



# SALEM CITY CLUB

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Celebrating 40 years of Exceptional Civic Discourse

## “SALEM’S MUNICIPAL COURT. HUH?”

*Guest speaker: Honorable Jane Aiken, Salem Municipal Judge*

Please join Salem City Club on Friday, May 9, 2008, when we will be pleased to present a program we believe will help people understand what goes on in one of Salem’s lesser understood institutions . . . **its Municipal court.**

In Oregon, cities MAY create (and pay for) Municipal (Muni) courts, which are courts of “limited jurisdiction.” Police can bring all violation (citation and fine only, not just traffic) and misdemeanor (up to one year jail, big fines) offenses to Muni court but felony (prison time and more) offenses must go to Circuit Court. However, state law lets cities limit the misdemeanor offenses (which require court appointed attorneys for the poor) they will take to only those created by the city’s own charter and ordinances and to “traffic crimes” defined by state statute. In spite of these limits, there are more Muni and Justice of the Peace courts in this state than circuit courts and they handle a larger number of cases (not more complex).

**Salem’s Muni court** is one of the busiest in the state and one of only three where the judge is elected. But, many people seem unaware of **the challenges and issues** that a busy, locally funded court faces and services it provides. We hope this program will help answer what Salem’s Muni Court does, what services it provides, issues about being accessible and the speed of service, whether the budget the City Council provides is sufficient, what is happening to the court docket, etc. Did **downtown parking changes** (the two-hour limit) cause a lot of tickets? . . . a lot of revenue for the city? . . . too much work to handle? . . . more appeals? Can a citizen appeal a ticket? Where do the court budget and revenue go and what do they pay for? Is the judge working on changes?

The **Honorable Jane Aiken**, the presiding judge of Salem’s court, will help Salem City Club explore these and other Salem Muni Court issues. The judge was raised in Salem; second of five children; graduated from South Salem High School 1971; University of Oregon -1975; University of Oregon Law School, 1978. She has been: a recreation specialist for City of Salem during summers and school breaks; a law library assistant during law school; a law clerk for Salem attorneys Bill Paulus and William Wyllie; a Paralegal specialist at Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service; a prosecutor for four years (Coos, Marion, and Benton Counties); a Special prosecutor for Douglas County; in private practice for twenty-two years; legal counsel to Governor’s Advisory Committee on DUII; Pro Tem Judge in Salem Municipal Court for 6 years. She also served on numerous other state government, Bar and local committees. Her hobbies include: glass art flame-working and fused/slumped objects, and painting.

Please join us Friday, May 9 for **this revealing look at what is going on in YOUR city.** For lunch reservations email nelalind@aol.com or call 503-589-2975 before noon Tuesday, May 6, 2008. The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us! There is no charge to attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, about costs for different lunch options, and directions to the event, please go to [www.salemcityclub.com](http://www.salemcityclub.com).

When: Friday, May 9, 2008; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program  
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301  
Contact: Delana Beaton, 503.589.2975  
Email: [mooregreen@aol.com](mailto:mooregreen@aol.com)  
Web Site: [www.salemcityclub.com](http://www.salemcityclub.com)