



A Thanksgiving Message from the City Manager

On Thursday, family and friends will gather to share their gratitude and appreciation.

While we all have our own reasons for celebrating Thanksgiving, for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the meaning of being thankful will certainly look and feel different this year.

It goes without saying that the past few years, especially 2024, have proven to be extraordinarily challenging for the City and its residents. Unprecedented acceleration of land movement within the Greater Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex resulted in the City Council declaring a Local State of Emergency that has been in place for over a year, and Governor Newsom declaring a State of Emergency in September. While the emergency declarations have given the City many tools in navigating this crisis, what stands out the most to me is how the community, both within and outside the landslide area, have come together to help one another.

Acts of kindness. Neighbors helping neighbors. The outpouring of support I have witnessed over the past several months underscores the strong sense of community that makes Rancho Palos Verdes so special. No matter what corner of the City, the community has been there to help those in need of a friendly hand or even a simple hug. When

utilities were suddenly shut off this summer, strangers stepped up to help their neighbors by opening their homes to provide a place to escape and seek momentary relief with hot showers, warm meals, and sincere conversation.

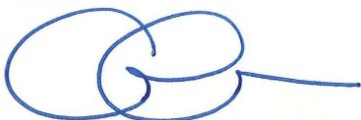
The kindness continues today with the Mend the Bend dinners that started in October with volunteers from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Rotary and expanded through the end of December with volunteers from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Association of Realtors, Council of Homeowners Associations, Seaview Residents Association, Portuguese Bend Community Association, Portuguese Bend Beach Club Homeowners Association, St. Peter's by the Sea, Transtech and many local residents who want to help a fellow neighbor. These dinners would not have been possible without the generosity of local restaurants and donors. In fact, on Thanksgiving Day, 64 households within the landslide complex will receive 234 hot meals generously provided by Terranea Resort and delivered by local volunteers – epitomizing the meaning of community and kindness!

This spirit of community and its acts of kindness resonates year-round throughout our City. Residents looking after one another, especially the vulnerable, such as the elderly or the ill. Neighbors keeping an eye out for each other through programs such as Neighborhood Watch.

The City continues to manage daily operations to ensure quality of life is protected and preserved. None of this would be possible if it weren't for the over 100 employees at City Hall who are on the frontlines 24/7. Their dedication and commitment to the community was underscored when many City employees were asked to report to duty over Labor Day weekend and during extreme weather events that took place over weekends and late at night to respond and serve the community – their service is greatly appreciated - thank you!

Facing all that we as a City experienced this year, it makes you appreciate the good and not so good, and is a reminder that we are and will always be #RPVTogether!

Humbly and with gratitude, wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' and 'M' followed by a horizontal line.

Ara Mihranian
City Manager