

Cohousing Expert to Give Free Presentation

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Fair Oaks Eco Housing, the area's latest cohousing community, which will soon be built on Fair Oaks Boulevard, near New York Avenue. Photo courtesy Fair Oaks EcoHousing



Kathryn McCamant, an architect, author, and development consultant will speak on "25 Years of Cohousing in North America: What Have We Learned?" Photo courtesy Fair Oaks EcoHousing

Fair Oaks EcoHousing is sponsoring a free presentation by national cohousing expert Kathryn McCamant on April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Fair Oaks Library.

McCamant, an architect, author, and development consultant will speak on “25 Years of Cohousing in North America: What Have We Learned?” The presentation will provide an overview of the national cohousing movement, with examples of communities that have been built around the country over the last two decades, including Southside Park Cohousing in Sacramento, Nevada City Cohousing, and Wolf Creek Lodge in Grass Valley. McCamant is the development consultant for Fair Oaks Eco Housing, the area’s latest cohousing community, which will soon be built on Fair Oaks Boulevard, near New York Avenue.

The presentation will kick off the first-ever National Cohousing Open House Day on Saturday, April 30th, when communities across the country will host tours and visits for the public. McCamant says: “Cohousing neighborhoods across America are proving that we can live a more sustainable lifestyle, that is healthier and more fun for people of all ages, as well as good for the environment.”

Cohousing neighborhoods are composed of privately-owned homes clustered around shared open space and common facilities. A central clubhouse typically includes a dining room, kitchen, lounge, workshop space, kids’ playroom and guest rooms. It is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of activities. Cars are kept to the edge of the site, thus making the neighborhood pedestrian-friendly and safe for children. Future residents are involved in the design and development so that it reflects their needs and priorities, creating a truly custom neighborhood.

Environmental sustainability is a core value in these neighborhoods. Smaller, energy-efficient homes, green building attributes, and renewable energy systems are made possible by combined efforts and shared resources. On-site activities and companionship enable residents to socialize close to home and reduce their need to drive as much for day-to-day activities. The Fair Oaks property offers close proximity to the American River Parkway, Fair Oaks Village, Bannister Park, the Sacramento Waldorf School, and Rudolf Steiner College.

Architects and authors Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant introduced cohousing to North America in the 1980’s after studying the movement in Denmark. They are the authors of “Creating Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities.” There are now more than 160 housing communities in the United States, including 32 in California. McCamant and Durrett, a husband and wife team, have worked together on over fifty cohousing projects. They live in Nevada City Cohousing.

The public presentation will be held at the Fair Oaks Library at 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd; admission is free. For more information, visit www.FairOaksEcoHousing.org.