

# Focus



Employees' Retirement Fund  
of the City of DALLAS ®

October 2015

## Time to Vote for Your Representative on the ERF Board

The Employees' Retirement Fund (ERF) is governed by a seven-member board of trustees, three of whom are elected by employees. This year ERF has had two trustee positions open for election to the Board. In April, John Jenkins, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation was elected by employees to the ERF board. The second election is for the trustee employee position currently held by Tina Richardson.

Employee voting began on Tuesday, October 20, at 8am and will end on Tuesday, November 3, at 5pm. Election ballots were mailed to the home address you have listed in Lawson.

The 2015 ERF Trustee Nominating Committee was recalled and met on Monday, October 5. The committee nominated two candidates; **Theresa O'Donnell**, Management Services and **Tina Richardson**, Street Services.

If you do not receive your ballot instructions, please call VR Election Services at 1-800-218-4026 or send them an email [custserv@vres.us](mailto:custserv@vres.us).

### What It Means to Be an ERF Trustee

Trustees set policy and give the Fund its direction. Three of the seven Trustees that make up the board of ERF are elected by the membership, three are appointed by the City Council and the seventh member is the City Auditor, ex officio.

As fiduciaries, each of the Trustees' decisions must be guided by the obligation to administer the Fund for the exclusive benefit of the members, retirees, and beneficiaries.

It is necessary for Trustees to become knowledgeable in areas of investment, management, actuarial policy and benefits administration.

## Employee Contributions Increase to 13.32%



On October 1, 2015 the City of Dallas civilian employee contribution rate to the Employees' Retirement Fund increased from 13.06% to 13.32%, an increase of .26%.

An example of how the increase might effect you is an employee with a bi-monthly gross pay of \$2,000 at the 13.06% contribution rate contributed \$261.20 per pay period. With the new contribution rate, that employees' contribution rate would increase by \$5.20 per pay period.

If you have questions about your pension contribution, please call ERF at 214-580-7700.

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"It is our mission to provide retirement benefits and superior service to advance the financial security of our members."

## City Employee Wins State Fair Blue Ribbon

With more than 1,100 competition categories including photography, canning, art, sewing and cooking, the State Fair's Creative Arts competitions provide professionals and amateurs a showcase for their creative skills.

In the category of, "**Canning – Salsa Mild,**" Employees' Retirement Fund Senior Accounting Specialist Cheryl Chapman won the 1st place blue ribbon.

This was her sixth attempt at the grand prize; she has won 2nd place twice in the competition. A friend suggested that Cheryl think back and remember what she was doing with her recipe when she won 2nd place and perhaps go back to that original recipe to see what changes she might make to improve the recipe.

Cheryl said about her win, "*Over the last couple of years, I have tweaked my recipe hoping for just the right winning flavor.*"



*ERF employee Cheryl Chapman with her award winning salsa*

## Our Sincere Sympathy To The Families Of Our Deceased Members

*April 2015 - August 2015*

DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE
<b>Aviation</b>		<b>Library</b>		<b>Sanitation Services</b>	
Juan M. Suarez	91	Maudella Columbus	92	William L. Hall	84
Jose G. Morales	86	Ervin Eatenson	90	Henry M. Young	80
David W. McNeil	70	Wanda J. Graham	87	Mariano T. Puente	78
		Elvera L. Dunn	68	Norvell Grant	59
<b>Civil Service</b>				Ray J. Rushing	58
Dorothy A. Aheron	90	<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>		<b>Street Services</b>	
		Woodrow W. Warren	99	Ronald A. Murphy	65
<b>Communication &amp; Information Sevices</b>		Daphne Stokes	89	Jerry K. Patton	46
David E. Dilworth	73	Gilbert Ramirez	87		
Arthur Liggett	73	Tommy E. Lacour	49	<b>Street &amp; Sanitation Services</b>	
				Luther Anderson	86
<b>Economic Development</b>		<b>Personnel</b>		Charles Ballard, Sr.	75
Charles Underwood	81	Mary J. Kelly	92		
				<b>Transportation</b>	
<b>Equipment &amp; Building Services</b>		<b>Police</b>		Margery A. Hollis	88
LRD McKinney, Jr.	83	Margie Lancaster	83		
Jimmie L. Aaron	65	John D. McCarthy	81	<b>Water Utilities</b>	
		Rudolph Leza	77	Mildred Davis	96
<b>Fire</b>		John J. Ryzman	73	Martin J. Alcalá	92
Frank D. Pena	83	Rosemary Hills	71	Pravin Shrimankar	76
		June E. Pierson	56	Esequiel C. Cavazos	73
<b>Finance</b>				John P. Johnson	73
Lloyd Thrasher, Jr.	90	<b>Public Works and Transportation</b>		Robert F. Thrash	71
		Bernardo Acevedo	83	Thomas L. Jackson	69
<b>Housing &amp; Neighborhood Services</b>		Betty P. Turner	83	Robert L. Shiplett	67
John H. Latham	84			Larry D. Thomas	67
Roy J. Whiteside	81	<b>Purchasing</b>		Cecelia M. Adcock	57
		Gwen B. McConathy	92	Anthony Champion	42
<b>Information Services</b>		Florence Sumners	92	Grady R. Coomes	40
Charles K. Bowers	84				

## Keep Track of Your Pension Benefits with ERF's Online Portal

ERF has created an online portal called **myERF**. The portal is a secure online tool for you to access your benefit statement 24/7. The current statement available on the portal was last calculated as of **June 30, 2015**. Our next goal is to provide you an updated statement every month by the Spring of 2016.



The portal also provides education about your benefits including disability benefits, pension calculation and retirement eligibility. To date over 2,000 employees are registered users of myERF. Our goal is that all employees contributing to the Fund will register on the portal to review their benefit statements and learn more about their pension benefits.

You can register by visiting [www.dallaserf.org](http://www.dallaserf.org), clicking the myERF button and then registering for an account. Keep in mind when registering your employee number must be six digits. If it is not, add leading zeros. For example, if your employee number is 12345, you should enter 012345.

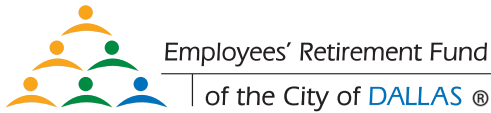
We hope you find the online portal easy and convenient to use. If you have any questions or comments, please either email ERF at [retirement\\_fund@dallaserf.org](mailto:retirement_fund@dallaserf.org) or call 214-580-7738.

## Congratulations To Some Of Our Newest Retirees!

*Employees who retired from April 2015 - August 2015 and agreed to let us share the news listed by their department and years of City service.*

DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
<b>Aviation</b>		<b>Judiciary</b>		<b>Library</b>	
James Bride	26	Michael L. Dunlap	34	Johanna H. Johnson	33
Johnny Evans	21	Duane D. Bennett	30	Patrick S. McKinney	11
Joe L. Davis, Sr.	15				
		<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>		<b>Sanitation Services</b>	
<b>City Controller's Office</b>		Barbara S. Barnette	33	Benjamin R. Walker, Jr.	29
Michael A. Bailey	9	Janet R. Hyde	30	Eric Malone	28
		Johnny H. Horton	29	Leonard R. Charles	19
<b>Civil Service</b>		Thomas Ramirez, Jr.	25		
Martha A. Santos	31	Kenneth D. Beam	18	<b>Street Services</b>	
Annabell Chantaca	23	Jill M. Beam	16	Carlos Gonzales	29
		Richard Zavala, Jr.	8	Rosalyn R. Ellis	22
<b>Communication &amp; Information Services</b>				<b>Sustainable Development &amp; Construction</b>	
Francis M. Brooke	26	<b>Police</b>		Cary D. Pritchett	27
		Donna G. Gomez	27		
<b>Court &amp; Detention Services</b>		Robert G. Bailey	25	<b>Trinity Watershed Management</b>	
Georgette Johnson	30	Maria G. Hesch	25	Jimmy C. Williams	31
Gwendolyn S. Hamilton	22	Yolanda Washington	25	Pat C. Remigio	21
		Donna S. Diaz	22		
<b>Equipment &amp; Building Services</b>		Donald E. Cooper	20	<b>Water Utilities</b>	
Dexter W. Sanders	28	Deborah K. Lister	19	Garry L. Winn	32
Johnie C. Ellis	17	Mae E. Blacksher	16	Cesar A. G. Baptista	30
Kenneth M. Gaiennie, III	17			Benny F. Cernosek	29
Phillip E. Sundstrom	15	<b>Public Works</b>		William J. Colwell	26
		Gregory A. Cook	39	Kevin L. Brown	24
<b>Financial Services</b>		Regis C. Barber	30	Lamar D. Booker	23
Guye Loujeanne	15	James R. Dowdy	25	Federico D. Rios	17
		Thomas J. Morris	28		
<b>Housing / Community Services</b>					
Teresa Page-Davis	25				





Employees' Retirement Fund  
of the City of DALLAS®

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### CHAIR

CARLA D. BREWER

### VICE-CHAIR

JOHN D. JENKINS

### MEMBERS

CRAIG D. KINTON

LEE KLEINMAN

JOHN PEAVY

TINA RICHARDSON

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHERYL D. ALSTON

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[www.dallaserf.org](http://www.dallaserf.org)

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## ERF Board Trustee Recognized Benefit Education Seminar Participants

During the month of July, ERF offered nine sessions through City University and made presentations to 213 employees in two days.

*"I am very excited the employees are learning more about ERF's retirement benefits. Investing in your future through planning and forecasting is very important and should be evaluated and understood. After all, this is your future."* said Tina Richardson, ERF Board Trustee.

More than 7,000 active employees participate in the defined benefit plan. As a result, ERF makes every effort to provide education to its members regarding their retirement options.

ERF offers several informational sessions to its members. The newest session, **Retirement Forecasting**, is designed to inform you of your retirement benefits and how ERF compares to other employer retirement plans by type (i.e. defined benefit compared to 401k, etc.). Since January 2015, more than 2,000 employees have attended a Retirement Forecasting session and the feedback has been very positive.



**Tina Richardson, ERF Board Trustee** (left) congratulated Julie Praciado, civilian employee of the Police Department. Julie was one of four employees who received a gift card for participating in the ERF Retirement Forecasting Session.