



VICTORIA GEARTY
Mayor

VILLAGE OF OSSINING

Municipal Building

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Storm Aftermath & Preparations

ConEd cut-and-clear crews are back in our area today, and we expect to have all roadways open by this evening. Meanwhile, Ossining's Emergency Management team is meeting this afternoon to determine preparations for the snow that is predicted for Wednesday. Stay tuned for updates, including the potential for a Snow Emergency declaration which would impact parking on a number of Village streets.

Ossining's first responders and public works teams were busy this weekend. On Sunday, ConEd crews secured many of the downed lines, enabling municipal workers to open roadways and sidewalks through most of the Village. We are grateful that, even as they took out power, falling trees in our community crushed more fences rather than homes. A number of residents took advantage of the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center being open on Sunday as a Warning Center where they could shower and charge devices. The facility opened at 6am today and will remain open until 10pm.

The intersection at Routes 9A and 134 is fully functional thanks to auxiliary power, which alleviates traffic congestion throughout Ossining.

Fortunately, all Ossining public schools were able to open on time today. St Augustine's school is a priority for ConEd, and power is projected to be restored in that location by the end of today. We remain on track for power restoration throughout Ossining Village and Town by the end of tomorrow. We realize that if you're one of the thousands of residents without power, that doesn't feel fast enough. We have a ConEd liaison and supervisor on site in Ossining monitoring progress, and we will provide updates as they are available.

Connecting This Week

Join me for **Open Office Hours** tomorrow, Tuesday from 10am-12noon in the Board of Trustees office at Village Hall. No appointment is necessary, and all are welcome to discuss any topic, concern or idea of interest to you.

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).

Prioritizing Agenda Items

If you are one of the hundreds of people who has recently sent an email, spoken at a public meeting, or called to speak with Village officials about a concern for our community, thank you. Be assured that before an item is discussed during a Work Session, potential legal and enforcement approaches for addressing it are investigated and acted upon as appropriate. Items are added to a Work Session agenda when the Trustees and I are ready to consider a potential change in policy or legislation.

At our March 14 Work Session, we will get an update from Police Chief Sylvester and Corporation Counsel Kahan on policy changes for us to consider to eliminate illegitimate massage parlors in the Village. The determination for when items are included on a given Work Session agenda is based on both importance and time sensitivity. In the case of illegitimate massage parlors, one piece of legislation we are considering as a model is a local law recently passed in the Town of Greenburgh. That new law is currently the subject of litigation, and we await its review by the NYS Supreme Court.

I've asked the Trustees to work with me to develop a thoughtful and transparent process for prioritizing requests that come to our attention from residents. In establishing the 2018 Budget, the Board of Trustees spent many hours meeting with Village management and department heads to identify and prioritize our goals, and allocate the financial and human resources needed to accomplish them. This determined our ambitious list of 2018 Strategic Initiatives.

To that initial list of Initiatives, we have added:

Working with the SPCA, Humane Society, and concerned residents to improve our Trap/Neuter/Return program for feral cats;

Investigating state and local codes related to treatment of dogs, as well as existing tether laws in other communities, largely upstate and on Long Island;

Calling for a vacancy study to determine if there are conditions permitting the Village to enable the NYS rent stabilization program known as ETPA; and

Legislation to eliminate illegitimate massage parlors, which will be discussed at our next Work Session.

Ossining has always been an engaged community—it's part of our culture. Perhaps it's because we are as densely populated as a big city, but small enough that we feel we all know each other. Any action we take is felt by our neighbor. And most people care deeply about the place we call home. Couple this with the national increase in activism, and you have a vibrant democracy in action on a local level. As we keep an eye on supporting Village staff in implementing the strategic initiatives designed to achieve our big picture goals, we will continue to include consideration of concerns brought to our attention by residents. I look forward to reporting on our progress.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Gearity', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Victoria Gearity, Ossining Mayor



experienced chronic problems with mail delivery? Last week Congresswoman Nita Lowey invited residents like Cynthia Ferguson of Ossining, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, and me to join her in calling further attention to this problem.

Delivery failures directly impact the lives of people in our community. It is troubling that even after months of attempts, the postal service our residents rely on, is still not fixed. We are grateful to Congresswoman Lowey for her efforts to address this ongoing issue.

