

Salem's spending future

Written by Michael Rose Statesman Journal
Feb. 09

statesmanjournal.com

About the mayor

Anna Peterson is the third woman to become Salem's mayor. Peterson has been a Salem resident since 1981. She grew up in North Portland and attended Roosevelt High School. The mayor has a journalism degree from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis in public relations and marketing.—Michael Rose

Salem Mayor Anna Peterson will soon give her annual State of the City Address.

A longtime civic leader, Peterson was elected Salem's mayor in 2010. Her address this year will be built around the theme "Salem, stronger, healthier, safer, united."

The 2014 State of the City Address is scheduled for noon on Feb. 19 at the Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE. There is a \$15 charge for a lunch buffet that begins at 11:30 a.m.

In an interview Friday, the mayor said her speech will touch on the city's budget, which she described as stable.

"We're not like some cities. We don't deficit spend. We don't raid from one pot to the other. We cut back when we have to," Peterson said.

The mayor, however, also expressed concerns about future budget cycles, flat revenue and how the city will cope with rising personnel costs.

Peterson's goal of creating a healthier Salem ties in with city parks. Construction of the Minto Island Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, a link in the city's network of park trails, is expected to begin this summer.

"Putting up a bridge over to Minto Island is really going to perk up the community's interest in getting out and walking and biking," Peterson said.

In the annual address, Peterson also plans to discuss the diversity of Salem's residents. She recently created a group called the Mayor's International Council.

"Cultural diversity is kind of the middle name for Salem these days," Peterson said.

The international council will examine issues, such as strengthening relationships among cultural groups and bolstering support for "Sister City" activities.

mrose@StatesmanJournal .com (503) 399-6657 or follow on Twitter @mrose_sj