

September 1, 2012

Dear MENA Residents,

I want each of you to know your Board and Judi Lazerus worked hard to ensure we completed the application for the City of Garland Vitality Grant prior to the September 1st filing date. After completing the application a couple of Board members met with the contractor to view some of the screening walls and discuss ways we could possibly save money by using some of the columns which appeared to be in good condition. The contractor stated his company would not be able to extend a warranty if they were forced to skip a house with panels needing repair. It is important the contractor be allowed to tie each section to a new column or work with continuous panels and columns. We had three (3) adjoining homes on Grasmere (2706, 2710, and 2714) we could have worked on and applied for the Vitality Grant. The remaining homes on Grasmere and Ridgemeade were not adjoining each other. We decided it would not be in the best interest of MENA, at this time, to apply for the Vitality Grant for 3 homes. We also contacted the City of Garland's Engineering Department to validate the contractor's statements. We were told the contractor's comments were valid and accurate. We also contacted Ron Pauken in "Code Enforcement" to see if the City of Garland would work with us if we delayed our project. Mr. Pauken stated he wanted to see us succeed and would indeed work with us. With that said, we will continue our efforts to raise funds, engage more homes in the project and look forward to applying for the Vitality Grant on March 1st, 2013.

To date we have raised approximately \$13,000. I encourage each of you to review the requirements for our application for the City of Garland Vitality Grant, which can be found on the city's website at <http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/lq/pcd/vitalnbhds/office/grant.asp>. If for any reason our number of contributors who have opted to be part of the Vitality Grant and have paid \$1,000 remains the same, we will indeed apply for the Vitality Grant and allow the other residents to work directly with the City of Garland. We are seeking ways the contractor may rebuild a wall if an adjoining neighbor chooses to opt out of the project. If you live in one of the houses behind the "red brick" wall and would like to be part of the Vitality Grant for the March 2013 application, we are open to having you pay monthly installments to pay your \$1,000. Please contact Rex Gifford at rg@giffordr.com. Checks can be sent to him at 2701 Wedgemere Dr., Garland, TX 75040

Please note we will continue our efforts to raise funds, look at ways we can reduce overall expenses, keep you informed, and work with our contractor and the City of Garland to repair or rebuild our screening walls. There are a number of issues for your Board to tackle. We need someone from our community who can speak Vietnamese. We feel there is a large number of Vietnamese neighbors who may not understand what we are trying to do or achieve. We may also interview other contractors. However, the contractor we've selected has worked with us before as well as with the City of Garland.

If you have any concerns or would like to share ideas or comments, we welcome you to send your email directly to me, Michael Rideau at m.rideau@verizon.net or to MENA at meadowcrest.estates@gmail.com.

Michael Rideau,
MENA President