



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2023

Mary Schreiner, Editor & PIO
twainhartecert@gmail.com

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



November was a month for spending time with friends and family. A time for getting prepared for the winter months that are coming, you can feel it in the air. The leaves turned beautiful colors and fell to the ground to make a beautiful natural colorful mosaic. It is an amazing time of year.

Adding to all of this beauty, we celebrated our veterans with the American flag flying high and proud.

We have our monthly report from the Fire Chief, which I hope you find interesting. Along with that, this month we have added a report from Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) General Manager, Tom Trott. This will fill out details of what is happening in and around the town. We have updated information about Papa Smurf, interesting read about the solstice, safety tips and my muffin recipe(s). Enjoy!



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.

TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT CORNER

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



EQUIPMENT



The old 720 command vehicle has been sold to a volunteer department in Illinois.



Repair work has started on E-723



TRAINING HOURS



235

THFD STAFF

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



We are finishing the data transfer from FireHouse software to the new ESO reporting software. This new program will allow our staff to transfer patient medical forms in real-time to the ambulance when they take over patient care.

THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, 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.

FIELD OF HONOR

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

I can remember standing with my hand over my heart pledging allegiance to the flag as a young boy. It was something we did everyday to start the school day but it meant more than just something we did. It still means a lot to me, especially when we say it in honor of someone special.



This Veterans day we did just that... we pledge our allegiance to thank our veterans for fighting for our freedom, our liberty, and our country.



The Sonora Sunrise Rotary hosted their second annual "Field of Honor" at Standard Park. When Carol and I arrived, a beautiful site met us, approx. 250 flags waving with the breeze.



We had seven THA-CERT members in attendance, as well as a few of our founding members, Carol Hallett (of course) but also Rich & Marilyn Knudson.



To fill the field with flags was easy, all you have to do is buy a flag for a veteran and the Rotarians take care of the rest. It is a beautiful sight to see, all those flags flying to honor those who honored us. Carol purchased a flag for her mother and father-in-law.

Doug Foote asked Carol to fill in while they prepared the check for the Veteran's. You know Carol, give her a microphone and she can tell you stories.



Sonora Sunrise Rotary presenting THA-CERT & Fire Assoc a \$500 check for the LUCAS Device

THE AMERICAN FLAG

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



Whether you live here or visit us, you have likely seen the dozens of American flags flying throughout Twain Harte. You may have wondered who puts up and takes down the flags. It takes a small army to do this job, and it is usually the same patriotic people who volunteer.



The flag crew, (from left) Ed Proctor, Mike Mandell, Bob Schreiner, Matt Kain, Carol Hallett, Robert Pratt, John Buckingham, and Alan Hancock (not pictured, Lise Lemonnier)

I was not born in this country, but when I moved here from Canada, I was happy to be a part of the fantastic world my family and I encountered. I became a U.S. citizen long after I moved here, but my days as a Girl Scout and then as a leader kindled a deeply held pride in the flag. To this day, I love to see people appreciate it and honor it.

Although it is not an official “CERT” activity, the volunteers who put up the flags are all associated with THA-CERT. Our goal is to put up the flags, some inherited from the now disbanded troop I used to lead, and some bought with donations to CERT, for special occasions, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veteran’s Day. Each one of these days is special to

Twain Harte, this country, and its citizens.

It takes a lot of work to make this happen, and it could not happen without all the help of CERT members. Thank you, volunteers.

Editor’s note: There is a lot that happens with the flags behind the scenes. Lise stores the flags in her home and loads them all into her truck to bring them for us to hang. After they come down, she spends hours making sure all of the flags are clean and pressed before she rolls them, in groups of 6 flags, in clean sheets, to be stored until the next time we hang them. Without Lise, none of this would happen. Thank you, Lise Lemonnier, for the many hours you spend ensuring that we have beautiful flags to honor each occasion.



WINTER CELEBRATIONS

by Mary Schreiner, Public Information Officer



We just celebrated my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving, which is recognized as the start of the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to the Epiphany, there are at least 12 recognized holidays for various religions and cultures.



My next favorite celebration is a new one for me, but it has been celebrated throughout human history. I'm referring to the Winter Solstice. It marks the shortest day of year and the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere; it is the point in the year when the sun travels the shortest path through the sky, bringing the shortest number of daylight hours. From this point on, until the Summer Solstice, the days start getting longer.

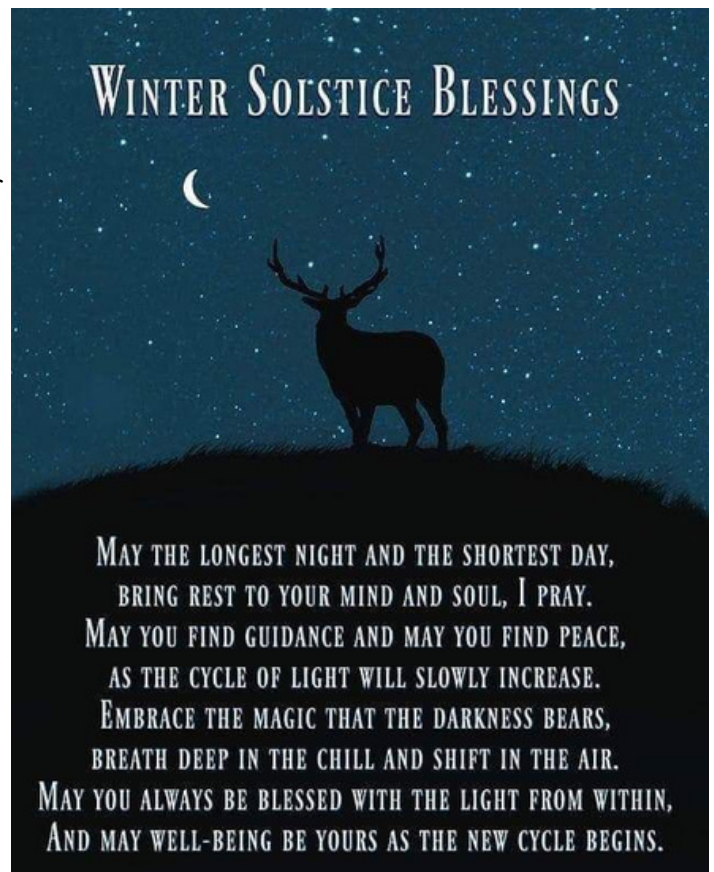
Two years ago, Neighbor Bruce, invited us, and a couple of other neighbors, to join him in a Solstice celebration. It was a pretty casual affair, with a

nice big bonfire and a bit of socializing with the few people there.

Last year, Bruce ramped things up a bit. Lanterns guided us along the path to the top of our hill, where the bonfire would be lit. There were some snacks and adult beverages and all of our neighbors were there. Several had family and friends visiting, who also joined in the fun. Bruce read a Solstice Blessing that I found online and the bonfire was lit. Bruce's Christmas tree from the year before was an integral component of the bonfire. It blazed bright in the chilly night, illuminating the faces of all around it. It was a wonderful gathering of neighbors to celebrate the return of longer days.

From earliest humans to Romans, Incas, Native Americans, and virtually every other culture on Earth, the transition from the darkness to light has been a cause for celebration. Many of our current holiday traditions have roots in the ancient Solstice rituals, such as Sweden's Saint Lucia's day, the Yule log, Christmas trees, and decorating our homes with lights and evergreen boughs.

December 21st is the Winter Solstice this year; it could be a nice new tradition for you, too. No gifts, no decorating, no baking, just appreciating the longest night and the shortest day of the year.



PAPA SMURF UPDATE

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



Moving day finally arrived. We moved all of our supplies from the trailer (soon to be a mobile warming and cooling unit and mobile command center) to the container, aka “Papa Smurf”. We built an office area and some shelving so we could keep all of our equipment and supplies together.



Carol’s “persuasion” techniques in practice on Lise and Ed

Mike Mandell and I winterized the container, sealing and painting around the “whirlybirds” on the top of the unit that we need for ventilation. We also installed covers on the whirlybirds to keep the rain and snow out.

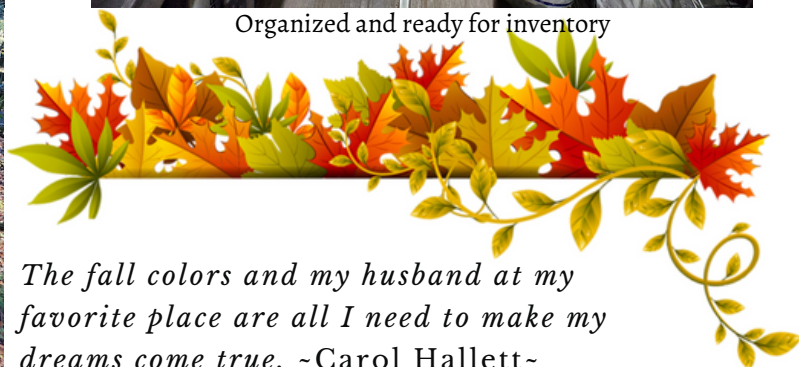
This has been a long project, but very rewarding to see everything come together so nicely. I couldn’t have finished this without the assistance of our team members Mike Mandell, Lise Lemonnier, Carol Hallett, Matt Kain, Ed Proctor, Margaret Lawrence, Mary Dearborn, and Mary Schreiner.

There were 5 of us that first day. Turns out, we have a lot of stuff! A second crew spent a few days organizing things and throwing out expired items and garbage. Inventory will happen soon and we’ll use that as an opportunity to purge more of the things we have that are no longer used or necessary. We have a little bit more to move out of the THCSO office we were using, which will be done by the end of November, and then we are finished with the moving portion of this project.



Organized and ready for inventory

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE



The fall colors and my husband at my favorite place are all I need to make my dreams come true. -Carol Hallett-

MUFFIN MEMORIES

When the holidays come around, you should be prepared with goodies to eat. Here are some quick and easy recipes for delicious homemade muffins. Baking warms your kitchen, your heart, and the aroma is what memories are made of. These muffins can be stored in the pantry, refrigerator, or the freezer and taken out to serve when people drop by. If you take them from the refrigerator or freezer, remember to warm them up just a bit before serving. There is nothing better than a warm treat on a cold day.

Oat Bran Muffins

2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour
2 cups oat bran
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup raisins (optional)
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 cups unsweetened apple juice



Cornbread Muffins

2 cups cornmeal
2 cups oat bran
4 teaspoons baking powder
2 cups unsweetened apple juice

Banana Muffins

2 cups whole-wheat flour
2 cups oat bran
4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup raisins (optional)
2 cups mashed ripe banana (3 to 4 bananas)
1/2 cup unsweetened apple juice



Apple Muffins

2 cups whole-wheat flour
1 cup all purpose flour
1 cups oat
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup raisins (optional)
2 cups mashed apples (apple sauce)
1 cup unsweetened apple juice (to moisten)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Sift the dry ingredients together. Add the optional ingredients if using. Add the wet ingredients and stir until just mixed. Spoon the batter into eighteen nonstick muffin cups and bake for 30 minutes, or until lightly browned.

From: Carol Hallett's
Vegan Recipe Book



BE PREPARED FOR A WINTER STORM

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. They can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds and can last a few hours or several days. They can knock out heat, power and communication services. These storms can also place older adults, young children, and sick individuals at greater risk.

Words to Know

Frostbite: A medical condition when skin or body tissue is damaged from freezing. It's most common in parts of the body farthest from your heart that are exposed such as fingers, toes, ears and nose.

Hypothermia: A sickness when your body temperature drops below what is needed to be healthy and work properly. It is the opposite of heat stroke.

Freezing Rain: Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a layer of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet: Rain that turns to ice before reaching the ground.

Protect Yourself Key Messages

- Stay off roads.
- Stay indoors and dress warmly.
- Prepare for power outages.
- Use generators outside only.
- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- Look for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Check on neighbors.



Featured Protective Actions

- Use carbon monoxide sensors with a battery backup on every floor.
- Do not use heating and cooking devices intended for outdoor use that are not designed with ventilation.
- Seek shelter immediately and watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Know and watch for signs of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Avoid overexertion to decrease risk of heart attack.
- Stay off the roads in dangerous conditions; winterize your vehicle; avoid driving; if trapped, remain in your vehicle.

Protective Actions

Learn more about how to prepare Before, During, and After this hazard by exploring our research-backed Protective Actions.

Know Your Risks

- Winter storms can occur from early autumn to late spring.
- Extreme winter weather can immobilize an entire region.
- Winter storms can happen in every region of the country.
- A winter storm occurs when precipitation forms as sleet or snow, or when rain turns to ice.



From FEMA website

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



The total THA-CERT volunteer hours for November are:

Administration =	298
Training =	32
Deployment =	0
Total November hours =	330



Training

The 2024 Training Calendar will be in the December issue of this newsletter

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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

Winter Wonderland Paint Party



Indigeny Reserve

14679 Summers Lane, Sonora
Sunday, Dec 10, 2023 1-3 PM

Paint your very own masterpiece in this guided painting event! Bring your friends & family to make colorful memories together.

Polar Express Train Ride



Rail Town 1897 State Historic Park
10501 Reservoir Rd, Jamestown
Nov 24 - Dec 17, 2023

Relive the magical journey of THE POLAR EXPRESS on an hour-long train ride to the North Pole. Once you reach the North Pole, the jolly old elf – Santa himself – will come on board.

Twain Harte Winter Wonderland

Santa is coming to town! Friday, December 1st, 2023
Eproson Park, Twain Harte **Caroling at 5:30 pm**
Santa arrives at 6 pm



TWAIN HARTE CHRISTMAS
COMMUNITY DINNER
Saturday, December 2, 2023

Twain Harte Elementary School Cafeteria
18815 Manzanita Drive
Twain Harte

Dinner begins at 4:30 pm and ends at 7pm

This is a free dinner for the Twain Harte
Community

Please come and bring your family to
Celebrate the season

Event is sponsored by:

Twain Harte Rotarians
&
Boy Scout Troop 500
&
Cub Scout Troop 513

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, December 13th, 9:00 am

CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting

Thursday, December 14th, 9:30 am