and purchase your home, plan to attend one of our upcoming presentations or contact Suzy Sharp by calling 918-519-5298 or email at heartwoodcommonstulsa@gmail.com

Welcoming our Newest Explorers

We are generating interest from one side of the country to the other.



Pat (PJ) Wyatt

The last time Pat was in Oklahoma was when she was a young girl and her dad was stationed at Ft. Sill in Lawton. After his retirement from the military, her family settled in Monterey, California where she and her sister, who now lives in Germany, grew up.

As an adult, Pat lived and worked for more than 30 years in Silicon Valley in human resources management. She first worked with high techs and startups and then shifted to public agencies and nonprofits focused on housing issues for underserved populations. In between, she had a 3-year life-changing detour into peer grief counseling, something she hopes to return to in retirement. Pat moved back to Monterey 13 years ago to be closer to, and help, her mother who died last year.

Pat describes herself as a frugal minimalist who is always trying to lighten her load. She enjoys opera, cats, and LOVES to read, confessing that if she could go back, she would become a librarian.

Interested in cohousing for some time, she's decided now is the time to find her forever home, and she's not afraid to move half-way across the country to make that happen. She's especially looking forward to trying out new things and making connections in her new cohousing community. We're so excited to extend a Tulsa spirited welcome to our newest Explorer Pat.

P.S. With two other Pats in our community, she has suggested that we call her P.J.



Pam Clyde

Pam has lived from one corner of the United States to the other and is looking at possibly moving to the heartland.

The middle child of 7 children, Pam was born in Tacoma, Washington into a military family. Her dad was in the Navy and her mother was a Navy WAVE. They met on base and were married 3 months later. Transferred to Hawaii, Pam spent her pre-school years in Honolulu. While there her mother learned to Hula from one of the top Ancient Hula instructors. Retirement from the Navy took her family to Pensacola, Florida where her mother's family still lived.

Pam graduated from the University of Florida and lived in the SE for 30 years before moving back to Pensacola in 2008 to help her parents. She didn't just move back – she moved into the same neighborhood in which she grew up and across the street from her sister and on the banks of Bayou Grande. While she has no children, she is Aunt Pammy to 26 nieces and nephews, and 10 great nieces and nephews.

She's an accountant who retired in 2019 after working for small companies and owning her own business. She describes herself as an environmentalist and a homebody who enjoys gardening, listening to various genre audiobooks, water aerobics, and volunteering with special needs children. Her dog, Claire, is a black lab rescue who graduated from a prison-based dog training program. She also enjoys traveling with Road Scholar which is where she met Vickie. They hit it off and became friends, which is how she learned about Heartwood Commons. Thanks Vickie for introducing her to us.

She's looking for a community where she can age in place and people to connect with. Sounds like Heartwood Commons to me.

Join us for an Online Event to Learn More



Dig In to Heartwood Commons

Saturday, February 13 at 1 pm CT or Thursday, February 25 | 6:00 pm CT

Join us on Zoom to meet some of our members and learn more about Heartwood Commons. See our plans and pricing. Hear about our construction progress and timeline. Get answers to your questions. Learn about our legal structure, decision-making and how you can become a member and select your home.

RSVP FOR FEB 13 & GET MEETING LINK

RSVP FOR FEB 25 & GET MEETING LINK



Private Site Visit of Our Land

By appointment - in person

Meet up with a cohousing member to visit the land, learn about our site plan, and see our construction progress. Visits are outdoors with a single member as tour guide. Masks required. *Photo was taken prior to COVID-19. Email to [schedule your private site visit](#).

Last Thoughts



Let's Get Social

Fun is the operative word for Heartwood Common social gatherings. In January we assembled one Saturday evening for lots of it as we played our version of true confessions. Members took turns asking the group "Have you ever?" The end of that question began a story.

Here's a sampling of our "Have you ever?" story prompts:
...jumped off a 30 foot cliff into the water?
...zip lined?
...been mentioned on Paul Harvey?
...gone skinny dipping?
...had your picture on the cover of Life magazine?
...ridden a mule into the Grand Canyon?
...been mentioned in National Geographic?
...spent the night in jail?
...hiked Machu Picchu?
...known someone who was on stage in Paris (at the Moulin Rouge)?

Of course, we all wanted to know the whole story, so we spent the evening listening, marveling, and laughing. One story led to another and before we knew it, we each had a better understanding of the storytellers, admiration for their escapades, maybe a little envy of them. But, most of all we had fun!

Just for laughs, try to match up the stories with the smiling faces you see in the above photo.

Looking for more connections and a community you can lean on?

We invite you to learn more about Heartwood Commons, where future neighbors become friends – even before we move in.

We only have a few homes left. We don't want you to miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting community way of living you won't find anywhere else in the area.

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
heartwoodcommonstulsa@gmail.com
918-519-5298



More About Heartwood Commons

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.



Visit Our Website



Find us on Facebook

Email us at heartwoodcommonstulsa@gmail.com or Call 918-519-5298 to talk to member Suzy Sharp