



Mayor Ruocco Wishes You a Happy Thanksgiving!

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I encourage my fellow residents to consider how fortunate we are to live in the United States. We enjoy freedoms in our democratic republic that many people living elsewhere do not have. Our federal Constitution guarantees us these rights, but to secure them, we needed to wage a war for independence. To share them more broadly, we suffered a civil war that took a tremendous toll on our nation. To protect them from foreigners, we had to fight in several global wars. And to help make them a reality for all our citizens, we have had to exercise legislative, executive, and judiciary action throughout our nation's history.

We enjoy freedom of religion and speech, as well as peace, prosperity, and opportunity. We have been entrusted with abundant natural and human resources. It has been more than two centuries since we were invaded by a foreign army. America is far from perfect, but we are closer to perfection than most other nations. My own grandparents knew this. They left Italy at the beginning of the 20th century to come to America for a better life. That is why people of all religions, races, and ethnic backgrounds continue to leave their native land to come here. In that remarkable way, the experience of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts four centuries ago is repeated over and over again in a 21st century version.

So, when we sit with our family and friends at the Thanksgiving table, let us celebrate and give thanks for all the things we enjoy as Americans, and for all those who made sacrifices so that we might do so. We, as Americans, are truly blessed by what our Pilgrim forefathers called "Divine Providence."

On behalf of the Hillsdale governing body, I wish you a HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Mayor John Ruocco