

VICTORIA GEARITY
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VILLAGE OF OSSINING

Municipal Building

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October 30, 2017



Walking Every Block & Preparing for Elections

Do you recognize where in Ossining I was standing when I snapped this pic? I'll give you a hint, it was during the last Weekly Walk. I'm approaching my goal of walking every block of the Village. I began in January, and may accomplish them all by the end of the year. Stay tuned for more pics looking back at each neighborhood.

Last week, I visited residents at Atria and Maple House. At senior living facilities there tends to be a high rate of

turnover, as well as folks who need to vote by absentee ballot because they may not make it to their polling place on Election Day. College students, folks in the military, or anyone who will be away from their election district on November 7 are eligible to apply for an Absentee Ballot. The deadline for submitting your application is upon us. <u>Click here for details on Absentee Ballot applications</u>. To view the League of Women Voters Guide about the candidates and propositions that will be on the November 7 ballot, <u>click here</u>.

Connecting This Week

Join me for **Open Office Hours** at my regular Tuesday schedule from 10am-12noon. I'll be at the Board of Trustees office at 16 Croton Avenue 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 Thursday, November 2 at 9:00am. We'll meet at Starbucks in Arcadian and walk a loop of Revolutionary Road and S Highland Avenue. 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).

Budget Season

At this week's Legislative Session, we'll all get our first look at the proposed 2018 Budget. Village Manager Debbie McDonnell has been meeting with department heads for

weeks identifying areas where we can be more efficient, and ensuring we have allocated funds needed to address the goals of the Village Board. A budget is a reflection of values and priorities. Through the month of November, the Trustees and I will devote many hours to reviewing each department's proposed budget. At the December 6 meeting we will vote to adopt the 2018 budget.

Viewers of Village Board Work Sessions will recall that in August we heard from the auditors whose report on our Finance Department was very positive. Click here if you'd like to view that meeting. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and skilled folks, led by Village Treasurer Tom Warren, keeping our finances in order. Their expertise enables us to make wise fiscal decisions. For the past two years this Board has been conservative in our budgeting. The 2015 budget was \$315K under the cap, and the 2016 budget had a 0% tax rate increase. We live here and pay taxes too. While we only control a portion of the property tax burden for Village residents, we work hard to make the most of every taxpayer dollar.

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees,



Victoria Gearity, Ossining Mayor











Repair Café Saturday!

The Village is delighted to support this initiative by Green Ossining volunteers to invite folks to bring their broken, but beloved, items to the Repair Café to be fixed--for FREE!

At the last Repair Café, I was lucky enough to have someone glue one of the wise men in my Nativity scene, and sew the strap of my son's favorite backpack.

Is there something needing repair in your home? Bring it to the Community Center on Saturday!







