



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

## MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2023

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Christmas Carol



This is said all the time but seriously, where does the time go? I cannot believe this is the last newsletter of 2023. It has been an amazing year! THA-CERT volunteers accomplished so much each month.

Some of our great accomplishments this year included our being able to purchase the LUCAS device for the THFD through the generosity of the community and the hard work of our volunteers.

We were also able to purchase and renovate our storage area (Papa Smurf). We installed smoke alarms and batteries for many local residents. We had several deployments, which allowed us to support our firefighters and our community.

We had so many great training classes throughout the year which helps our volunteers and the community to be more prepared. Each newsletter included safety tips as reminders to help keep us and our families safe throughout the year.

December is a busy month for us as individuals with Christmas shopping, gift wrapping, cooking, and planning the celebrations for the season.

I always like to reflect on Christmas past, present and possible future... you know the story... A Christmas Carol!

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



— From our family to yours —

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## TWAIN HARTE AREA



*We hope your holidays are filled with laughter & love.*



For each of us, the end of the year, Christmas time, and the beginning of a new year means something different.

For some, it is having those special moments with friends and family. Celebrating with joy and song.

For others, it is a time for planning, reflecting on the accomplishments of the past year and making goals for the new year.



This time of year always means cooking those special treats and meals that bring friends and family together. The aroma and warmth of the home brings a smile to everyone's face.

We hope that your holiday will be all of the above.

**Have a safe and Merry Christmas and the happiest New Year!**

# TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



## 29 RESPONSES



Vehicle Fire



Structure Fire



Vegetation Fire



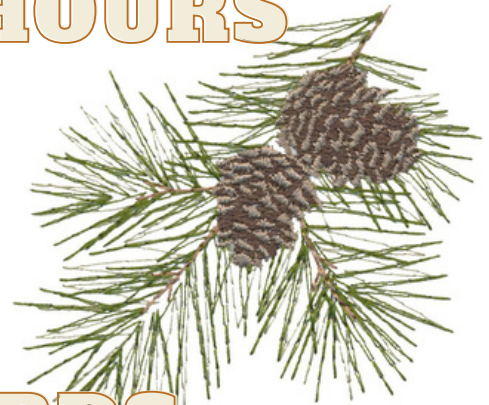
Structure Fire

## THFD STAFF

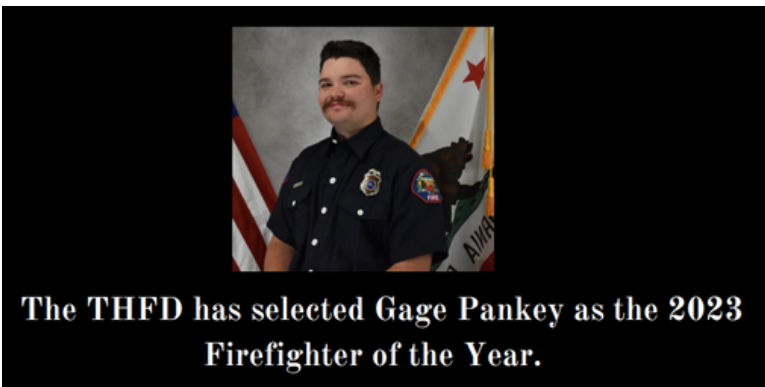
- Full Time Chief - 1
- Full Time Captains - 3
- Seasonal Engineers - 3
- Relief Captains - 4
- Reserve Firefighters - 4
- Intern Firefighters - 2



## 200 TRAINING HOURS



## ANNUAL AWARDS



The THFD has selected Gage Pankey as the 2023 Firefighter of the Year.



The THFD has selected Captain Mark Slater as the 2023 Paul Waite Memorial Award recipient.

# THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



## GM REPORT

November 8, 2023



### ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- Water and Sewer Rate Study
- Fiscal Year 2022-23 Audit
- TH Meadows Park Construction Management
- Million Gallon Tank #2 Construction Management
- Operator II Promotion and Operator I Recruitment
- FEMA Storm Damage Reimbursement Coordination
- Records Retention Reorganization

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 10/27 County Drought Task Force
- 11/2 MHI Survey Kickoff Meeting
- 11/6 Skate Park Senior Project Meeting
- 11/7 Motherlode Views – TH Meadows Park
- 11/8 TUD/THCSD Sewer Coordination

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Motor Control Center (MCC) Upgrade

Budget: \$185,000

Construction submittals to replace the MCC at the water treatment plant have been reviewed and approved. Manufacturer delays will push installation to March 2024 during low water demand months.

#### Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$2,600,000

Njirich & Sons completed grading and a majority of underground utilities for the new, grant-funded community park. Underground utilities and some landscaping work are expected to be completed this month. Project completion is anticipated in early fall 2024.

#### Million Gallon Tank #2 Rehabilitation

Budget: \$1,275,000

Paso Robles Tank has completed all work except exterior coating touch-up on this grant-funded project to replace tank roof and recoat the tank. Work is anticipated to be complete this month.

#### Tennis/Pickleball Court Improvements

Budget: \$295,000

Design of pickleball courts expansion using a sport grid surface and tennis court resurfacing with clay is nearly complete. Fundraising will be needed for pickleball. Construction is anticipated in spring.

#### Community Center Improvements

Budget: \$67,000 Fire / \$67,000 Park

Kitchen remodel, ADA bathrooms, flooring and exterior repaint is complete. Parking lot is anticipated to be complete this month.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

#### Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis and risk assessment, and identification/prioritization of capital projects is complete. Design of Sherwood Forest water lines replacement is 60% complete.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT - \$24,000

Median Household Income Survey / AWARDED

#### MULTI-BENEFIT DROUGHT GRANT - \$950K

Shadybrook Silt Removal / Award: Spring 2024

#### MULTI-BENEFIT DROUGHT GRANT - \$1.7M

Water Line Replacement / Award: Spring 2024

#### STATE REVOLVING FUND - \$4.5M

TH Pipeline Project / Award: Spring 2024

#### PROP 68 PER CAPITA - \$178K

Tennis & Pickleball Improvements / AWARDED

#### PROP 68 RURAL RECREATION - \$1.25M

TH Meadows Park / AWARDED

#### MULTI-BENEFIT DROUGHT GRANT - \$1.275M

MG Tank #2 Rehab / AWARDED

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

# RECOGNIZED AND WELL DESERVED

by: Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief

The THA-CERT staff was asked (or voluntold) to attend the THCS board meeting this month. I wondered why there were so many people there, besides us, but it became clear when the presentations started.



Neil Gamez, THFD Chief, initiated a couple of awards each year as a salute to the men and women who give so much to this community. It has turned out to be a wonderful tribute. The recipients of the awards are determined by different factors.



Tom Trott, GM THCS, congratulates Gage Pankey

The first award was the “**2023 Firefighter of the Year**”. This recipient was selected for his dedication to service, his accomplishments during the year and his continued commitment to the fire department and the community. The award went to Firefighter Gage Pankey.

The second award was a very special tribute, it is the “**2023 Paul Waite Memorial Award**”. Captain Paul Waite Jr. had a wonderful career in fire service but succumbed to fire related cancer in 2016. He worked at THFD and was a pillar in our society. This award holds great emotion with it, especially for those who knew and worked with him. This year the award went to Captain Mark Slater. It was a moving presentation because both Chief Gamez and Captain Slater worked with Captain Waite.



THFD Chief Gamez presents Captain Slater with his award



Carol Hallett and Mike Mandel with his award

The third award (this was only the second year for this award) was presented by Carol Hallett, Program Manager for THA-CERT. It is the “**2023 Community Excellence Award**” Carol was honored to receive the award last year and was asked to choose the recipient for this year’s presentation. The choice was easy, the beneficiary is Mike Mandell, Team Leader for THA-CERT. Mike as a retired firefighter and a community minded individual that has been active in many different organizations and joined CERT in 2017. He has brought a wealth of knowledge, common sense, hard work and dedication to the team... along with his great sense of humor. Having worked closely with Mike on the Smoke Detector Program, among other projects, I can honestly say it is a pleasure working with him.

This month was also the swearing in of a new board member for the Twain Harte Community Services District (THCS), Mary Dearborne. Mary is extremely active in the community. She is a Rotarian, a CERT volunteer and secretary of the Fire Association, works in a CPA office part time, and is now on the board for THCS. We were proud to be there to see her starting her newest adventure.



Kim Silva swears in Mary Dearborne

# TIME FLIES!

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



Time certainly does fly by. Did you know that we have been producing this publication for three years now? We started in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, trying to provide information and education while we were unable to host in-person training. My, how we have grown! I think for our first several issues, all articles were written by either myself or Carol Hallett.

As with anything you are creating out of thin air, there were growing pains. But it has been a learning experience for all of us who have been involved and we hope you have enjoyed reading this these past three years. We continue to improve, as we ourselves become more informed and proficient at publishing this every month.

We are also coming up on the first anniversary of our Smoke Detector Program. We received a grant to provide smoke detectors, or install new batteries in existing smoke detectors, for disabled and/or senior members of our community. This year, we have been able to assist 66 people in Tuolumne county. Some of the calls have been urgent requests at “interesting” hours. Thanks to Mike Mandell, who oversees this program and answers the off-hours calls, and Bob Schreiner, for assisting Mike. If you, or someone you know, qualify for this program and need assistance with a smoke detector, please call Mike Mandell at (209) 770-2674.

# WHAT TIME?

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



We respond no matter what time... but seriously 1:00 AM, WOW! That said, we were there right on time. THCSO sewer/water needed traffic control so that they could fix a leak on Fuller Rd in Twain Harte. We are always happy to help them, it truly helps our community and our environment. I hate water waste.

Carol, Bob Schreiner, and I met prior to the event to sort out what we would need. Carol was thinking blankets, coffee, a cot, and did I mention blankets? We decided that we would need our portable lights, high visibility vests or jackets, head lamps, slow/stop signs and lots of layers of clothing. Carol brought blankets too!



In the initial investigation, it looked like the leak was on the right lane heading into town. The THCSO crew started digging to find that the leak was coming from elsewhere. They followed the line and found the problem. Once it was found, they did a great job fixing it and closing up the hole as the town woke up. They worked hard to open one lane so that people could make it to school and work. It was a cold night but it was warmed up by all the friendly people wishing us well and thanking us for the job being done. It warmed our hearts. The breakfast burritos helped too!

# TRAINING PLANS



by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



We are very excited to kick off 2024 with some great training. We are so appreciative of our trainers that give their time to THA-CERT to keep us informed and safe.

Will Harris, a Safety Specialist from PGE, will help provide information for electrical emergency responses. What we need to know to stay safe during storms, wildfires, and outages. He will also talk about hazards associated with natural gas emergencies. This training is oriented for First Responders, but we can all learn something valuable from this training.

The second half of the training is with Michelle Wagner, retired Deputy Sheriff, member of the Sheriff's Department Small unmanned aircraft system team, and THA CERT UAV Team Lead. She will instruct us on the basics of UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), the Do's and Don'ts of using UAVs, and what additional training is required to become a UAV pilot

This training is free of charge and open to the public. I hope you will join us for this informative and interesting training.


Speaking of training. Carol Hallett & Matt Kain did a training project we called, "the scavenger hunt". They were locating addresses around Twain Harte for THCS. It was good practice to learn the street names, drive the command truck and have

<b>PG&amp;E Safety Training</b>	<b>Intro to UAV's</b>
<b>Date: 01/27/2024</b>	<b>Time: 09:00-12:00pm</b>

**Location: 18775 Manzanita Dr., Twain harte, CA**

A two part training:

1. Staying safe around PG&E electrical lines & equipment.
2. When does CERT use UAV's & How can you get involved?




**Safety**

Instructor: Will Harris  
Public Safety Specialist  
Public Safety Preparedness


This training focus is First Responders, but everyone will benefit from this information.

- Learn what to do when responding to an electrical emergency
- Learn about hazards associated with natural gas
- Become familiar with the types of equipment that PG&E uses.



**Intro to UAV**  
Instructor: Michelle Wagner  
THA-CERT UAV Unit Leader

- What is a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle)?
- How and when does CERT use UAV's?
- Training requirements to become a pilot?
- Do's and don'ts of UAV flying.



This class is open to all.

people recognize the THA-CERT vehicle driving around town. The community was welcoming and appreciative that we are around. The team was happy to be of assistance.

# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

by Matt Kain, Operations Section Chief



Well, I was just driving around town the other day and to my surprise I discovered something new in Twain Harte. The Meadow Park expansion has changed tremendously.

The day I was there, the entire street was blocked off. There were large trucks, tractors and people with shovels hard at work.

They planted trees, placed boulders, roughed in paths, poured the foundation for the gazebo, man this project is coming right along!

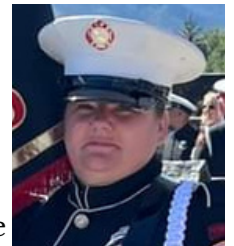
You can really imagine what the finished park is going to look like. I cannot wait to use it when it is complete. I am sure my wife and I will be there having picnics and listening to the music in the park... wait a minute we will be dancing in the park!



Thank you to the staff at THCS D for doing all the hard work in getting the grant for this project and then being the project managers for it as well. I know how much work that is and I truly appreciate it. The result will be years and years of family fun in our beautiful town for both our residents and visitors. Thanks for making a difference.

# CONNECTING WITH CAL FIRE

by Emily Kilgore, Unit PIO CAL FIRE



Are you tired of searching the web for local information? Not sure where to look for emergency preparedness resources? Want quick access to all things CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit? Connect with us through our NEW Linktree! With links to our other social media pages, ability to join our email list for important information, and centralized access to great resources locally and statewide.







# Breakfast Casserole

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8-10  
servings



20 min prep  
45 min bake  
10-20 min browning

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 30 oz pkg tater tots
- 8 eggs
- 2 cups half & half or evaporated milk
- 1 lb bulk sausage
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp granulated garlic
- 1/4 c chopped onion (opt)

## NOTES

Bacon, diced ham, and pork or turkey sausage all work well in this casserole. You'll need about 1 pound (or 2 cups cooked) of whichever meat you choose to add.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Place a layer of tater tots in the bottom of a casserole dish
2. In a sauce pan, brown sausage (crumble) and onion, drain
3. In a bowl, mix eggs, milk, mustard and salt, beat well
4. Add sausage to egg mixture and pour over tater tots
5. Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top
6. Place covered casserole in refrigerator overnight
7. Bake covered in the morning at 350 for 45 minutes
8. Remove cover and brown for 10-20 minutes.
9. Serve warm

To freeze the cooked casserole for easy breakfasts, portion it into individual servings and store in zip-close bags. Place the individual bags in a larger freezer bag or container and freeze until needed. To reheat, thaw portions overnight in the fridge and reheat in the microwave OR reheat frozen portions at half power for 2 minutes and then at regular power until warm.

Recipe shared by: Marilyn Finnley

# 4 P'S OF WINTER SAFETY

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



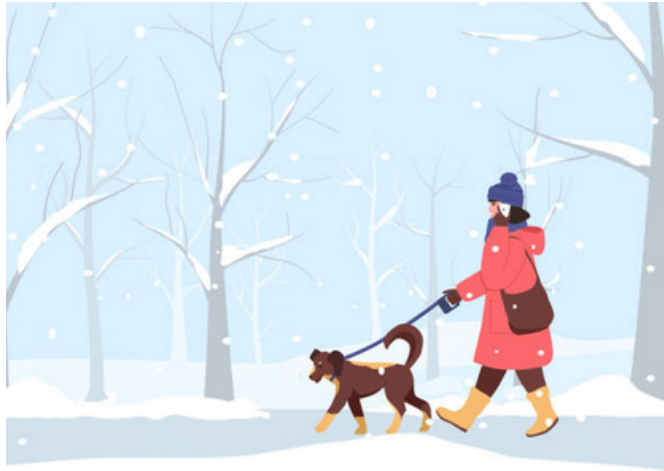
What are the 4 P's of winter safety?

Friends, I give you the 4Ps of winter safety: people, pets, pipes, and plants. I'm going to take some creative liberties with this common construct used by weather folks across the nation to highlight areas we should address so we may thrive and survive when the temperatures dip.

## PEOPLE

Avoid serious conditions such as frostbite and hypothermia, by keeping warm.

- Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight warm clothing as they provide better insulation and warmth. Wear a hat, hood, or scarf, as most heat is lost through the head.
- Keep fingertips, earlobes, and noses covered if you go outside. Mittens, snug at the wrist are better than gloves because your fingers will create body heat when cozy in the mittens rather than in single fingered gloves.
- Keep clothing dry; if a layer becomes wet, remove it.
- Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Try to stay dry and out of the wind.



## PIPES

Pay attention to your pipes before the next storm. Water in pipes can freeze when outside temperatures plummet. The pressure caused by the freezing water can cause pipes to burst. Burst pipes will most definitely throw a wrench in your day.



## PLANTS

When winter storms bring large amounts of snow or heavy ice, it can cause stress and damage to some of your trees and perennials. Well-pruned trees and scrubs are the best defense for heavy snow or ice.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



THA-CERT Volunteer Hours 2023				
	Admin	Training	Deployment	Total
January	300	392	169	861
February	148.5	20	0	168.5
March	203.5	85	3	291.5
April	194.5	87	0	281.5
May	268	0	19.5	287.5
June	510	65.5	150	725.5
July	170.5	0	164.5	335
August	203	45	74	322
September	492	0	15	507
October	234	0	168	402
November	298	32	0	330
December	183	15	25	223
Total	3025	741.5	788	4734.5

## Training in Twain Harte

### January Class

PG&E safety training and Introduction to UAV's

Date: 27 Jan 2024

Time: 0900-1200

Location: Community Center

18775 Manzanita Dr, Twain Harte

## Events

### ATCAA Food Distribution

Community Center

18775 Manzanita Dr, Twain Harte

Wednesday, Jan 3, 2024 10am to 12 pm

### Soroptomist Crab Feed

Tuolumne Memorial Hall

18375 Fir Ave, Tuolumne

Saturday, Jan 13, 2024

Great food, Beer, Wine, Raffle

Tickets. For tickets, contact

Patt Koral (209) 352-0127

### Barn Dance at Aronos



Aronos Research Federation

37 Elkin St, Sonora

Saturday, Jan 20, 2024 7-9 PM

Come to an old fashioned barn dance.

We'll be dancing in lines, circles,

squares and a waltz or two. Our live

string band plays old time music with a

wonderful atmosphere from times past.

FREE event

## Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:00 am

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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



January's full Wolf Moon reaches peak illumination on Thursday, January 25, 2024

## 2024 Yearly Calendar

The last page of this newsletter you will find a printable calendar. Each month we will give more detail about each training. All of our trainings are open to the public. Plan on attending and bring a friend.



January's full moon is named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Other names for this month's full moon include old moon and ice moon.



NEIGHBORHOOD RADIO WATCH  
WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™

Join the weekly:

Twain Harte

Neighborhood Radio Watch

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

FRSM: ch 18

THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

Community Center, 18775 Manzanita Dr, TH

Thursday, January 4, 2024 9:30 am

TWAIN HARTE AREA



# 2024 Training Calendar

Location:  
Community Center  
18775 Manzanita Dr  
Twain Harte, CA



March  
Fire Behavior with THFD

June  
PHI Helicopter Training

September  
Basic Search and Rescue

December  
No Training

February  
Fire Fighter Rehab

May  
Volunteer Appreciation

August  
CERT member only training

November  
No Training

January  
PG&E Safety/ Introduction to UAV

April  
CERT 3 day Basic Training

July  
No Training

October  
Traffic Control with CHP

SCHEDULED TRAININGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING THE YEAR  
TRAINING SCHEDULED TYPICALLY FOR THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS, CHANGES OR UPDATES.

FACEBOOK: TWAIN HARTE AREA CERT EMAIL: TWAINHARTECERT@GMAIL.COM