



# SALEM CITY CLUB

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Celebrating 40 years of Exceptional Civic Discourse

## SALEM'S CITY BUDGET: CAN LIPOSUCTION GO WRONG?

Talk about numbers for too long and people's eyes begin to glaze over. But if there are no swimming pools this fall and the bookmobile doesn't come to your neighborhood and the potholes in the street keep getting bigger, those numbers become amazingly real and the arguments over them intensely emotional. Right now the City of Salem is going through its budget process and the recommendations for cuts to meet a projected \$5 million shortfall have been proposed.

**Salem Interim City Manager Linda Norris** has agreed to come and discuss the proposed Salem City Budget with City Club members on **Friday, May 23**. Ms. Norris has much experience in city administration, working in Fort Collins and Greeley Colorado in human resources and was Eugene's assistant city manager before coming to Salem in 2004. She was appointed the interim city manager in October, 2007, just in time to work on a **budget facing decreasing revenues and increasing expenses**.

Ms. Norris is joined by Salem City Club's own **Russ Beaton**. Russ is a **professor emeritus of economics at Willamette University** and busier in retirement than many who are still working in their profession. He has a masters and Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School and taught at Cal State University at Fullerton and Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, before returning to his undergraduate alma mater, Willamette University, to teach economics classes, including urban economics, for 32 years.

Russ will be discussing the **challenges faced by municipalities in Oregon** who depend on property taxes for revenue which are limited by property tax measure passed by the voters. After his general overview, Ms. Norris' discussion of how the City budget came together will illustrate how these challenges play out in trying to provide city services in a time of **shrinking property values and limited revenue growth**.

Please join us for an interesting and timely discussion on **Friday, May 23**. The City Budget Advisory Committee is still meeting in the community and won't make recommendations to the City Council until June. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about what's happening right now. And it isn't just about numbers – it's about what's happening on your street, your parks, and your neighborhood.

For lunch reservations email [nelalind@aol.com](mailto:nelalind@aol.com) or call 503-589-2975 before noon Tuesday, May 20, 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 23, 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)