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VILLAGE OF OSSINING

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Holiday Spirit

Were you one of the many folks who joined the tree lighting festivities in downtown on Friday evening? Big thanks to our Recreation & Parks, Public Works, Police and Fire Departments, and the Chamber of Commerce, for coordinating this wonderful community event.

Last week's Work Session focused on the 2018 budget. For the second year in a row,

Village residents will experience a 0% tax rate increase. This Board worked hard to find a responsible balance of conservative fiscal practices with progressive investment in our community. [To view last week's budget discussion click here.](#)

This budget moves forward several of the initiatives recommended in the reports from the community-driven Downtown Redevelopment Working Committee, as well as the Housing Needs Assessment from Kevin Dwarka Consulting. Among the recommendations being funding by the 2018 budget are

- an economic development consultant
- a parking implementation plan
- a comprehensive plan revision
- a new approach to inspecting rental units to strengthen the influence of the Landlord Tenant Relations Council, and
- increasing the code enforcement staff needed to address overcrowded housing.

At its foundation, local government can be as rudimentary, and essential, as paving roads. We are significantly increasing our investment in road paving, even beyond the increase we added to last year's paving budget.

One relatively small budget item from a dollars perspective, that has a profound impact on safety for our community, is staff training. We are very pleased that the Ossining Police Department has invited Dr. Bryant Marks to lead four days of implicit bias training. Each officer will participate in a full-day session with a small group of co-workers. [To read more about Dr. Marks click here.](#)

Connecting This Week

Join me for **Open Office Hours** this Tuesday from 10am-12noon in the Board of Trustees office at 16 Croton Avenue. I'll be ready to hear from community members on any topic, concern or idea of interest to you. No appointment necessary.

Join me for the **Weekly Walk** this Friday, December 8 at 10am. Let's meet at the corner of Geneva Road and Charter Circle. While Office Hours take place at a consistent time each week, stay tuned to the Monday Mayor's Message where I announce the time and location for that week.

Have a burning question or idea, but can't make it to Office Hours or the Weekly Walk?... Email me (mayor@villageofossining.org), the Board of Trustees (bot@villageofossining.org) or Village Manager Debbie McDonnell (dmcdonnell@villageofossining.org).

This Week

At Wednesday's Legislative Session, the Village Board will vote on the 2018 budget. And that is a vote the Trustees and I are very much looking forward to.

On Thursday, Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg and I will accept the Groundbreakers Award from the Pace Land Use Law Center. Working closely with my colleague in the Town to seek innovative solutions for challenges in transportation and economic development, is what caught the attention of the folks at Pace. The Town and Village have partnered on a number of grant applications, so stay tuned to see what exciting opportunities might be on the horizon for Ossining.

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees,



Victoria Gearity, Ossining Mayor



Holiday Celebrations

On Saturday, December 9 families with children ages 1-12 are invited to the Community Center to enjoy breakfast with Santa. Children will receive a small gift and can turn in their holiday wish list to the big guy. Entertainment will be on hand to delight youngsters.

Call 914-941-3189 to reserve your spot for the 10am or 11am seating. The event is free, but you must call for a reservation!

Celebrations of the season will continue when we light the menorah in Market Square on December 12 at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

