



VICTORIA GEARTY
Mayor

VILLAGE OF OSSINING

Municipal Building

16 Croton Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-3554

www.villageofossining.org

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Cultural Celebrations & Grant Applications

Thank you to Ossining's Portuguese Center for organizing this weekend's Portugal Day festival. The afternoon and evening were a celebration of Portuguese culture shared through language, food, music and dance. This event has special meaning to me on a personal level. Though my grandmother was Portuguese, her generation insisted on speaking only English. I'm am heartened to see today's immigrants and first generation honoring traditional language and culture--

essential elements for preserving the diverse spirit of Ossining.

Last Wednesday was a special Community Meeting held at the Ossining Public Library to share proposals that the Village and Town governments, as well as local not-for-profits, will be submitting for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). This federal funding source is something the Village took advantage of to help cover the cost of a number of past public infrastructure projects. Unfortunately, during the lawsuit between Westchester County and the federal housing monitor which went on for many years, all 34 municipalities in the Westchester consortium that had previously accessed CDBG, were cut off from the funds until the lawsuit was settled. We are very pleased to have this renewed opportunity.

The Village applications will focus on improving sidewalks, code enforcement, facility upgrades at the Community Center, and creating a safe pedestrian walkway from James to Hunter Streets. Some public comments were expressed at the Community Meeting. All are welcome to attend a formal Public Hearing this week to offer further comments on the proposed CDBG grant applications.

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).

This Week's Legislative Session

Wednesday's Session will begin with a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law 3-2018

regarding an update to our Affordable Housing policy followed immediately by a Public Hearing on the CDBG grant applications.

We kept open the Public Hearing regarding Local Law 3-2018, the proposed updates to the Affordable Housing policy. This is the same legislation that several community members spoke on at the June 6 meeting. 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. This proposed legislative action is different than another proposed program related to housing that has been a topic of much discussion, ETPA. ETPA is a NYS rent stabilization program. Both approaches to addressing housing challenges in Ossining are examined in the recommendations of the Housing Needs Assessment. [Click here to read the recommended policy framework and strategy for implementation.](#)

Because this week is a Legislative Session, following the Public Hearings are 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



Make Music on the Solstice!

Make Music is a free celebration of music around the world on June 21st. Launched in 1982 in France as the Fête de la Musique, it is now held on the same day in more than 800 cities in 120 countries. Thank you to Mike Risko Music for organizing the Make Music Alliance event in various locations in Ossining/Briarcliff to celebrate this growing event. There will be about 25 local musicians performing in pop-up scheduled concerts, including the front lawn of the Ossining Village Hall at noon!

