

# Oakcreek Cohousing Community

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[www.OakcreekStillwater.com](http://www.OakcreekStillwater.com)



## Spring Newsletter May, 2020

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Well before we knew about the approaching pandemic, Oakcreek's winter activities progressed much as expected.

In February our Well Being Team presented a  
Community Development Workshop,  
featuring much fun -- and encouragement to build a  
'Complaint Free World.'

Little did we know how relevant that encouragement  
would become within the next few weeks.





Early spring at Oakcreek always brings 'projects' – such as the replacement of raised garden beds. Fortunately a number of Oklahoma State University students offered their help, volunteering through their annual *Into the Streets* program. This heavy-lifting project was completed in just a few hours, with our Oakcreek crew working alongside the OSU guys.







And we welcome  
grandkids' help  
with projects –  
even if they  
just tag along  
in the  
wheelbarrow!





Even as news of the pandemic spread, for awhile we continued sprucing up the grounds and getting ready for spring concerts, Open House, and other planned events.



## Making wildflower seed bombs – before 'social distancing.'



Once the reality of the coronavirus pandemic struck, it was quickly apparent that cohousing is the place to be in a crisis.

Every member had a skill to offer -- research or mathematic background, scientific or medical experience, even mask making.

We were fortunate to have accurate information circulated, and to have members voluntarily draft procedures to reduce our use of the Common House, limit large gatherings, and provide virus avoidance instructions.

We made masks -- and wore them!






Then when the 'shelter at home' order  
became stifling,  
there was a call for music and Macarena-  
and Chicken dance, and the Twist,  
and Line dancing – in the meadow.  
Social distancing, of course.



**Though our spring concerts and  
Open House were finally cancelled,  
a Virtual Open House was produced  
(link below), including tours of  
Oakcreek home interiors.**

**OAKCREEK VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE -- APRIL, 2020**





During the 'shelter at home' weeks,  
Zoom meetings proliferated;  
and we took advantage of other cohousing  
communities' web chats and ideas,  
duplicating their pandemic precautions  
and personal plans,  
IN CASE we should become infected.  
Brainstorming with neighbors motivated us  
to put our individual plans in place.

## Coronavirus Shelter-at-Home

### Observed Acts of Kindness: Neighbor to Neighbor

- Call or email neighbors to check on them
- Take time in passing to ask “how are you”
- Porch to porch visits
- Cook extra for dinner so it can be shared
- Dance Nights - held in the meadow
- Share desserts with neighbors
- Hand over the car keys for your neighbor to use
- Plant vegetables for all to partake
- Sing Along Nights - held in the meadow
- Assist neighbor with yardwork when needed
- Clean the common house for all to enjoy

Shelter-at-Home allowed more time  
to spend with our neighbors



Throughout the isolation of the spring,  
we have been fortunate to live in  
Oakcreek's beautiful, wide open setting.  
Just a short walk away  
are wildflower fields,  
neighbors' bird feeders, and color everywhere.



We've had access to trails and outdoor spaces,  
so were able to continue physical activities.



But, as much as we've attempted to maintain life as usual, we recognize that it is actually not usual -- for us, or most of the Country. We all are missing our families, our travels, our daily routines. We all are thoughtful of those who have lost family, friends, and co-workers to this deadly disease. And we all feel the daily stress of those who have lost jobs and income.

We're so grateful to have our cohousing neighbors close by. And knowing that many difficult months lie ahead, we hope to watch for opportunities to assist as we can. We look forward to the time when we can again invite all of you to visit Oakcreek.



# Sunset over Boomer Lake



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