



Employees' Retirement System Communicator

November, 2008

Welcome!

This is the first edition of the ***Employees' Retirement System Communicator***. We will be using this publication to periodically communicate important news regarding your retirement benefits and the administration of the County's retirement plans.

A new Pension System is coming to Milwaukee County

Over the next several months you will receive information explaining the features and benefits of the County's new pension administration system – “V3”, a product of Vitech Systems Group, Inc. Vitech specializes in the development and maintenance of pension administration systems used by many large public employers.

This new V3 system will provide:

- Faster, more accurate pension estimate and retirement processing,
- Complete integration of pension and post-employment Life & Health benefits, and
- Enhanced customer service.

County ERS staff has been hard at work training on the new V3 system to ensure a smooth transition.

We are confident V3 will have a positive, long-lasting impact on the administration of your retirement benefits. But, as with all changes, your patience and assistance will be important to make this a truly successful conversion. We appreciate your support!

David Arena,
Director of Employee Benefits

News In-Brief

During this transition, the *Communicator* will include brief updates covering on when things will happen and the changes you will see once the V3 system is up and running.

Some key milestones to be aware of:

Pension

- ERS is targeting the first “Go Live” testing for V3 in December of this year.
- We plan to generate the January 2009 pension check from the V3 system.
- When V3 goes live, we will turn off the current Retirement Calculator on the Milwaukee County Portal, since we will not continue to update our old system.
- The new V3 Retirement Calculator will be available when V3 **Self Service** is released, which is currently planned for later in 2009.
- V3 **Self Service** will also:
 - Allow retirees to update their own demographic information.
 - Let retirees view current and past retirement benefit information.

Life and Health

The December 2008 pension checks will go out as usual from the old system. However, the benefit premium contribution for your 2009 January benefit elections will be reflected in your December 2008 pension check. Your contributions will be different than your November 2008 pension check.

Questions, Comments and Additional Information

Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Department at **414-278-4207** or **toll-free at 877-652-6377** for all Pension questions, including Retirement calculations.

For Life and Health benefits related issues, please contact the Benefits Dept: **414-278-4198**.

ERS will have a fully staffed support desk to help with any questions and issues you may have after we go live with V3. Watch for additional information in the next *Communicator*!

