

# TWAIN HARTE AREA



**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

## MONTHLY UPDATE

### September 2024

PIO: Mary Schreiner  
Editor: Casey Headrick  
Proofreader: Lise Lemonnier

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## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



We are embarking on the 4th quarter (football reference) of the year, which means 2024 is winding down. I can tell that Autumn is upon us as we watch the changing of the fall colors just beginning... or should I say Autumn colors? Fall is a dangerous word to say at our age (I did not call us old).

Nature always astonishes me. I am simply amazed each season is special and each year they are uniquely different. I thought last month that those squirrels would eat all the pinecones while they were green but the pine trees are full and the cones are brown. I only have a couple of small squirrels running around the yard this year. We instead have an abundance of blackbirds which I assume have kept the squirrel population in check. Nature is changing.

Change is happening and this month was full of new adventures and change. Read about what is happening with THCSD projects, THFD fire deployments & changes, Sewer and Water fixes, events successes, and goals accomplished. Not to mention THA-CERT deployments, trainings and demonstrations. We also made time to change up our storage, reorganizing and alphabetizing. You might want to take time to make the recipe of the month which is great to take to a party when asked to bring a dish to share. It is a unique salad, crispy and refreshing.

There is so much packed into this newsletter I hope you enjoy it all. There are more changes happening every day.

Remember that November 3rd we change our clocks and it is time to have THA-CERT check your smoke detectors and/or change your batteries.

**"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."**  
Winston Churchill



**Huge pinecones**

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](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.

# THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



## GM REPORT

September 11, 2024



### ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 23-24 Year End Closing
- FY 23-24 Audit Preparation
- Grant Reporting, Reimbursements, Coordination
- Fire Training Parking Lot Bidding
- Shadybrook Dam Damage Repairs
- Public Records Requests
- Cyber Security Training/Grant Research

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 8/22 Audit Preparation Meetings
- 8/30 Cyber Security Eval/Grant Meeting
- 9/4 TH Meadows Maintenance Training
- 9/4 Bid Opening – Office Stormwater Project
- 9/9 County LAFCO Meeting

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Majority of Project work is complete. Work to install Christmas tree, Santa Maria BBQ, custom trash receptacles and other punch list items will continue into the fall.

#### 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

Initial radio The Project will provide remote monitoring and control of the District's water treatment plant, pump stations, tanks and sewer lift stations.

#### Fire Training Parking Lot

Budget: \$331,000

Construction bids were received for this grant-funded project that includes permeable parking, bioswales and rainwater capture to fix drainage issues and provide more parking for fire trainings. Bids were higher than budgeted, requiring a re-evaluation of design.

#### Motor Control Center (MCC) Replacement

Budget: \$310,000

The MCC has been manufactured and is ready to install. Construction is anticipated to be completed in November.

### PLANNING PROJECTS

#### Water System Evaluation/Analysis

Budget: \$777,151

Hydraulic model, water loss analysis, condition assessment and identification of priority capital projects is complete. Grant applications for the Sherwood Forest System have been submitted.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$4.5M

TH Sewerline Project / Award: Fall 2024

#### SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$6.55M

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: Fall 2024

#### ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT - \$75,000

Structural Fire Turnouts / Award: Fall 2024

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

Median Household Income Survey / 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

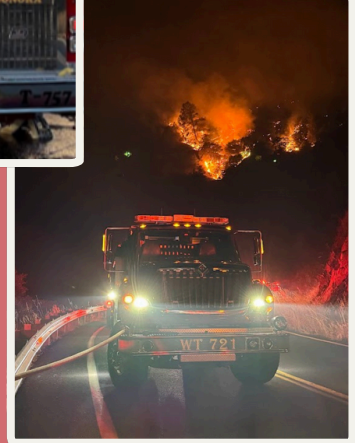
by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



Aug. Training Hours: 117  
Aug. Responses: 46  
• EMS Incidents: 30  
• Fires: 3  
Public Service Assists: 9  
Emergency Standby: 4



E-721 & C-720  
dispatched to structure  
fire at the Sonora waste  
transfer station.



Incident Responses  
by District  
Twain Harte: 34%  
Tuolumne County: 65%  
Cal Fire: 1%

WT-721 & C-720 Dispatched to the  
Canyon Fire in Tuolumne City.

Staffing  
Full-Time Captains: 3  
Intern Operators: 2  
Relief Captains: 5  
Reserve Firefighters: 6  
Intern Firefighters: 5



## Fleet & Facilities



THFD and Water/Sewer  
installed the new Community  
Center sign.



# PINNING CAPTAIN DIXON

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



Fire Captain Ernie Dixon

The Twain Harte Fire Department proudly announces that Fire Captain Dixon has officially completed his 18-month probationary period with the department. During this time, Captain Dixon has consistently demonstrated strong leadership, commitment to safety, and deep dedication to the community.

During his probation, Captain Dixon led several emergency operations, contributing to improved response times and enhanced team coordination. His ability to manage high-pressure situations while maintaining clear communication with his team has been invaluable. He has also played a key role in training recruits and enhancing our department's preparedness for various emergencies.

Captain Dixon's success during his probation period is a testament to his hard work, professionalism, and passion for service. We look forward to his continued leadership and contributions to the department in the years to come.

Captain Dixon received his leather helmet, a tradition of THFD and a gift from THA-CERT & Fire Assoc. He was pinned by his wife at our last THCS board meeting. It was a moving and proud moment.



Please join us in congratulating Captain Dixon on this milestone achievement!

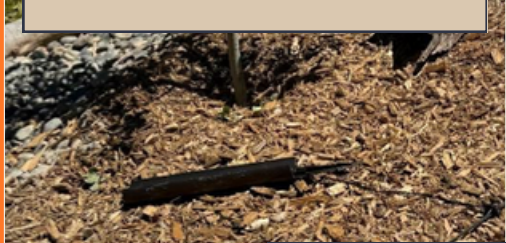
## THCS WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCS Operations Manager



It was a very busy month. We work underground, above ground and around the merry-go-round. Our team is there to help make our town even better.

Vandalism: Lights torn out at the new Meadows Park.



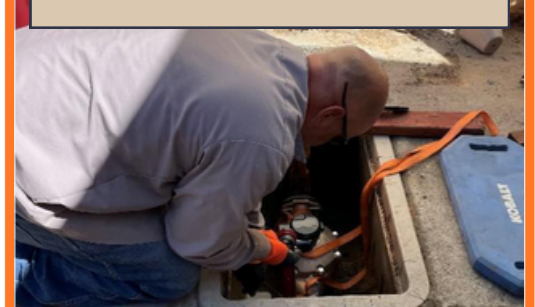
Water main repair made in Sherwood Forest.



Robert Smith and Rick Diaz reinstalled the refurbished merry-go-round.



Rick Diaz replaced a two-inch meter at Wildwood Inn.



# WE MADE IT, THANKS TO YOU

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



At the beginning of the year, we set a lofty goal for fundraising to the tune of \$20K. It seemed crazy at the time but we had a need and we wanted to fill it!

The goal was achievable because of the generosity of our sponsors as well as the hard work of our volunteers. We hosted 3 fundraisers this year and we exceeded our goal. So we were able to purchase 3 AED's for Twain Harte Fire Department and 10 AED's for our community. The Chief and I are making the list where we will be hanging these AED's I know that they will make a life altering difference for all those that travel around our community. Thank you one and all for your support and love for our community.

## Pancake Breakfast



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
SPONSORS**

**TUOLUMNE  
MARKET**

**SAVEMART**

**7-11**

Twain Harte



**PriceCo Foods**

Expect Low Prices!  
Sonora



## Outhouse Race

Sponsors

Anonymous Family  
Hallett Family  
Kerr Roofing  
Hurst Ranch  
Grocery Outlet  
Business First  
PriceCo  
Safeway  
R&A Construction  
Terry Northcutt



Adventist Health  
Black Oak Casino  
Blue Mountain  
Dodge Ridge  
Eproson House  
Haughton Family  
Jet AG Farms  
Postma Farms  
Lemonnier Family

Sonora Area Foundation

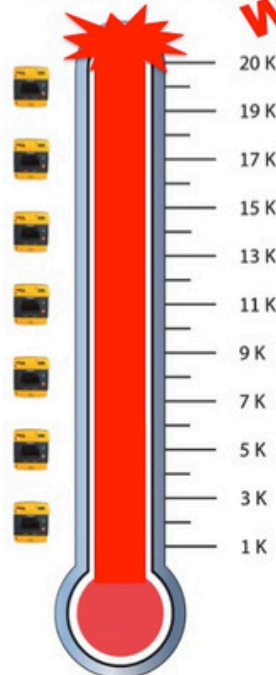
Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce

**FHFD Twain Harte Fire Dept.**

**Please help us reach our goal!**

**GOAL!**

**We did it!**



**AED**

## Art & Wine Festival

Sponsors

The Harte of the Kitchen

Anonymous Family

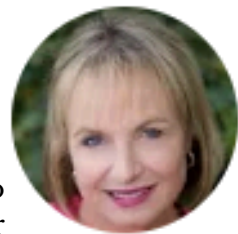
Lemonnier Family

Business First



# GO BAG DEMO

By Carol Ann Bisnett, Tellara Firewise Member



FIREWISE USA's TELLARA Neighborhood in East Sonora was pleased to welcome Carol Hallett of Twain Harte Area CERT as part of our agenda for approximately 32 neighbors and friends on September 12, 2024 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for our annual meeting.

Carol presented quite a practical and thoughtful "Go Bag" demonstration using her two bags, including electronics and personal items. Everyone and every family is different and needs to think about their individual needs in case of evacuation including medications, important papers, changes of clothes, TP, cash, toys, pet food, emergency phone numbers, thumb drives containing important photos and documents, a back-up hard drive backup, passports, extra charging cords and much more.



Here in Tuolumne County, we recently experienced a sudden very real evacuation in the middle of the night due to the Canyon Fire. Each of us seriously needs to consider what is necessary for our personal "Go Bags" to keep permanently near an exit of our home, and also in vehicles.



During an actual emergency, we may have only a few minutes to grab things under stress and LEAVE for an unknown period of time. I don't know about you, but I don't think too clearly under stress in the middle of the night! As a member of the TELLARA Firewise Committee, I can attest to

the fact that Carol Hallett's Go Bag presentation encouraged me to think more seriously and creatively about what to pack ahead of time PRIOR to any actual need for a quick evacuation of my home. Now, I just need to DO IT! My simple plastic bag full of some documents will not be sufficient.

Other presenters with excellent information on keeping our properties "defensible" were Emily Kilgore of CALFIRE and Karen Caldwell of the Fire Safe Council & Firewise.



If you have not yet witnessed a "live" Go Bag presentation, please follow this link to watch an excellent short YouTube video. I strongly recommend it!

<https://youtu.be/Orr6xITErw4>



**FIREWISE USA**<sup>®</sup>

Residents reducing wildfire risks

**Join or start a  
FIREWISE  
neighborhood**

Contact: Karen Caldwell  
tcfirewise@gmail.com

## Get prepared & be fire wise

# FLYING HIGH

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



What a great morning with PHI Air Med 4-2. We had a lot of interest in this training, 10 CERT members were in attendance along with 14 FireFighters from Twain Harte & Miwuk Fire Stations and CALFIRE, along with 23 community members.



Battalion Chief Bill Barteau started the training by talking about land crew overview which was extremely informative. He covered things that the firefighters do as well as what CERT might do. He talked about how to get the attention of the helicopter as well as how to communicate with them on the radio.



As he was going over the information the helicopter arrived. With radios in hand (so that we could hear the chatter) we watched PHI Air Ambulance land. The crew (pilot Justin Grant, nurse Michele Guthrie and EMT Paramedic Deborah Ambrose) jumped out of the craft and waved us in. They split us up into two groups and talked about what they do at an incident, how we can work safely around a helicopter and everything they carry on board to save lives. The training was interactive. They asked Carol to lay down on the gurney and they strapped her in place and loaded her into the aircraft. She was pretty excited thinking she was going to get a ride.



All-in-all it was a very informative training and simply amazing to know we have these kinds of resources here in Tuolumne County. Living in the mountains you never know when you might interact with PHI at an incident.

To learn more about this service and/or sign up for membership go to: [phicare.com](http://phicare.com). There is a discount for CERT members.



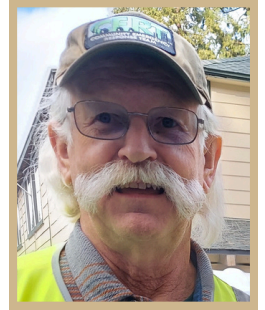
**OUR NEXT TRAINING:** Come join us October 26, at the Twain Harte Community Center at 9:00 for another informative training. We will have a Go Bag demonstration. Even though fire season may be wrapping up, winter is coming so going through your Go Bag and swapping out clothes is important. We will also be talking about Pantry Preparedness, what should you have in your pantry if you have to stay at home for an extended period of time? Lastly, we will have a discussion on severe weather driving and what you should have in your car Go Bag. Come join us, you can never be too prepared.

# SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader

A new semester has started at Columbia College which is always an exciting time. Carol and I went to the second day of class to introduce CERT and to invite the students to volunteer at our Fireman's Pancake Breakfast. We walked into the classroom about 30 minutes early and as soon as we stepped in, the entire class of 40 students stood up at attention.

Their instructors were not there yet, they gave us respect because that is who they are. It gives me such a sense of pride to see all those fresh new faces in the white t-shirts and blue jeans knowing that this is the beginning of a new career for them. A career that I enjoyed throughout my tenure in fire.



Giovanni Addamo, Mason Jones, Luka Stifter  
Mike Mandell & Carol Hallett

Carol gave her talk and I spoke for a minute or so about the fire service. Then we invited those that would be in town to join us. Three students came to help. They were a great addition to our volunteer group. We always appreciate them.

The next week we brought them "Certificates of Appreciation" for their resumes when they finish the academy and are ready to apply for jobs. We found them on location that day in Columbia.

Special thanks to Chief Warner and Captain Van for allowing us to be part of this amazing academy.

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer

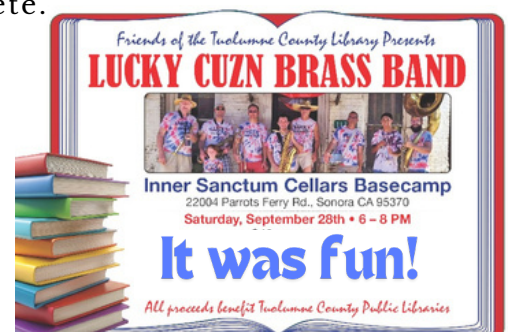
Saturday the 28th of September was our annual Friends of the library fundraiser and of course THA-CERT was there to help!



Karen and Pete are such good hosts for this event. It feels like a party even before the first guest arrives. As people started arriving, THA-CERT volunteers were there to show them where to park. It seems silly to utilize people to help others park but the parking lot at Inner Sanctum is tricky. Park one way and you can get lots of cars in... park another and people cannot leave!

The music filled the air, the appetizers smelled delicious (and tasted even better), the laughter and conversation made the entire event complete.

I want to thank you very much for your help last night at the Friends of the Tuolumne County Library event at Inner Sanctum! Your assistance made the event a success. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.





# PAPA SMURF PROJECTS

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



It's September and that means it's time for everyone's favorite activity... inventory of the container!

We decided to work in 2-hour shifts, over several days, so it would not be too overwhelming. We were able to purge a lot of inventory that was expired (trashed) or that we simply either couldn't use or had way too much of (donated). What was left was put in plastic bins and counted, then put on shelves in alphabetical order.

Previously, we had sorted things by when we would be using them (training, fire fighter rehab, search and rescue, etc.), which meant we had duplicate items stored in different locations. This worked for us for a while, but we decided to switch things up in an effort to be more efficient.

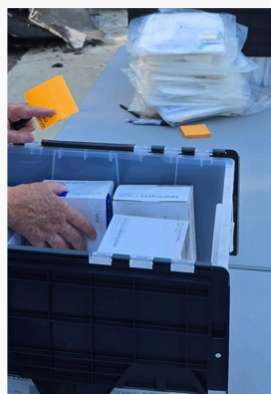
Speaking of the container, I programmed the new "timer" light switches so that people can't inadvertently override the timer and leave the lights on indefinitely. I also made a "diverter" for the wall AC/heating unit to direct the air flow downward. Dave Hallett assisted by bending the sheet metal. That has now been installed and, hopefully, it will make it more comfortable for anyone working in there.

A couple of other projects are in the works. Vehicle maintenance checks are being done monthly, by CERT volunteers. They report their findings to our new Vehicle Maintenance Unit Leader, Anthony McGurk, who insures that any work or repairs are completed. We are in the process of getting tire covers for our truck and trailer, to protect the tires from sun and weather damage while they are waiting to be put into service.

Mike Mandell and I (along with assistance from Dave Hallett) are working out the intricacies of installing a backup camera on the truck, which will make hitching up the trailer much easier.

Mike Mandell got new tires put on the truck, which he arranged with Wright Tires, and were paid for by THFD. Whew, it was a big month and we got a lot of projects started and some completed.

We have a bit more to go, but I'd like to thank those who have helped me with this so far, Mike Mandell, Grace Gonzalez, Carol Hallett, Mary Schreiner, and Lise Lemonnier.





# Cabbage & Noodle

## Summer Salad



6-10 servings



30 min prep  
10 min cook

### INGREDIENTS

#### Salad Ingredients:

- 1 package noodles, cooked & cool
- ½ head napa cabbage, sliced
- ½ head red cabbage, sliced
- ½ bag baby spinach, rough chop
- 1 whole red, yellow & orange bell pepper, sliced thin
- 1 bag bean sprouts
- 1-2 english cucumbers, seeded and cut in crescent moons
- Cilantro, rough chop
- 1 can of cashews (or any nut)

#### Dressing:

- 1 whole lime juiced
- 8 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 8 Tbsp Soy Sauce
- 2-3 Tbsp Sesame Oil
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp fresh ginger, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1-2 Jalapeños, chopped (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix salad ingredients together.
2. Whisk dressing ingredients together and pour over salad.
3. Mix with tongs.
4. Place on serving on a platter.
5. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

### NOTES

- The salad dressing keeps for up to three days before serving.
- An option to making the dressing is to purchase Girard's Toasted Sesame ginger vinaigrette.
- Can be made in advance, the longer the salad marinades the better.
- You can add Chicken, Steak, fish or Pork and it is a complete meal.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

<b>September</b>	Administration =	357
	Training =	84
	Deployment =	16
	Total hours =	457



## FIRE PREVENTION TIPS FOR FALL

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer

Since summer has passed and we are firmly in Fall and preparing for Winter, now is the time to take some fire prevention measures.



- ★ Check your heating system and replace filters. Make sure you keep combustible items at least six inches from your vents.
- ★ Continue to keep your property clean and remove combustible debris away from your home.
- ★ Now is also a good time to replace batteries in your smoke detectors and check to ensure they work.

If you need new smoke detectors, please contact CERT for free replacements and installation.

### Let's address the fireplace in the room!

- ★ Now is the time to get your chimney cleaned to prevent chimney fires which can easily spread to your home and excessive smoke in your home.
- ★ Never leave your fireplace unattended while in use.
- ★ Do NOT use flammable liquids to start a fire in your fireplace.
- ★ Keep the area around your fireplace clear of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.



Cute,  
but not  
fire-safe!



# 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  
**CERT**  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TEAM

## 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

**Free**

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](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com), or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

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



## October Mixer

Presented by  
The Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce  
and  
**COLDWELL BANKER**

# Oktoberfest

Networking • Raffle • Food • Drinks

Tuesday, October 8th 5:30p-7:30p  
23003 Joaquin Gully Rd  
Twain Harte, CA 95383

For more information, email:  
[info@twainhartecc.com](mailto:info@twainhartecc.com)

Twain Harte Area Chamber of  
Commerce Presents

# Oktoberfest

## Pub Crawl

Saturday, October 5th  
2:00p-5:00p  
Downtown Twain Harte

Tickets: \$35 or \$60 a pair  
Sold at participating locations

Beer, Wine, & Food Tastings  
Yodeling & Stein Holding Contests

Over 10 participating  
bars and restaurants!

For more information, email:  
[info@twainhartecc.com](mailto:info@twainhartecc.com)

TWAIN HARTE AREA  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

# PRESENTS

## Twain Harte Business Trick or Treat Street!

Saturday 10 • 26 • 24  
11:00a-2:00p

Costume Contest at The Villa @ 2:00p  
Categories: Scary, Silly, Fantasy/Sci-Fi,  
Most Creative & Family/Group

Vote for your favorite Business  
Decorations!

## Meetings

**THCSD Board Meeting**, 22912 Vantage Point, TH  
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>  
Wednesday, Oct 9, 2024 9:00 am

**THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting**  
THCSD Board Room, 22912 Vantage Point, TH  
Thursday, Oct 10, 2024 9:30 am

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

NEIGHBORHOOD  
RADIO WATCH  
WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™