



Left, Greenhouse Village Cooperative is located on Larpenteur Avenue within walking distance of shops, restaurants and drug stores. Right, the land on which the cooperative was built has been in the Leben family for generations. Pictured here is the original Leben family farm.

## Live and laugh at Greenhouse Village

Spend five minutes at Greenhouse Village senior cooperative community and it becomes evident that the people who live there love to laugh and have fun.

"We laugh a lot," says Bev Liebenstein, one of about 150 cooperative members. "The environment is light."

Greenhouse Village has 102 units, and members cooperatively own the campus. The land on which the cooperative is built has been in the same family for at least three generations. Patricia Leben, whose family owned the land, lives at the cooperative now.

"Since the land has been in family ownership for years, it has become a link to making cooperative members feel like family," says cooperative member Lee Brotherton.

Brotherton admits he was hesitant to move into the cooperative because of the stereotypes that surround many senior living communities, but he learned almost immediately that Greenhouse Village didn't fit that mold. Now, he has coffee with other cooperative residents each morning, participates in community events and says he couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

"The people that live there have become family too," he explains. "And where else can you walk to nearly 15 restaurants?"

Housing manager Jeff Welle notes that Greenhouse Village is located within walking distance of a number of restaurants, shops, the drug store, a clinic, an optical store, a bank, beauty shops, a dentist's office and a grocery store; it also

has convenient access to Metro Transit.

The cooperative's close proximity to a wide variety of amenities increases the quality of life for the residents and allows for more independence and mobility as a senior.

Welle says he believes seniors can be happier, more active adults if they move to a cooperative while they are still independent.

"People wait too long to move here," Welle says. "If you're an active senior, it's perfect."

The cooperative offers a host of activities for those who live there, and the campus includes a billiards room, library, craft room, woodworking shop, underground parking and an underground car wash bay, event room, exercise room and two guest rooms.

A major perk of Greenhouse Village, according to member Marion Fogarty, is that residents have full ownership of the campus. Many seniors don't want to buy a home late in life, Brotherton adds, but cooperative living can save people money since each owner pays a small percentage of the overall cost of living there.

"In a co-op, you own your entire grounds," Welle explains. "You really care about everything."

Friendship and laughter are the biggest benefits of living at Greenhouse Village, though, Brotherton and Liebenstein says.

"It's a little community and because you own it, it's your family's home," Liebenstein says.

"It's just so hard to put into words. It's a thrill to be here," Fogarty adds.



Greenhouse Village features a woodworking shop in its basement, where cooperative residents have access to hundreds of tools. Two cooperative residents assemble patio furniture.

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Two cooperative residents enjoy harvesting corn from the community garden.

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