

TRANSITIONING TO
MEDICARE AFTER 65

DECEASED PENSIONERS
& EMPLOYEES

TUITION WAIVER
PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR NEWEST RETIREES

BENEFITS OF ADOPTING
PETS AFTER RETIREMENT

2016 COLA

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

Dallas ERF Beat Benchmark In 2015

From the desk of ERF's Executive Director - Cheryl D. Alston

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Employees' Retirement Fund investment portfolio generated a return of -1.77% (net of fees) for calendar year 2015, ending the year with \$3.2 billion in assets. The one year return was 134 basis points better than the policy benchmark of -3.11%. The Fund has performed well over longer time periods. The Fund's 3 year return is 6.95% and the 5 year return is 7.12%.

The best performing asset class in 2015 was Private Equity. The report for Private Equity returns always lag a quarter behind, so the last reported quarter is September 30, 2015. For the 12 month period ended September 30, 2015, the investments in Private Equity returned 13.17%. The Fund's Real Estate investments generated 9.31% for the year. The Real Estate investments consist of publicly traded real estate funds called Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”) and domestic private real estate funds. Our investments in Domestic Equity returned 0.70% for the year.

The International markets struggled due to a number of economic factors, with the benchmarks of MSCI EAFE (developed markets) returning -0.81% and MSCI ACWI ex US (includes emerging markets) at -4.60% for the year. Our investment in International Equity was negative, with a return of -2.12% for 2015. Our allocation to Global Equity returned -2.39%. Public Real Assets, which consists of energy Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs), had the worst performance. The Fund's MLP managers earned -32.19% vs the Alerian MLP benchmark of -32.59%.

Fixed Income is 30% of the ERF investment portfolio. Our investment in Global Fixed Income returned 0.53% compared to the Barclays Aggregate benchmark of 0.55% in 2015. Our High Yield investments posted a negative return of -2.62% vs the Citigroup High Yield cash pay index of -5.41%.

2015 was a volatile year for the stock market and I want to thank the Board members for their discipline, patience, and investment expertise as the markets continue to evolve. As pension fund investors, we have to remember to focus on the long term investment horizon. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the ERF staff for their diligence and commitment to excellent service to employees and pensioners.

In summary, active members, terminated employees with a vested pension and retirees should feel confident that ERF remains sound and your retirement benefits are safe and secure. We welcome your questions, comments, or suggestions.



*Cheryl Alston, Executive Director
Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas*

Transitioning to Medicare After Age 65

If you or your spouse are currently enrolled in a City of Dallas health insurance plan and are within three months of your 65th birthday, you are eligible to sign up for Medicare and enroll in one of the City sponsored Medicare supplement plans. You can apply for Medicare online or at your local Social Security office. For additional information or to find an office near you, call **1-800-772-1213** or visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Turning age 65 could result in a health insurance rate reduction for you. Please remember in order for this reduction in your rate to happen, you must enroll with Social Security for Medicare Part A and B and enroll with AARP for a Supplemental Plan. You can contact UnitedHealthcare for a Part D Prescription Plan. You may call the Benefits Service Center at **1-855-656-9114** for information or to verify your enrollment.

2016 TRANSITION TO MEDICARE MEETINGS

If you would like to learn more about transitioning to Medicare, the City's Human Resources Department will host three informational meetings this year. Each meeting will be at City Hall, 1500 Mariella, L1FN Auditorium at 10 AM.



Retirees and their covered spouses must enroll in Medicare Parts A and B at age 65 as a requirement of medical coverage through the City's benefit programs.

Our Sincere Sympathy To The Families Of Our Deceased Members

September 2015 - December 2015

DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE	DEPARTMENT	AGE
Aviation		Human Resources		Street Services	
Richard M. Janousek	72	Donald L. Caruth	79	Phillip Terranella	72
Kenneth N. Kitson	70			Alvin P. Hutson	70
Johnny L. Evans	67	Library		Israel O. Leal	69
City Manager's Office		Nellie D. Kendall	89	Sylvester Crabb, Jr.	66
Samuel A. Moreno	88	Thelma J. Cook	73	Street & Sanitation Services	
Code Compliance Services		Gerald A. Schroeder	54	George A. Sennett	84
R.C. Oestreicher	64	Office of Economic Development		Francisco P. Soria	84
Marshall L. Harris	55	Francisco C. Carillo	78	Cliford Slatton	83
Delonne L. Green	41	Park & Recreation		Cleaven Rogers, Jr.	82
Equipment & Building Services		Augustin R. Bernal	90	Kenneth D. Williams	81
Gary W. Nelson	67	Oralia Rojas	89	Wesley V. Latchett	68
Walter J. Gregg	64	Nolen H. Lewis	87	Sustainable Development & Construction	
Vickie L. Stewart	47	Douglas R. Graham	77	Lonnie C. Johnson	52
Environmental Health & Human Services		Michael R. Walker	70	Water Utilities	
Lenon Burgess	77	Police		James B. Fitch	87
Khaleef R. Hasan	72	Freida P. Staton	96	Garland L. Smith	86
Financial Services		Marian E. Barnes	89	Florentino Lopez	84
Darlene J. McCombs	63	Delores G. Hopson	84	Lester L. Gideon	81
Fire		B.D. Richardson	78	Mattie M. Wade	72
Betsy K. Crosby	64	Joyce M. Johnson	60	Conrad J. Moreno	70
Deanna P. Tapia	63	Rodney Bonner	52	Billy R. Carter	68
		Public Works and Transportation		Jack A. Starnes, Jr.	67
		Jesse C. Jarrett, Jr.	85	Lonnell Smith	65
		Harold E. Walker	71	Kenneth L. Smith	65
		Reginald S. Flowers	57	Joseph A. Olabode	62
				Johnny E. Jimmerson	61

Tuition Waiver Program provides Eligible Texas Seniors with Free College

Looking for something to do with your newfound freetime after retirement? If you ever wanted to learn to draw or paint, wanted to learn about cars or you just plain love to learn, you'll be thrilled to know that senior citizens in Texas age 65 and older are eligible for up to six credit hours of free tuition per semester.



The tuition waiver is provided by Texas Education Code 54.365(c). It allows seniors to take classes for free at most in-state public colleges, and these classes can be taken for credit toward a degree.

Per Connie Cooper with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, students must maintain a 2.0 average for undergraduate classes and a 3.0 for graduate degree courses. The program isn't well known; of the 3 million people who could take advantage of the program, only 2,000 statewide have taken advantage of the waiver. "We just don't get a lot of questions about this program," Cooper says.

One Texas resident, Alice Smith, is a 68-year-old grandmother who has happily taken up the state's offer. In 2014, she graduated with a BA in History from the University of Texas, Austin.

For many this could be the perfect opportunity to finish up a degree started long ago, learn a new skill, or get a certification. As of this publication, all of the Dallas County Community Colleges provide the tuition waiver for their classes.

Congratulations To Some Of Our Newest Retirees!

Employees who retired in the months of September 2015 - December 2015 and agreed to let us share the news are listed by their department and years of City service.

DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
City Auditor's Office		Equipment & Building Services, cont.		Sanitation Services	
Robert W. Melton	5	James A. Williams	3.5 months	Byron K. Rowlett	28
				Ronald W. Carr	15
City Controller's Office		Event Facilities & Cultural Affairs		Street Services	
Felicia A. Iglehart	30	Judy M. Goodman	11	Johnny C. Williams	34
Code Compliance Services		Management Services		Dennis M. Hardy	28
Anthony M. McGee	32	Adrienne Bryer-Grier	23	Darryl E. Fourte	23
Patricia L. Stark	13	Park & Recreation		Alvin D. Packer	17
Communication & Information Services		Emmerich Nemeth	29	Otis White	15
Robert E. Carlson	15	Olusina T. Ogunleye	17	Sustainable Development & Construction	
Convention & Event Services		Richard D. Burns	16	Ethel G. Green	33
Charles D. Evans	6	Daniel F. Powell	2	Larry W. Heckler	32
Court & Detention Services		Police		Carrie M.F. Gordon	22
Yolanda J. Foster	31	Kathryn M. Jenkins	36	Barbara M. Cabler	18
Carla D. Newson	26	Michael P. Rampersaud	30	Trinity Watershed Management	
Maria C. Rodriguez	24	Raquel Rodriguez	27	Joe R. Inurrigarro	30
Donna S. Dickens	21	Patricia A. Washington	23	Water Utilites	
Equipment & Building Services		Public Works		Efrain Ochoa	36
Delia Perez	34	Barbara B. Reading	29	Mojgah Dadgostar	28
Steven O. Brody Sr.	26	Robert W. Simmons	21	Robert T. Lee	24
John E. Hall	23			Carl D. Browning	24
				Elaine M. Williams	16

Studies Show Benefits of Adopting Pets After You Retire

If you always wanted a pet but long work hours prevented you from devoting the time and energy to animal ownership, retirement might be a great opportunity to adopt.

BENEFITS OF OWNING A PET

Pets can help you to stay active, happy and healthy. According to the American Heart Association, owning a pet – especially a cat or dog – is associated with decreased cardiovascular risk factors.

Studies show that petting a dog releases oxytocin, the hormone responsible for generating feelings of love and easing feelings of stress and anxiety.

Pets provide companionship and a continued sense of structure in life. Dogs are an especially good option as walking your dog is a great source of both routine and exercise. Taking your dog for brisk walks 3 times a day, 15 minutes at a time can help you burn 213 calories.



WHAT KIND OF DOG SHOULD I ADOPT?

Adopting an adult dog is often the best choice for retirees. Adult dogs require less training, time and money than puppies and you are far more likely to get an idea of the dog's health history and temperament.

Many shelters and rescue groups have adult and senior dogs who need a home; they also often have specials for adopting animals at little to no cost which can include shots, spaying and neutering.

2016 Cost of Living Adjustment

The Cost of Living Adjustment, COLA, is an annual adjustment added to the base pension of each eligible retiree and beneficiary of the Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas. The COLA, if applicable, goes into effect on January 1 each year.

The governing document for your Employees' Retirement Fund, Chapter 40A, specifies a formula for determining your annual COLA.

The COLA is based on the greater of:

- The percentage of change in the price index for October of the current year over October of the previous year up to 5%, **or**
- The percentage of annual average increase in the price index for the 12 month period ending with the effective date of the adjustment, up to 5%.

This year, there was no increase using either calculation; therefore there will not be a cost of living adjustment added to your 2016 pension benefit.