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Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden July 2021 Newsletter



Come to the Garden's 40th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, July 17th we will be celebrating the garden's 40th anniversary. The celebration will follow our next workday. Here are the specifics:

40th Anniversary

Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden

(Now located in Rennebohm Park and formerly at Hill Farms DOT site)

Saturday, July 17, 2021 11:00AM – 1:00PM

Rennebohm Park Shelter

You are invited!

Please join us for refreshments and cake . . .

Memories and commemorations

Fun and games!

Feel free to bring your lunch!

Cindy Telvick Statz, past garden coordinator, is coordinating the celebration and has provided this background information:

“Tracking down forty years of records and photos related to a community garden can be a challenge. The early years of the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is found in a March 2007 letter by Alice Anderson, Chair of the City of Madison Community Garden Committee.

The 2007 letter states:

After years of lost plots, uncertain leases and isolation from each other, Madison’s community gardens have enjoyed a decade of stability, growth and increased support from garden developers and city government. An exception is the Sheboygan Garden, which was threatened with conversion to a parking lot in the mid-90’s and again faces an uncertain future with redevelopment of the Hill Farms office area. Yet the strength and vitality of community gardening in Madison today owes much to the determined struggles of Sheboygan gardeners to preserve their plots.

Sheboygan gardeners were leaders in forming the Madison Community Gardeners Coalition (MCGC) in 1995. MCGC was critical in saving the Hill Farms garden and preserving 31 acres on the city’s North side that became the Troy Gardens project. The coalition also petitioned the City for an ad hoc advisory group that

evolved into the permanent committee, one of whose current members is a Sheboygan gardener. Recognizing that their separate voice would not save the garden, Sheboygan's leaders engaged other community gardeners and supporters throughout the City and, in many ways, all of Madison's community gardens are stronger for that effort.

Despite its uncertain tenure, the Sheboygan garden has flourished. Since its founding in 1981, gardeners have enriched the clay loam soil with compost, mulch and other organic matter. With a waiting list of at least 20 families, they have accepted the city's most stringent plot limits: 73 families tend the garden's 60 plots. The site includes gardeners of nearly every race, and a third of them speak at home in languages other than English. It has the highest number and ratio of raised beds for older and differently abled gardeners. Sheboygan was one of the Madison's first community gardens to organize for self-management, and it remains one of the most successful.

In short, Sheboygan is the model of a successful community endeavor – committed, inclusive, productive and self-sustaining, an asset to the immediate neighborhood and to gardeners and community-based organizations throughout Madison. The Committee on Community Gardens encourages the City and its planning partners to recognize the value of Sheboygan garden and ensure its lasting presence at the Hill Farms site.

“With support from the Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, this community garden flourished at the Hill Farms DOT site on Sheboygan Avenue for 35 years until commercial site development finally forced the garden to vacate in the fall of 2015.

“Through the efforts of the SACG garden preservation committee, the Gardens

Network, neighborhood Alderpersons, City of Madison's Common Council, Food Policy Council, Community Gardens Committee and Parks Department, the community garden was relocated to Rennebohm Park in 2016 with additional park space provided in 2018."



Recipe of the Month Snow Pea Red Pepper Slaw

- 2 cups slivered snow peas
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into fine matchsticks
- 1/2 cup fresh-squeezed orange juice
- 3 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lime juice
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 -1 jalapeno, minced

- Salt and pepper to taste

Toss all ingredients in a bowl. Makes 4-6 servings.

This recipe is from the cookbook "From Asparagus to Zucchini", by Fairshare CSA Coalition, formerly Madison Area CSA Coalition, MACSAC



Board Member Contact Info:

If you would like to contact a board member by email, click on the name below:

[Jim Baumann, Coordinator](#)

[Emma Sams, Registrar](#)

[Geren Zhang, Timekeeper](#)

[Julie Grim, Secretary](#)

[Ruth Cadoret, Plot Monitor](#)

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