



**VICTORIA GEARTY**  
Mayor

## **VILLAGE OF OSSINING**

### **Municipal Building**

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### **Sharing Services**

Last week Town Supervisor Levenberg and I were among dozens of local leaders from across Westchester to meet with State and County officials in White Plains. The focus was to consider how best to fulfill a directive from Albany to demonstrate current, and expand future, efficiencies through sharing services among municipalities.

Ossining Town and Village lead the pack when it comes to sharing services. Though there are some operational challenges to having two distinct local governments serving Ossining residents in the Village and Unincorporated Town, we actively work to reduce taxpayer burdens through a variety of approaches. The most recent example of sharing services through an inter-municipal agreement is the Ossining Police Department. This is a Village department, that has a contract to provide service to the Town. In 2012, we saw a different approach to sharing services when the Town Court responsibilities expanded to handle Village cases, as the Village dissolved its court. Some form of shared service exists for almost every department in Ossining local government.

Can we share more? Can we share more efficiently and better? To find out, last year the Town applied to the New York Department of State for a Municipal Restructuring Grant. The Village wrote a letter of support for their application. Town Councilwoman Karen D'Attore attended last week's Village Board Work Session inviting us to formally join with the Town as they work with a consultant who will undertake a public education and engagement campaign. [Click here to view the spirited discussion that took place at last week's Work Session.](#) This is the first phase of the DOS Municipal Restructuring Grant. If the Village participates in this phase, we will have an opportunity to contribute to the information being provided to residents, and to learn from the feedback being received. The cost of this effort is paid for by the grant. This topic will be addressed on Wednesday during Continuing Business.

### **Connecting with Village Government**

**There will be NO Open Office Hours** this week as I attend a program at

Westchester Community College's Ossining campus to explore The Future of Education for the Workforce. I will resume Open Office Hours next Tuesday May 22.

Have a burning question or idea, at any hour of the day or night?... Email me (mayor@villageofossining.org), the Board of Trustees (bot@villageofossining.org) or Village Manager Debbie McDonnell (dmcdonnell@villageofossining.org).

### **This Week's Legislative Session**

[Click here to view this week's Legislative Session agenda and supporting documentation.](#) Item D of the agenda is a Call for a Public Hearing to take place on June 6 regarding a proposed update to the Village's Affordable Housing law. When the Village implemented our current Affordable Housing program in 2006, it was very progressive for its time. Ossining has now fallen behind most other Westchester communities. There is agreement among all members of the Board of Trustees that we need to update this law which determines the amount, and affordability, of units in new construction that will be set aside for the Village's Affordable Housing Program. At the Public Hearing on June 6, community members are invited to speak on the proposed legislative change. Updating our Affordable Housing Policy is strategy #5 in the recommendations of the Housing Needs Assessment. [Click here to read the recommended policy framework and strategy for implementation.](#)

The Village is hiring! Do you know anyone who is a qualified planner? If so, [please share this link](#) which provides details about the positions of [Director of Planning & Development](#) and [Planner](#).

Because this week is a Legislative Session, it includes a number of invitations for community members to publicly comment. If you would like to spread the word about an upcoming event, please take up to two minutes during Organizational Announcements. Folks who would like to comment on the resolutions included on that night's agenda may do so for up to four minutes at the start of the Village Board Resolutions portion of the meeting. The meeting closes with an invitation for community members to comment for up to three minutes during Visitor Recognition about any topic of relevance to the common good of the Village. We invite community members to reach out to us by email (bot@villageofossining.org) anytime.

With Regards,



Victoria Gearity, Ossining Mayor

### **Storm Drain Stenciling Saturday**

There are still spots available for you to sign up for Storm Drain Stenciling this Saturday from 10am-12noon. [Click here to register.](#)



This initiative is a partnership between Riverkeeper, Green Ossining the Village's Department of Public Works. One of the largest threats to water quality is storm-water runoff. Public awareness about storm-water runoff is critical to protecting our environment, and you can be part of the solution!

