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### **"Moving In" (Who told the Secret?)**

A famous leader once said. "The mark of a great city or country can be judged by the attempt of people to either leave or move into the area." Several days ago, the stock market took a large plunge because of falling house sales and bad mortgages over the nation.

Talk about bucking the national trend. Home sales in Gardendale are on track to set a new record this year. Sales activity has really picked up within the past two months. After school was out, families started looking for a new area to raise their children where great parks, shopping, schools, libraries and a safe environment was available close to where they worked. The City of Gardendale continues to challenge the market in the fact that the month of July 2007 has shown one of our largest increases in new permits with a construction value of \$6,305,147 verses the month of July for 2006 with a construction value of \$2,941,082. This is more than double for the month of July alone and continues our record breaking 2007 year. We have one new subdivision which is selling 4-6 houses per week.

The real estate market has benefited as the economy in Gardendale continues to diversify with new banks, medical clinics, restaurants, schools, and churches that provide a conservative quality of life not found in many cities.

This continued increase in growth helps us judge the value of our City and the services we provide. We are grateful to our employees and their leaders as they work through the challenges of growth and expansion. As we start the new school year with record enrollments and much construction, we are thankful we have the opportunity to serve the citizens of our city. We are no longer the "Best Kept Secret", the word is out and the people and businesses are moving our way.

Mayor and Council  
City of Gardendale