



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
GENERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
233 E. FULTON, SUITE 216
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
PHONE: 616-365-5015
FAX: 616-288-9509

WINTER 2021
ISSUE R

The Retirement Register

Announcement Regarding the 13th Check

We are pleased to announce that there will be a 13th Check Pension Supplement issued to eligible retirees and beneficiaries on January 31, 2022. The 13th Check is issued annually, if funds are available, by the City of Grand Rapids General Retirement System to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. This check, a negotiated part of your retirement benefit, can only occur when the average annual market value rates of return for the investment of retirement system assets have experienced sufficient gains during the last five years to allow for the distribution of excess reserve funds. The five-year average market value rate of return was 10.30% for the General Retirement System. Although it is our hope that a distribution will always occur, the economy, volatility of financial markets, and other considerations may not make it possible to do so every year. **Any direct deposit and tax withholding arrangements previously made by the retiree for regular monthly benefit payments will also apply to this 13th Check payment. Please note that each recipient's amount is different and for privacy reasons the Retirement Systems Office cannot provide check amounts prior to the distribution.**

Which benefit am I eligible to receive?

<u>Bargaining Unit</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>13th Check</u>	<u>Escalator</u>
APAGR (main unit & 61st D.C.)	Before 10/21/2008	X	
APAGR (main unit & 61st D.C.)	On/after 10/21/2008		X
GREIU (main unit & 61st D.C.)	Before 03/24/2009	X	
GREIU (main unit & 61st D.C.)	On/after 03/24/2009		X
Crime Scene Technicians	Before 05/12/2009	X	
Crime Scene Technicians	On/after 05/12/2009		X
GREIU - Library Units	Before 07/09/2009	X	
GREIU - Library Units	On/after 07/09/2009		X
Emergency Communication Supv.	Before 09/13/2011	X	
Emergency Communication Supv.	On/after 09/13/2011		X
Non-represented (management)	Before 07/01/2014	X	
Non-represented (management)	On/after 07/01/2014		X
Emergency Communications Op.	Any	X	

* Retirees NEVER receive both benefits.

* If you have received a 13th Check in the past, then you will be eligible for a 13th Check any year in which a 13th Check is issued.

* City ordinance requires that the recipient be alive on January 31 of the distribution year.

* 13th Checks are issued on the business day prior to the day normal pension checks are issued.

* 13th Check amounts will not be disclosed prior to issuance, under any circumstances, and are not the same amount as your regular pension check.

* Escalators are paid as increases to the retiree's monthly check.

December Earnings Statement

Please keep your December Earnings Statement from The Northern Trust Company handy as it contains valuable information for the 2021 tax year. **Please note that we cannot reproduce this statement in the office.** This statement lists the following important information:

- Gross pension paid
- Total taxable pension
- Total taxes withheld
- Net pension received
- Total non-taxable pension (if applicable)
- Total healthcare deductions

New Retirees

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

Christopher Childers	(Streets & Sanitation)	07/02/2021	David Ferguson	(Water-Lake MI Filtration)	09/08/2021
Mark Gerdes	(Motor Equipment)	07/02/2021	Leah Leonhardt	(Parking Services)	09/15/2021
Gary Reimer	(Facilities Management)	07/02/2021	Shawn Hammond	(Parks & Recreation)	10/05/2021
Donna Shade	(Community Development)	07/02/2021	Timothy Mudrak	(Neighborhood Improvement)	10/05/2021
Mitchell Schutter	(Parking Services)	07/06/2021	Sherry Zomerhuis	(Water-Engineering)	10/08/2021
Loran Moyer	(Water Field OPS)	07/07/2021	Richard DeVries	(Engineering)	10/16/2021
John Koster	(Water-Lake MI Filtration)	07/13/2021	Philip Larson	(Motor Equipment)	10/16/2021
Kimberley Molnar	(Treasurers)	07/13/2021	Gary Slykhouse*	(Engineering)	11/1/2021
Christine Huizenga	(61st District Court)	07/17/2021	William Smith	(EPWWTP)	11/4/2021
Earl Sain	(Streets & Sanitation)	08/03/2021	Rodney Fulk	(EPWWTP)	11/17/2021
Sheryl Keller	(Comptrollers)	08/07/2021			

*Deferred member

Pension or Insurance Questions

If you have questions regarding your pension, please contact the City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems Office at **(616) 365-5015**. All address, direct deposit, tax withholding, or name changes **must be sent in writing** to: **City of Grand Rapids Retirement Systems Office, 233 E. Fulton, Suite 216, Grand Rapids, MI 49503**. Changes received by mid-month will be effective at the end of that month. Please note that any of the aforementioned changes **must be signed by the retiree**, unless he/she has a valid Power of Attorney document on file with the Retirement Systems Office. Please **do not** attempt to make changes directly on The Northern Trust Company website. **City health insurance** questions should be directed to Insurance Services at **(616) 456-3300**. **Seniors Choice insurance** questions should be directed to **(888) 228-3002**.

Is Your Contact/Emergency Contact Information Up to Date?

Keeping your contact information, and emergency contact information, current with our office helps us reach out to you when necessary, regarding your pension. If you need to update your phone number or emergency contact phone number, please contact our office at (616) 365-5015.

In Memory of Departed Friends

Theda Wildie*	06/16/2021	John Logie	08/04/2021	Kenneth Haight*	9/17/2021
Shirley Genther*	06/27/2021	Merl Morehouse*	08/11/2021	Earl Bouwer	9/18/2021
Sandra Brogger*	07/02/2021	Sara Wesley*	08/22/2021	Sandra Rowan**	9/22/2021
Imelda Ramirez	07/09/2021	Donald VanderHout	08/26/2021	Robert Howe	10/10/2021
Thomas Armock	07/10/2021	Barbara Foguth*	08/28/2021	Charles Butler, Jr.	10/20/2021
Michael Andrews	07/23/2021	Ronald Stack	09/08/2021	Mary Wessely*	11/3/2021
Larry Skelly	07/30/2021	Charles Dooley*	09/14/2021		

*Beneficiary. **Retiree and Beneficiary.