

# Retiree Outlook

Volume 2009.08, August 2009

## Board Approves Investment in Row Crops

By Richard Wachsman, Fire Pensioner Trustee

For many years, the Pension System has invested in Agriculture, with the focus on permanent crops, including apples, nuts, and stone fruit, rather than row crops, such as wheat and corn.

These investments are made through the Hancock Agricultural Investment Group.

In August of last year, the Board directed Hancock to create a row crop program,

and at the June 2009 Board Meeting, the Board voted to implement that program

by funding a 20 million dollar investment in row crops.

The row crop portfolio is expected to provide 5% + current income and a total return of 9% to 11% before fees. The Board believes that the row crop portfolio



Richard Wachsman  
Fire Pensioner Trustee



See "Board Approves..." on page 3

## Dallas Retired Firefighters Association to Hold Annual Meeting at Pension System Office

The Dallas Retired Fire Fighters Association will hold their annual meeting at a new location this year. They will meet at the Dallas Police & Fire Pension System office on Monday, September 14. Sign in will

begin at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:00. Lunch will be provided after the meeting.

The association looks forward to a successful meeting and hope you can attend.

For directions to the Pension office you go to [www.dpfp.org](http://www.dpfp.org) and click on the **Contact Us** tab. Please park in the upper parking deck (second entrance on Throckmorton street).

# City of Dallas Health Insurance and Medicare Information for Those Approaching 65

By Ann Matthews



Are you currently covered by City of Dallas retiree health insurance? Will you celebrate your 65th birth-

day this year or next? If you answered yes to both questions, please read on!

The following information will help you through the process of changing coverage.

1. Your Medicare coverage will be effective the 1st day of your birthday month. If your birthday is the 1st, then your Medicare is effective the 1st day of the prior month.

2. If you are currently receiving a Social Security check, a Medicare card will automatically be mailed to you.

3. If you are not receiving a Social Security check, please contact Social Security, 1.800.772.1213, three months before your birthday month. You can be on Medicare and wait until you are at “full retirement age” to receive your Social Security retirement.

4. Medicare includes:

Part A – helps cover hospitalization, skilled nursing facility care, hospice care, and

home health care.

Part B – helps cover physician services, outpatient care, and some preventative services to help maintain your health and to keep certain illnesses from getting worse.

There’s no monthly premium for Medicare Part A if you have earned 40 credits (quarters) into the Social Security system. You may be eligible to draw on a spouse’s account (even an ex-spouse) if she/he receives Social Security benefits or is eligible to receive them.

Part B does have monthly premiums. For 2009, the minimum monthly premium is \$96.40.

5. The Medicare Supplement Plans require you to have both Medicare Part A and Part B. The City of Dallas offers Medicare Supplement Plans through AARP and also MedicareComplete “HMO” Plans through SecureHorizons.

You choose the Medicare Supplement Plan that is best for you.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The City does not allow a retiree or spouse to continue with their PPO or EPO coverage after their 65th birthday.

6. Couples can split their coverage. For example, the retiree changes to a Medicare Supplement Plan offered by AARP and the spouse remains on the PPO Plan, since she/he is not yet 65 years old.

7. Three months prior to your 65th birthday month, call AARP and/or SecureHorizons, identify yourself as “A City of Dallas retiree or the spouse of a City of Dallas retiree”, and request an application/enrollment packet.

(AARP 1.800.392.7537 or SecureHorizons 1.800.792.9492)

Review the information and decide which Medicare Supplement Plan is best for you. Complete the application and return to either AARP or SecureHorizons.

8. Next, call the City of Dallas Benefit Service Center at 1.888.873.7692. (it’s recommended that you call the day you mailed the above application.) You will inform the BSC representative when your Medicare will be in effect and which Medicare Supplement Plan you selected. Also, advise if your spouse will continue with her/his city coverage.

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See “City of Dallas..” on page 3

## Board Approves Investment in Row Crops

*(Continued from page 1)*

is a good investment because of the following:

- Long-term positive fundamentals for the agricultural sector remain in place.
- There is continued global population growth within emerging market countries, which creates demand for the products. For example, China continues to import large quantities of U.S. grain.
- There are significant opportunities throughout the U.S. for row crop farmland, including the Corn Belt, Delta States, Southern Plains, and the Southeast.
- Commodity prices are expected to remain at high levels relative to long-term averages.
- U.S. net farm income and farm exports remain very strong relative to long-term averages.
- Financial turmoil has created a buying opportunity for those with true knowledge of the sector.

The row crop investment could include corn, wheat, soybeans, sugar cane, and various vegetables.

## Gary Edge, Thank You for Your Service

*By Richard L. Tettamant, Pension System Administrator*

Gary Edge recently resigned from his position on the Board of Trustees, and I wanted to personally thank him and wish him well. Even in leaving the Board, he showed his dedication to the System and its Members by scheduling his departure so that the election to replace him coincided with a regular Trustees election, saving the System the cost of a special election.

Gary became a trustee in 1995 and with his Fire Association Board experience, immediately became engrossed in the Pension System business. Gary did a great job as a Trustee – asking lots of questions, taking on investment people from all over the globe, and keeping all of us on task.

One particular area where Gary was very effective was in our relations with the Texas Congressional delegation and the State legislature. For

example, each year while on the Board, Gary helped the System and you, the Member, by meeting with U.S. Congressmen to help them understand our issues. Prior to those meetings, he took the necessary time to attend educational conferences to make sure he was knowledgeable on all the pertinent issues for firefighters and police officers and their pensions.

Gary has been an active participant of the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems and the Texas Association of Public Retirement Systems.

On top of his diligence to professional business issues, Gary found time to teach me aspects of raising horses, doing farm work, driving a fire truck, and how to wear a baseball cap in public!

Good Luck, Gary, in all your future endeavors.



*Former Trustee Gary Edge (left) and Pension System Administrator Richard Tettamant*



*Nelda and Rusty Walker*



*Dixie and Barbara Dickerson*



*Jack Allison*

*Bobby Wychopen*



*Bill Crow*



*R.C. Bunger*

# August 2009

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

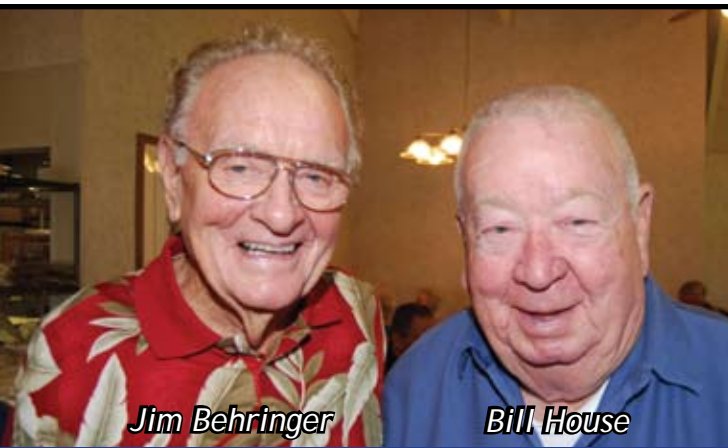
*If you are organizing a Retiree meeting or event, and would like your event on the calendar, please send us the details by the 5th of the month before the event. Send by e-mail to: KevinK@dpfp.org. Submitted items will be printed as space permits, and may be edited. Thanks.*

2 Meeting of the Retired Police and Firefighters Association (at new location!)	3	4	5
9	10	11 Quarterly Board Meeting	12
16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26 Young at Heart Lunch for Police and Fire Widows and Widowers
	30	31	

**2** Dallas Retired Police & Fire Fighter Association Lunch  
 Sunday, August 2, 1 P.M.  
 Pension System HQ ,  
 4100 N. Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas  
 (Park in upper lot, which is the upper Throckmorton entrance)

**6** East Texas Fire Retirees Lunch  
 Thursday, August 6  
 11 a.m.  
 Papadales Restuarant (formerly El Ranchero)  
 17280 Interstate 20 Service Rd  
 Canton

**11** Quarterly Board Meeting  
 Thursday, August 11,  
 8:30 a.m.  
 4100 N. Harry Hines Blvd.,  
 Dallas (Park in upper lot, which is the upper Throckmorton entrance)



*Jim Behringer*

*Bill House*



*Ardyce Mentzel*

*Marie Tippit*

*Wanda Burton*



**D A L L A S**  
**POLICE & FIRE**  
PENSION SYSTEM



Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1
6 East Texas Fire Retirees Lunch	7	8
13 Regular Board Meeting	14	15
20	21	22
27 Retired and Active Police Breakfast	28	29



*Earline and Rowdy Gates*



*Murphy Stockton*

*Denny Hix*

13 Regular Board Meeting Thursday, August 13, 8:30 a.m. 4100 N. Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas (Park in upper lot, which is the upper Throckmorton entrance)	26 "Young at Heart" Lunch for Police and Fire Widows and Widowers Wednesday, August 26, 11 a.m. Highland Park Cafeteria Buckner and Garland Road, Dallas	27 Retired and Active Police Breakfast Thursday, August 27 9:00 a.m. Circle Grill I-30 and Buckner Road Dallas
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR NEW RETIREES!**

**POLICE**

Charles R. Bailey

Johnny S. Baker

David P. Dodson

Lynette N. Harrison

William L. Pepsis

Frank W. Poblentz

James M. Smith

Teddy D. Smith

**FIRE**

Charles E. Gale

John T. Holdridge

Patrick S. Janick

Rickey D. Lipe

George R. Snowden

Joe M. Spigner

Marion R. Thomas

Nathan W. Young

***DPD Class 43 Reunion***

DPD Rookie Class 43 (1954) will be joining together for their 55th Reunion on Saturday, September 19, at Ryan's Steakhouse, 909 Tripp Road (at Galloway Ave.) in Mesquite. To RSVP or for more information, contact Julian S. "Joe" May at 903.778.2119.

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***CAPERS Biannual Dinner***

Retired and active DPD CAPERS personnel are invited to meet for dinner at Steak Angus, 717 N. Bryan-Belt Line Road in Mesquite, 6:30 pm on Thursday, October 1.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Tom Willingham at 214.289.9134.

**IN MEMORIAM**

James L. Beasley  
Police - Retired

Zellon J. Drake  
Widow of John B. Drake, Jr.  
Police - Retired

Earl Ray Howard  
Fire - Retired

Florence E. Masterson  
Widow of Donald J. Masterson  
Fire - Retired

Anthony D. Mazolla  
Husband of Carol L. Mazolla  
Police - Active

Glen R. Wilson  
Widow of William E. Wilson  
Police - Retired

Frank P. Winton III  
Police - Retired

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**City of Dallas Health Insurance**

*(Continued from page 2)*

9. **CAUTION:** If you select one of the AARP Medicare Supplement Plans – you will not have a Prescription Plan.

The City of Dallas offers an Enhanced Medicare Prescription Plan. The Monthly premiums for the City of Dallas Enhanced Medicare Prescription Plan are:

-- *Retiree only \$ 92.00*

-- *Spouse only \$188.00*

Or, you may decide to obtain an individual Medicare Prescription Plan. Your pharmacist can help you determine which Plans cover your specific drugs.

10. Lastly, remember as a retiree, the City of Dallas continues to pay a portion of your monthly premium for city sponsored coverage. Also, retiree health insurance deductions are at the end of the month, for that month.

# Good News From Your Fellow Pensioners

## *H a p p y   A n n i v e r s a r y !*



*Bob and Marie Hutson*

Bob and Marie Hutson celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 4.

Mr. Hutson served in the Dallas Fire Department from 1956 to 1978.

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*John and Margie Corum*

Johnny and Margie Corum celebrated their 47th anniversary on June 10.

Mr. Corum served in the Dallas Police Department from 1962 to 1991.



*Willow Deen and R. W. Wier*

R.W. and Willow Deen Wier celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 25.

Mr. Wier served in the Dallas Fire Department from 1948 to 1974.



*Sally and Bobby R. Bradley*

Bobby R. and Sally Bradley celebrated their 50 years of marriage on July 31. A family vacation to Colorado was planned for the occasion.

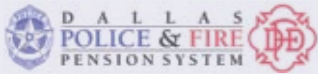
Mr. Bradley retired from uniformed service with DFD after 27 years and returned for 12 more as a civilian. They now reside on Lake Palestine in East Texas.



***It Runs in the Family*** -- DPD retiree Jimmy Kyser (right) welcomes his son Joseph (center) to law enforcement as a member of the DART Police force. Joseph is a third generation lawman, as his grandfather was M.J. Ratliff, (DPD, Badge 555). His mother, Patricia Kyser (left) worked as a Deputy with the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

Please send Good News items by e-mail to: [info@dppf.org](mailto:info@dppf.org)  
or to:

Dallas Police & Fire Pension System, Attn. Kevin  
4100 Harry Hines Blvd., Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75219  
(Submitted items are printed as space permits and may be edited)



4100 Harry Hines Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Dallas, TX 75219

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PERMIT #430



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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- Steven G. Shaw  
*Vice Chairman*
- George J. Tomasovic  
*Deputy Vice Chairman*
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- Dwaine R. Caraway
- John M. Mays
- Rector C. McCollum
- Pauline Medrano
- David A. Neumann
- Rick Salinas
- Steven H. Umlor
- Richard H. Wachsman

**Retiree Outlook**  
August, 2009

**From the Administrator**

*By Richard L. Tettamant, Pension System Administrator*



I hope things are going well for you this summer. In this issue of the **Retiree Outlook**, Fire Pensioner Trustee Richard Wachsman discusses our new investments in agriculture. Some of our most consistently positive investment returns have come from our agriculture portfolio, so I think you will find the article of interest.

For those approaching age 65, we have an article on City Health Insurance and Medicare beginning on page 2.

Gary Edge served the System as a Trustee for 14 years, and I wanted to again express my thanks for his service. See page 3.

Look for information in the mail regarding a new NCPERS Life Insurance Program that we announced last month.

Remember, we are here for you. Call us if you have any questions or concerns about your pension.

**Richard L. Tettamant**  
*Pension System Administrator*

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Richard L. Tettamant  
*Administrator*
- Brian F. Blake  
*Assistant Administrator*
- Donald C. Rohan  
*Assistant Administrator*
- Mike Taylor  
*Chief Financial Officer*

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*Editor*