



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
233 E. FULTON, SUITE 216
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
PHONE: 616-456-4300

MARCH 2009
VOL. 1
ISSUE R

The Retirement Register

A Message From the Board of Trustees

As most are aware, the stock and bond markets have experienced significant losses in value over the past several months. We've been asked several times about the safety and security of your pension. The short answer is yes, your pension is very secure. The assets held in your pension system are 105.8% of what is considered fully funded, as of 06/30/08. And, we use very conservative assumptions to calculate the funding amount.

Under normal conditions, we (the board, staff, and our investment consultant) monitor our investment managers closely. But in these challenging markets, we have been even more diligent.

We make onsite personal visits to all of our investment managers at least annually, to make sure your investments are being managed in a prudent and professional manner. When we hire a new investment manager, we employ a thorough screening of its people, processes, investment philosophy and past performance. Our investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, assists us in the selection and monitoring of these top-tier, institutional quality firms, providing us with quarterly reports on their investment performance.

We use prudent diversification, in accordance with State laws governing retirement plan investments. An example of this diversification is real estate. We are slowly moving a small amount of assets into global Real Estate through a real estate manager. Prior to the market downturn, real estate securities were far too expensive. Now that market values have fallen substantially, we are beginning the process of adding real estate to further diversify our portfolio.

Rest assured that we are well aware of recent market volatility, and we are doing everything we can to safeguard the Retirement System's assets for the long-term stability of the plan. As always, feel free to call the Retirement Systems office at (616) 456-4300 if you have any questions or concerns.

Retirement Systems Web Site

The City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems Office has a Web site that is available on the Internet through the City of Grand Rapids.

The Web site address for the City of Grand Rapids is: www.grcity.us. Once you have logged on to this Web site, simply click on "Departments." This will take you to a page listing all of the departments for the City of Grand Rapids. Scroll down the page and click on "Retirement Systems."

On the main page for the Retirement Systems, our contact information appears and you can select either the General Retirement System or the Police & Fire Retirement System.

There are several pieces of useful information on this Web site:

- Board meeting dates & minutes
- City Code
- Newsletters
- Investment Performance Reports
- Monthly Asset Reports
- Actuarial Valuations
- Financial Statements
- Summary Annual Reports
- Retiree Change Forms

Actuarial Statistics

According to the June 30, 2008 Annual Actuarial Valuation report, here are some statistics on retirees and active members:

Retirees/Beneficiaries

| <u>Averages</u> | <u>Service</u> | <u>Disability</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Retirement Age | 58.9 years | 52.5 years | 58.6 years |
| Current Age | 70.7 years | 67.1 years | 70.5 years |

Active Members

| | <u>Average Age</u> | <u>Average Service</u> | <u>Average Pay</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Non-vested | 41.5 years | 4.2 years | \$52,009 | 309 |
| Vested | 49.6 years | 17.7 years | \$44,910 | 688 |
| Totals | 47.1 years | 13.5 years | \$50,121 | 997 |

Pension or Insurance Questions?

If you have questions regarding your pension, please contact the City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems office at **(616) 456-4300**. Address, direct deposit, Federal Withholding or name changes **must be sent in writing** to:

City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems
233 E. Fulton, Suite 216
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Insurance questions should be directed to Ms. Cindy Lang in **Insurance Services** at **(616) 456-3300**.

New Retirees

Trustees and staff of the General Retirement System are pleased to congratulate the following new retirees:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Gerald Dutmers | (Comptrollers) | 01/03/09 | Maryanne McIntyre* | (Parks & Recreation) | 02/01/09 |
| Jacob Vasquez, Sr. | (EP-San. Sewer) | 01/08/09 | Ralph Gould | (Police) | 02/03/09 |
| Carol Cooper | (Traffic Safety) | 01/21/09 | Grace Lanning | (61st District Court) | 02/28/09 |
| Sharon Elkins | (Police) | 01/30/09 | Susan Rupert | (Motor Equipment) | 03/03/09 |
| Marcia Kneibel* | (Parks & Recreation) | 02/01/09 | James Merdzinski | (EP-WWTP) | 03/12/09 |

*Deferred member.

In Memory of Departed Friends

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Ardis Stone | 12/28/08 | Cynthia Bodell* | 02/17/09 |
| Theodore Bieszka | 12/25/08 | Louis Clark | 02/18/09 |
| Thomas Kampfschulte | 12/29/08 | Bernice VanShoten | 02/26/09 |
| Marion Childers | 01/04/09 | Raymond Rolf | 03/02/09 |
| Robert Jamo | 01/08/09 | William Landauer* | 03/23/09 |
| Margaret Mrowinski* | 01/13/09 | Beverly Hammond* | 03/26/09 |
| Gwendolyn Gorman | 02/13/09 | Elsie White* | 03/26/09 |

*Denotes a beneficiary