

## **GARLAND CITY PRESS – DECEMBER 2006**

### **Garland Neighbors Gather to Kickoff Neighborhood Partnership**

Garland Neighborhoods were a focus of the City during the month of November as the *Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods* program kicked off its first round of neighborhood meetings. Residents from four of the City's program neighborhood areas met to plan their future through a variety of interactive exercises and by networking with their fellow neighbors. Neighborhoods chosen for this first round of neighborhood planning were Terrace-Bellaire, Carriagehouse, Oakridge, and Forest Ridge-Walnut.

Kickoff meetings were held in November to provide an opportunity for neighbors to share their thoughts about their neighborhood, meet their fellow neighbors, and to participate in interactive exercises used as tools to identify neighborhood stories, strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses. Over 125 Garland neighbors attended the four Saturday kickoff meetings. Neighborhood residents met fellow neighbors, shared neighborhood stories, and discussed ideas about neighborhood needs.

The City of Garland *Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods* is a partnership program to maintain and improve all neighborhoods in Garland through stabilization and revitalization by providing planning, education, and technical assistance to achieve their goals. The Strategy also aims at enhancing a sense of community throughout all of Garland's neighborhoods. All community members – residents, business owners, schools, the faith community, and service providers – are invited to join in with the City of Garland to develop a strategy, unique to each neighborhood, to support each neighborhood's success.

During December, neighbors will gather again in the program areas to prioritize the ideas gathered during the kickoff meetings. Neighbors in the Terrace-Bellaire, Carriagehouse, Oakridge, and Forest Ridge-Walnut areas are encouraged to join in this effort to strengthen and support Garland neighborhoods. The neighborhood priorities meetings will be held on the following dates:

#### **Neighborhood Priorities Meetings**

**6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Carriagehouse  
Sellars Middle School, 1009 Mars Drive

Oakridge  
Oakridge Country Club, 2800 Diamond Oaks Drive

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Terrace-Bellaire  
Gale Fields Recreation Center, 1701 Dairy Road

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Forest Ridge-Walnut  
Bradfield Elementary, 3817 Bucknell Drive

For more information about the *Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods* or to find out how you can get involved, contact Alex Koenig at (972) 205-2726 or Felisa Conner at (972) 205-3346, or visit the City of Garland's website at <http://www.GarlandVitalNeighborhoods.org/>.