



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2024

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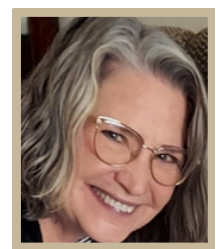
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Santa's workshop in Twain Harte

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



December brings a refreshing change in weather as cool breezes and crisp air awaken the senses invigorating both body and spirit. The potential for rain adds to the ambiance and many of us find ourselves hoping for the enchanting allure of snow which transforms the landscape and adds a magical touch to the season. This time of year also signifies the arrival of sweater weather—a cozy comfort that I truly enjoy as it invites us to wrap ourselves in warmth while sipping hot beverages.

The holidays create a special atmosphere filled with family gatherings where laughter and love abound, delicious dinners that tantalize the taste buds, and the joy of giving presents all of which warm the heart and foster a sense of togetherness.

During this month, the team has actively engaged with each event that was requested. You will read about the leak on Golf Club, the return of the Winter Wonderland Parade in Twain Harte, Honoring a Volunteer, and a wonderful recipe that you must make... it is scrumptious.

From decorating the tree to singing carols, every moment is infused with joy and celebration reminding us of the importance of connection and the simple pleasures that December offers.

As we approach the new year, there is a strong sense of excitement about the opportunities that lie ahead. The year 2025 promises to be a busy time for THA-CERT as we engage in various community activities. This involvement will not only strengthen local bonds but also create a positive impact on those we serve. By working together, we can explore new ideas and initiatives that benefit everyone. The anticipation for what is to come fills us with hope and determination to make a difference in our community.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on preparedness, safety, and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.

THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



GM REPORT

December 11, 2024



ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 24-25 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment
- Administrative Services Cross Training
- Administrative Services Staffing Analysis
- Evaluation of Check Processing Services
- 24/7 Receptionist Services Exploration
- TH Meadows Christmas Tree Options
- Fire Training Parking Lot Redesign and Rebid

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 11/14 TH School Stormwater Redesign
- 11/27 County Planning Coordination Meeting
- 12/4 TH Meadows State Parks Site Visit
- 12/5 TH Meadows Christmas Tree Planning
- 12/10 New Board Member Orientation/Tour

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Majority of Project work is complete. Punch list items will continue through mid-winter. Due to transplanting issues, the Christmas Tree is delayed until 2025.

Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$310,000

Pickleball improvements are complete. Contracting for materials and services to convert the tennis courts to a hybrid clay surface is underway. Construction is anticipated in spring 2025.

SCADA System Improvements

Budget: \$465,000

This Project will provide remote monitoring and control of the District's water treatment plant, pump stations, tanks and sewer lift stations. Design is anticipated to begin in early 2025.

Fire Training Parking Lot

Budget: \$331,000

Construction bids were rejected for this grant-funded project that includes permeable parking, bioswales and rainwater capture to fix drainage issues and provide more parking. Cost-saving revisions to design are complete and the project has been rebid.

Motor Control Center (MCC) Replacement

Budget: \$310,000

Construction to replace the MCC at the District's Water Treatment Plant is complete.

PLANNING PROJECTS

5-Year Sewer System Improvements

Budget: \$4,500,00

While pursuing grants, staff is evaluating if it can phase its large Twain Harte Sewerline Project with smaller, more cost-effective CIPP relining projects to start repairing high risk sewer lines this year.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$4.5M

TH Sewerline Project / Award: Winter 2024

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$6.55M

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: Winter 2024

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT - \$24,000

Median Household Income Survey / AWARDED

PROP 1 STORMWATER GRANT - \$340,000

Fire Training & Admin Parking Lot / AWARDED

PROP 1 STORMWATER GRANT - \$1.75M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 RURAL RECREATION - \$1.25M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

PROP 68 PER CAPITA - \$178K

Tennis & Pickleball Improvements / AWARDED

To learn more details, join us at our monthly THCSD board meetings.

TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



November 11th Blood Drive with American Red Cross



Thanks to the incredible support from our community, we surpassed our goal of 25 donors with 34 donations! Your generosity and commitment make a difference!

Staffing

Full-Time Captains: 3
Seasonal Engineer: 1
Relief Captains: 5
Reserve Firefighters: 5
Intern Firefighters: 9

Incident Responses by District

Twain Harte: 39%
Tuolumne County: 60%
Cal Fire: 1%

Sept. Responses: 28

EMS Incidents: 18
Fires: 2
Public Service Assists: 4
Emergency Standby: 4
Sept. Training Hours: 220



Fleet

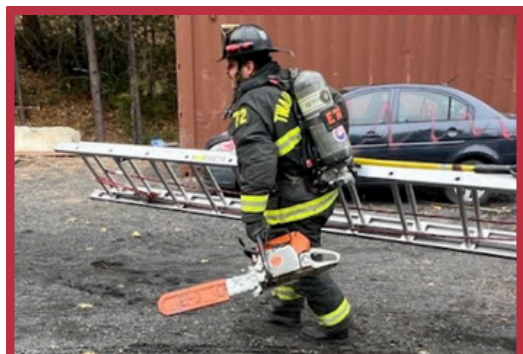
90-day Department of Transportation (DOT) inspection found the following:



A potential major failure in a pulley tensioner on E-723 was located.



Leaking turbo clamps and a hole in the WT-721 radiator. The clamps were replaced, and the hole needs to be welded.



THCSD WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCSD Operations Manager



1. Completion of Twain Harte Dr. Leak
2. Emergency Lift Station Work
3. Spruce Dr. Leak
4. Sierra Dr. Leak
5. Emergency Lift Station Work cont.
6. Biannual Clarifier Cleaning
7. Shadybrook Dam Lining Project
8. SCADA system training



Thank You!

The Water, Sewer, and Park's Department would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the THFD for our new drone and to Twain Harte Area CERT for the continued support on our many leaks and for an amazing pancake breakfast!

LEAK ON GOLF CLUB

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



Twain Harte experienced another leak, prompting the need for traffic control on Golf Club Drive. Apparently, the change of weather (and even when the weather doesn't change), can spring a leak in the pipes.

THA-CERT was present to manage the traffic situation and ensure the safety of THCS staff. We had six dedicated volunteers to cover the two shifts that day. Carol made a visit to offer support. Fortunately, the traffic was light causing the day to go smoothly despite being busy.

The THCS crew operated with great efficiency like a well-oiled machine. Despite being waist-deep in mud, they remained focused on finding the leak. They quickly removed debris and brought in fresh materials to assist in their work. Before long, they successfully controlled the leak and prepared the area for repair. Finally, the street was restored to a normal condition, showcasing their dedication and teamwork.



The drivers showed great understanding during the process and were very cordial. As a nice treat, we enjoyed some pizza and Gatorade together.



ROTARY LEARNS MORE ABOUT CERT

by Jerry Day, Co-President Sonora Rotary



The Sonora Rotary was pleased to have Carol Hallett as our December guest speaker. Many in our club were unaware of the Twain Harte Area CERT and how engaged the organization is in our community. Carol explained what inspired Community Emergency Response Teams and their origins in this country and our county. She told the club about their training program and listed several of the events where the team has assisted. One event Rotary club members recalled was the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in the parking lot at Sierra Bible Church. Carol explained how they developed the plan to manage the traffic efficiently, and all agreed that the event went very smoothly. Another Rotary member recalled a fire in the canyon near her home in Cedar Ridge. That gave Carol an opportunity to tell how THA-CERT's UAS (Drone) team was essential in identifying precisely where the fire was in relation to the forest road. All were impressed by the THA-CERT program. This is the kind of good news we need!



TWAIN HARTE CHRISTMAS PARADE

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



The Twain Harte Winter Wonderland Christmas Parade has triumphantly returned bringing a wave of joy and holiday spirit to the community after a one-year hiatus. The entire town sparkled with twinkling lights and festive decorations creating a warm and inviting atmosphere that welcomed everyone from families to visitors. Colorful floats adorned with cheerful themes rolled down the streets while lively marching bands filled the air with uplifting music captivating the audience and enchanting onlookers with their vibrant performances. Each float told a story showcasing local organizations' and residents' creativity and dedication. However, the undeniable highlight of the event was Santa Claus himself who made a grand entrance spreading joy and bringing smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. His cheerful presence reminded everyone of the magic of the season. The excitement in the air was palpable not just felt but shared among the crowd creating bonds of community and festivity. This year's parade has undoubtedly become a cherished memory for all who attended, reinforcing the sense of togetherness that makes the holidays so special. Thank you to the Christmas parade team that worked hard to make this event happen this year. If your goal was to make warm memories you succeeded.



Mike Mandell & Matt Kain representing THA-CERT



Over 40 entries lit up Twain Harte



Santa and Mrs Claus arriving in style



Roger & Judy Haughton sporting their Antique Fire Truck

HONORING A VOLUNTEER & A FRIEND

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



I feel incredibly fortunate to have such an exceptional group of volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to THA-CERT. Each year I am given the opportunity to honor one volunteer whose contributions stand out and let me tell you it is never an easy task to choose just one. Every single

volunteer brings something unique and invaluable to our team making the selection process both challenging and rewarding. This year I am thrilled to announce that the honor goes to our remarkable Dynamo Lise Lemonnier.



When I reflect on Lise's involvement it is truly hard to imagine a single event where she is not playing a pivotal role often leading the charge for THA-CERT. Her unwavering commitment and presence are a constant reminder of the spirit of volunteerism. What sets Lise apart is her genuine passion for helping others; she does not seek recognition or accolades. Instead, she dives into her work wholeheartedly often flying under the radar despite her significant impact. Additionally, her petite stature might sometimes make her less noticeable in a crowd but what she lacks in size she more than makes up for in heart and dedication.

In her role as the Planning Section Chief, Lise acts as the right-hand to

both Mike Mandell, our Team Leader, and myself, the Program Manager. I often find myself marveling at how in tune we are with one another; it's almost telepathic at times. I need to be cautious about casually mentioning ideas or tasks in her presence, as I know that before I can blink, she has already taken the initiative to bring those concepts to life. Our working relationship is built on mutual understanding and respect, which allows us to be incredibly effective in our efforts.



Lise's tireless dedication and support extend beyond just her duties; she is a source of encouragement and strength for everyone involved. Her energy during events is infectious, and it seems she never tires - always ready to lend a helping hand or a friendly smile. Her contributions are not just vital to our team; they resonate throughout our town and County, making a tangible difference in the community we serve.

Thank you Lise for being the incredible person you are and for your unwavering commitment to caring for others. It is truly my honor to select you as this year's recipient of the Volunteer Appreciation Award. You exemplify the very best of what it means to be a volunteer and we are all grateful for your dedication and spirit.





Brown & White

Brownie Ice Cream Cake



6-8 servings



7 hours 10 mins
(includes freezer
time)

INGREDIENTS

- Nonstick cooking spray
- One 18.2-ounce box dark chocolate fudge brownie mix, such as Duncan Hines
- 2 eggs, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup hazelnut liqueur
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- 1 pint chocolate-chocolate chip ice cream
- 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar
- 14 mini candy canes

NOTE:

You can remove the candy canes if you are making this any other month than December. You could add red candy hearts for Valentine's Day.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Line a rimmed 12-by-8 1/2-inch baking pan with parchment paper. Spray the paper with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
3. In a large bowl, use a rubber spatula to stir together the brownie mix, eggs, liqueur, vegetable oil and almond extract. Spread the mixture evenly over the prepared baking pan. Bake until the brownie is just set, 18 to 20 minutes. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.
4. Line a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with a piece of parchment paper across the short way, so there is about 2 inches of overhang on either side. Remove the ice cream from the freezer to soften just slightly.
5. Place the brownie sheet on a cutting board and cut into 3 rectangles. Place one brownie on the bottom of the prepared loaf pan. Scoop the softened vanilla ice cream on top of the brownie and spread evenly with an offset spatula. Place another brownie rectangle on top of the ice cream and press down gently. Scoop the softened chocolate-chocolate chip ice cream on top and spread evenly. Top with the last brownie, press firmly, and wrap in plastic wrap. Freeze for at least 5 hours or preferably overnight.
6. To un-mold, run a thin knife along the two short sides of the pan to loosen. Invert the cake onto a chilled plate. Peel off the parchment and dust the cake with the confectioners' sugar if using. If desired, line the sides with the mini candy canes. Return the cake to the freezer to set for 10 minutes. Slice and serve.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

December

Administration = 86
Training = 0
Deployment = 82
Total hours = 168

2024 Total

Administration = 3354
Training = 1104
Deployment = 456
Total hours = 4914



MAKE A PREPAREDNESS RESOLUTION

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact. Take different routes to your normal destinations.

TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS

- ☆ Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- ☆ Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- ☆ Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.

PREPARE AHEAD

- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Have backup power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Check your insurance for coverage of disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts and safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Sign up for reverse 911 with the county.

PACK A GO BAG

- ✓ Watch the online video. Pick your bag and start filling it.
- ✓ Get to know your neighbors and invite them to be part of your emergency plan.
- ✓ Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.

SAVE FOR A RAINY DAY

- Start and grow your emergency fund and financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.
- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond. Build up your savings.
- Put a small amount in your account on the first of every month beginning January 1.

GET TRAINED

Take a class in CPR and first aid. CERT training is one of the best preparedness training available, it is planned for April 2025.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>



TWAIN HARTE AREA



THA-CERT SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

What/who are Twain Harte Area CERT (THA-CERT)? We are a dedicated team of community-based volunteers who are trained to support our community.

This team provides the following services to senior and disabled residents in Tuolumne County:

- Free Smoke Alarms/Detectors
- Free Installation
- Free Battery Replacement



If you need a smoke detector installed, need a new battery, or need a ten-year-old smoke detector replaced, we can help for free.

If you are interested, please contact us by sending an email to twainhartecert@gmail.com, or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/smoke-alarm-installation-program>



Join or start a FIREWISE neighborhood

Contact: Karen Caldwell tcfirewise@gmail.com

FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks



Join the weekly **Twain Harte Neighborhood Radio Watch**
Wed: 7:00 PM Sun: 9:00 AM
FRS/GMRS: Ch. 18
To learn more, contact:
Lee Smith at 209-988-8832

Fire Behavior Training

with the Twain Harte Fire Department

Date: 01/25/2025

Time: 09:00-12:00pm

Location: 22912 Vantage Point, Twain Harte at the Twain Harte Community Services District Office



Learn how understanding fire behavior could save your life and your families.

Chief Neil Gamez and his crew will instruct us on:

- Fundamentals of fire behavior and how to stay safe.
- Hands on experience on how to effectively and safely use a fire extinguisher to put out a fire
- Learn about wildfire risks living in Tuolumne County and what we can do to lessen these risks
- And so much more...



This class is open to all. If you know you can attend RSVP for planning purposes:

twainhartecert@gmail.com

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As we approach the new year it is important to set goals that will help us grow and succeed. Making a resolution to be more prepared in 2025 is a great way to start. One effective step you can take is to plan on attending our training classes. These classes are designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to reach your goals. By committing to this training you will be better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead and can make the most of the opportunities that come your way.

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting

<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

Wednesday, Jan 8, 2025 9:00 am

22912 Vantage Point, TH, THCSD Mtg Room

THA-CERT & Fire Assoc Board Meeting

Thursday, Jan 9, 2025 9:30 am

22912 Vantage Point, TH, THCSD Mtg Room

