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# FIRST COHOUSING NEIGHBORHOOD IN KANSAS CLOSES ON LAND AUG. 9

LAWRENCE, KS; AUG. 9 – Delaware Street Commons, the state's first cohousing neighborhood, is buying the land for its 32-household planned community today. The group will be closing on 3.2 acres for $370,000. The site is in east Lawrence at 1208 Delaware Street. The seller is Bo March, and the arrangement is being handled by Lawrence Bank.

Cohousing communities are designed as old-fashioned villages to promote easy interaction among the residents. These mainstream neighborhoods allow future homeowners to help design and develop the overall site, the individual homes and common buildings. Residents own their homes and are equal owners in the common property.

"Cohousing is quickly growing in popularity, as more and more people want to have a sense of community in their life and to know their neighbors," said Linda Journeys, a founding member of Delaware Street Commons.

The group now consists of 11 equity members who have invested at least 5% of the purchase price of their future home. The community is composed of families with children, couples, singles and retirees, whose unifying principle is wanting to know their neighbors before they move in and to have ongoing contact during the course of daily life, meals and the management of the neighborhood.

The membership also includes eight associate members who regularly attend meetings and actively participate in the project. Members include lawyers, computer software programmers, social workers, social service administrators and a female minister.

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There are now more than 50 completed cohousing neighborhoods in North America, with two dozen more under construction across the U.S. The number of completed neighborhoods has doubled in the past two years, and an estimated 150 cohousing communities are in various stages of development in America, according to The Cohousing Network, the non-profit association that tracks cohousing building and development.

The Delaware Street Commons land purchase includes McMillen House, a historic Italianate building constructed in 1870. The group plans to preserve and make renovations to the building to convert it into a functioning "Common House" to be used for community meals several times a week and for meetings and social activities. For the past year, Delaware Street Commons has been using McMillen House for bi-weekly Friday night dinners and holds weekly Saturday morning business meetings there, as well as monthly free orientations and regular site tours.

"I'm very excited about closing on the land, as we already take care of the property and have become quite used to this as our future home," said Journeys, the treasurer for Delaware Street Commons. "We have been planning our neighborhood for over a year, and we are already a strong community. I'm looking forward to living next to my future neighbors and not having to drive across town to see friends who will be next door."

The next **free orientation** will be on **Tuesday, August 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at McMillen House, 1208 Delaware Street**. At this presentation, a cohousing video will be shown, and members will give an update about the project and be available to answer attendees questions. People interested in Delaware Street Commons may call Tava Serpan at 785-550-0163 for additional information.

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