

Dear City Manager,

I urge the City of Salem to find room in its budget to continue the operation of the Olinger and Walker pools beyond the end of September. Closing the pools will place hardships on the children of Salem and have a negative impact on the quality of life in the community.

I understand that the funding of the pools is expensive, but I can not see the benefit of a few dollars saved to the detriment of a community where there is no public pool. I have been a swimmer all my life, starting at the local Y and moving to club teams when I was older, and in high school I swam varsity all four years for Sprague. I can not stress the importance of the swim team in helping me through high school. Unlike other sports where the pressure to make the team is intense, swimming welcomes all and challenges you to better yourself. Some of my fondest memories happened at Olinger and with the Sprague High School Swim Team. I am still in touch with many of my swim teammates and we all are upset that something so wonderful as the swim team may be in jeopardy.

It seems immensely sad to me, living in Portland now with its many community centers and public pools, that Salem can not find the funding for one public pool.

Sincerely,
Julie Dowen

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