
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 16, 2021

Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
(414)-286-2228

Event Saturday will commemorate Garden Homes' 100th anniversary with celebration and housing renovation kickoff

Promise Zone Neighborhood takes exciting step forward

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton invites the community to join him at tomorrow's special celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the historic **Garden Homes Neighborhood**.

The festivities **TOMORROW – Saturday, July 17 – will begin at 12 p.m. (noon) at Garden Homes Park, 2600 W. Atkinson Ave.**

The **30th Street Industrial Corridor Corp. ("The Corridor")**, in partnership with the **Garden Homes Neighborhood Association**, will be hosting the anniversary celebration. Coinciding with the celebration, the Corridor, in partnership with the **City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), Impact Seven and Cinnaire**, will also kick off the renovation of 11 historic homes in Garden Homes.

Alderman Hamilton said the historic Garden Homes neighborhood was envisioned in 1910 by Mayor Emil Seidel, and built in 1921 by Mayor Daniel Hoan. It is America's first municipally sponsored public housing cooperative. Garden Homes was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, and the Wisconsin Historic register in 2013.

Though it was built as a whites-only collaborative, Garden Homes eventually became a diverse neighborhood, populated by people who built a strong community there. "The neighborhood is truly a special place, where neighbors look out for one another and are proud of their homes and gardens," Alderman Hamilton said.

-More-

100th anniversary/ADD ONE

“There are many neighborhoods in the City of Milwaukee, but few have the storied history of Garden Homes. In celebrating its 100 years, it is important to note that seldom does anything exist for a whole century and not have successes and challenges,” he said. “We are celebrating the fact that despite this rich history, the best days are still in front of us. The people who live here are going to be the ones to build that future.”

In 2015, the Corridor began convening a committed core of residents and stakeholders to work together, strategically, to improve the neighborhood. For the past six years, more than 250 residents and more than 50 entities have come together to forge deeper relationships and to plan for a brighter future, and the result is the 2018 Garden Homes Neighborhood Strategic Action Plan.

One of the goals in the plan is to improve housing. In collaboration with the City of Milwaukee and Impact Seven, in 2020 the Corridor was awarded WHEDA low-income tax credits to restore 30 blighted homes, including 11 historic homes that have stood in grave disrepair for many years.

“The Garden Homes Neighborhood Initiative will rehab single family and duplex style homes to provide new housing options for local working families,” said **WHEDA CEO Joaquín Altoro**. “This is great news as we consistently hear throughout the state and especially here in Milwaukee that there is a great need for more affordable workforce housing. This holistic approach to redevelopment is essential to supporting the economic vitality of the neighborhood.”