November Mayor's Message: Thankful for Citrus Heights

By Mayor MariJane Lopez-Taff

As Thanksgiving approaches, I have been thinking about the people who make Citrus Heights feel like home. So much of what makes this community special comes from the care people show one another, often without recognition or any expectation of thanks. Throughout this year, my theme of "Citrus Heights Serves" has given me an opportunity to recognize that care.

This month, I want to thank everyone who makes helping others part of their life. For example, at Sunrise Christian Food Ministry on San Juan Avenue, Thanksgiving food distribution helps families and individuals bring a holiday meal to their own tables. Behind that effort are people giving their time so their neighbors have one less thing to worry about. It is a practical, personal expression of what service means in our community.

I am also grateful for those who support residents experiencing homelessness through organizations such as Citrus Heights Homeless Assistance Resrouce Team. The holidays can be especially difficult for someone without a home, and I appreciate the people who continue to offer help when the circumstances are challenging.

Other acts of kindness happen between neighbors. An extra place at Thanksgiving dinner or an offer to pick up groceries can mean a great deal to someone spending the holiday alone. These connections help people feel remembered and included.

That care for Citrus Heights is also reflected in residents who give their time to neighborhood meetings and City planning discussions. Their involvement helps us make informed decisions, and we owe them clear information about how their input shapes our work.

Thanksgiving is a chance to pause and appreciate the people behind these contributions. I know volunteering takes time that could be spent with family or attending to other responsibilities. Choosing to make room for someone else is something worth recognizing.

If giving back is part of your holiday plans, asking a local service organization what it needs is a good place to begin. There may also be someone nearby who would simply appreciate an invitation or a little company.

Thank you for the care you give to Citrus Heights and to one another. I wish you and your loved ones a happy Thanksgiving.