

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

### **Garland Summit Kicks Off Initiative for Neighborhood Change**

Over 120 Garland “neighbors” filled the Granville Arts Center Atrium on Saturday, October 28, for the Garland Neighborhood Summit, the official unveiling and kick-off of the City of Garland’s Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods. The attendees included residents, business owners, service providers, civic leaders, elected officials, and city staff.

The summit featured a keynote address by Fall Creek Consultants’ Marcia Nedland and Mike Schubert on “A Framework for Neighborhood Change” which addressed the impact of neighborhood change and the elements of a healthy neighborhood. This was followed by a series of workshops in which attendees discussed a variety of neighborhood topics, including “Building a Positive Image for Your Neighborhood”, “The Influence of Social Capital”, “Creating High-Quality Physical Conditions in Your Neighborhood”, and “Helping Neighbors Take Charge of the Neighborhood’s Future”. The program also included guided discussion about the roles of residents, local government, the private sector, and community groups in neighborhood health and revitalization.

The event opened with an enthusiastic welcome from Mayor Bob Day. The Mayor spoke about creating communities of value and challenged those in attendance to make a change in their neighborhoods.

The Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods is a framework for addressing neighborhood stabilization and revitalization in Garland. The initiative is a set of programs and community resources to assist neighborhoods 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.

The summit was sponsored by the Garland Chamber of Commerce, Garland Power & Light, the Garland Water Utilities, the Garland Housing Agency, and the Garland Housing Finance Corporation.

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/>.