

TWAIN HARTE AREA



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2024

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NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



Beyond tricks and treats, October is an optimal month to focus on preparing for the winter.

October is from the Latin "octo", which means "eight". I wonder why October is the tenth month of the year. The number "eight" is said to be a symbol of wealth, prosperity, peace, and fertility. October is normally a time of the year when farmers harvest their crops so it is a great time to prep your pantry and freezer for winter.

We were helped with that during our final training this month, along with some winter driving tips. It was an amazingly informative training. In this month's newsletter don't miss our Safety Officers winter tips.

Veterans Day is celebrated in November and THA-CERT loves to hang flags for our Veterans. If you can help hang flags, that would be great. Check out the article from Lise. Bob was busy this month finishing up some projects before winter hits. Although it is not written, we had our monthly vehicle maintenance done by our volunteers too. You will read all about the other things we have accomplished, what is coming up in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy it.

Nature puts on the ultimate show every year as the leaves change color. There's no better month of the year than October to enjoy the vibrant colors of the leaves, whether you take a scenic drive or head off for a proper vacation to get the full effect of the Fall foliage. The part I like best is that it is time to take out my sweaters, it is sweater weather, YEAH!

Some very sad news this month was that we lost our very own Victoria Forrester to cancer. She lit up our lives with laughter, joy, and friendship. We will miss her forever! Thank you, Victoria for being a part of our lives. Reading the memorial will give you an even better glimpse into this shining star.



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

October 9, 2024



ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 23-24 Year End Closing & Audit Preparation
- Value Engineering - Fire Training Parking Lot
- Stormwater Grant Funding Agreement Amendment
- TH Meadows Christmas Tree Lighting Research
- Communications for Sewer Smoke Testing
- Mandated Lead and Copper Water System Survey
- CARB Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation Compliance

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 9/19 Training Parking Lot Value Engineering
- 9/23 Audit Preparation Meeting
- 9/25 TH School Stormwater Re-Engineering
- 10/2 County Operational Area Meeting
- 10/7 Tennis Court Contractor 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 through November.

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. Initial radio design and installation to occur this month

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 will be complete in October and the project will be re-bid.

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 / NOT AWARDED

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



Incident Responses by District

Twain Harte: 34%
Tuolumne County: 64%
Cal Fire: 1%
Mi Wuk: 1%

Welcome to the
Team
Aaron Dhal!

Congratulations
on completing
your 6-month
introduction
period.



Staffing

Full-Time Captains: 3
Intern Operators: 1
Relief Captains: 5
Reserve Firefighters: 6
Intern Firefighters: 5

Sept. Responses: 47

EMS Incidents: 31
Fires: 5

Public Service Assists: 6
Emergency Standby: 3
False Alarm: 2

Sept. Training Hours: 155



We are excited to announce that Drew Giglio, our intern operator, has accepted a full-time position with the Grass Valley Fire Department!

Fleet & Facilities

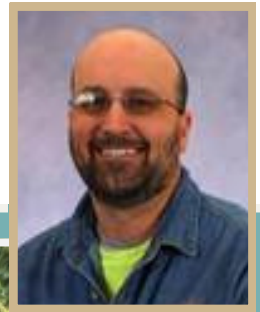


E-722 is back in service after warranty repairs.



THCSD WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCSD Operations Manager



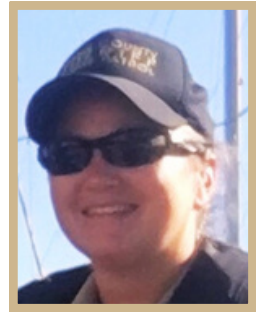
Our team working hard to repair leaks at Cedar Dr., Golf Club Dr., and Tamarack Dr.



Shadybrook Dam repairs, Garden Exchange Club tour, sewer collections smoke testing.

UNMISTAKEABLE FORCE

by Michelle Wagner, THA-CERT volunteer



In Loving Memory of an Unmistakable Force: Remembering Victoria Forrester

When Carol first asked me to write an article about Vic, I wasn't sure I could do it. I told her I'd try, and I started right away. I wrote the first line: "With profound sadness, we remember Victoria Forrester..." and went on to write about her impact on people's lives—how she was a friend, an educator, a mentor, and a leader. I wrote about her deep compassion, her dedication, and her gift for connecting with students, making them feel seen, and inspiring them to believe in themselves. Her colleagues called her "Dr. Forrester," a trailblazer, especially in equity and inclusion. But as true as all of that is, it didn't capture what we in Twain Harte and THA-CERT had lost.

I don't remember Vic with profound sadness. I'm intensely sad my friend is gone, but I feel profoundly blessed to have spent time with her. When Randie and I reminisce, we can't help but laugh. To know Vic was to laugh with her. From her unmistakable belly laugh that could shake walls to her endless curiosity, she filled every moment with humor, resilience, and an unstoppable joy for life.

Gardening was one of her great adventures—she approached it with the enthusiasm of a seasoned botanist. Her crowning achievement? A single cherry. She'd show off that cherry proudly, every time we walked by the tree. "Just you wait; next year, there'll be two!" she'd say with a laugh. One thing about Vic: she never gave up.



Her curiosity was boundless, and her love for the water was uncontainable. Snorkeling with her in Hawaii was an adventure. Lips blue and snorkel clattering, she'd be in the water insisting on seeing "just one more fish!" We had to physically pull her back to the boat. And, of course, reading the warning signs wasn't her strong suit. She got stung by jellyfish eggs at Wailea Beach, but did she stop swimming? Not a chance.

Even on land, her tenacity never wavered. She showed up in a snowstorm to learn how to operate a chainsaw—and mastered it on the spot. She was the only person I knew who could go from college-level competitive softball to wielding a chainsaw without missing a beat.

Underneath that fierce spirit was someone incredibly kind and generous. She would drop everything to help a friend at a moment's notice. That generosity extended to every living creature, including a dog she took in because no one else would. The dog had quirks galore—peed on her bed daily and bit her more often than not. But she stood by it to the very end. Because that was loyalty, and that was Vic.



Vic loved Twain Harte. She was at the lake every day, even as she battled cancer, staying as long as she could manage. Through it all, Vic was wickedly smart. She had a knack for getting to the heart of things with just a few words, usually ones that left us chuckling, shaking our heads, and admiring her all the more.

So here's to you, Vic. Thank you for the laughs, the lessons, and the memories we'll carry forever. If heaven's got a lake, a softball field, or a stubborn cherry tree, we know exactly where you'll be.

VETERANS DAY VOLUNTEERS

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



November 11 is Veteran's Day. On this day, we honor all the men and women who have served in the several branches of the military and who have sacrificed for our freedom. As CERT members, we celebrate these courageous men and women by putting up American flags throughout our little town of Twain Harte. This year, we will be putting up 40 flags on November 7th beginning at 10 AM, and we will take them down on November 13th at approximately the same time, 10 AM. It takes about one hour to put up the flags and about half that time to take them down. As in the past, I will be providing ladders and tools along with the flags, but I need YOU. Please come help with this tradition and make our town look great with flags flying free. If interested, meet the group in front of the Kitchen Store. Please wear your hi-vis vest. It is fun and a great way to share community spirit!

AWESOME LAST TRAINING

by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



What great training we had on October 26. I started the training with a Go Bag Demonstration and Mary Schreiner followed up with a Go Bag for your pets. Having been an evacuee from the Canyon Fire earlier this year she had lots of great information.



Leann Hatler then followed with an informative Pantry Preparedness discussion. Do you have enough food in your pantry to last 30 days for your entire family? We now have some great information on how to be prepared food wise.

The amazing Mike Mandell walked us through winter driving, dos and don'ts and the bottom line is in snowy or extreme weather if you don't have to be out driving DON'T. Carol Hallett talked about a separate CarGo Bag for your vehicle. When you're going on a road trip or even to town, you never know what could happen. Be prepared with supplies (food, safety, and clothes) at all times. It was a great way to wrap up the training for this year. Thanks to all the trainers who donated their time to keep us informed and safe.

2025 is just around the corner and we have some awesome training planned and as always, it's free. We are planning a Fire Behavior Training, the 3-day Basic CERT certification, First Aid and CPR, what you should have to shelter in place and finally learn about radio communication. It's going to be a very informative year, we hope to see you next year.



PLAN AHEAD:

THA-CERT will host a CERT Basic Training Academy April 25-27, 2025. It is a 3-day course and is an important way to learn more about preparedness and/or become part of the CERT family.

COCKTAIL PARTY

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



Our team works hard all year and deserves many thanks for the dedication and time they spend giving back to our community, a small cocktail party was just a small token of that appreciation.

We met at the gazebo at Meadows Park. Mary Dearborn decorated the space and created a wonderland for us to gather. I made sure that there was plenty of things to drink. Everyone brought appetizers to share, the variety was simply amazing. I brought the “No Bake Cheesecake” recipe that you will find in the newsletter. I had special mugs made to commemorate the occasion which were handed out. Lise brought bottles of wine as parting gifts for everyone to take home.

Those were some of the perks for attending the event, the real beauty was in the conversations, the camaraderie, and the laughter that was shared. We work well together and play well too!



Cheers!



TIEING UP LOOSE ENDS

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Section Chief



This month we spent time finishing up some projects (shhh, don't tell Carol or she'll think up more projects!). The inventory is finished and we cleaned out the trailer.

All of the shelves in the container have labels, which correspond to the labels on each bin. Now everything has a place. This should make it readily apparent where each bin gets put back and will make it much easier to find things.

The walk-through door works great but lets a lot of air through. So this month, Mary and I insulated it and covered it with a sheet of plywood. We still need to insulate the rear double doors and weather-seal the bottom of the main door, which I'll do after my vacation.

It was time to put the covers over the air vents as well to prepare for winter's rain and snow—perfect timing! Lise and Carol were in Papa Smurf working on a project when they heard the first rain of the season tapping on the roof. Good news: no leaks!

We also worked as a team on the trailer. Mike, Matt, Ed, Carol, and I went through all the items and donated the things we did not need. We took a load to the Restore store and the Enrichment Center. Now we can walk through the trailer!





No Bake

Cheesecake



10-12 servings



35 min prep
4 hrs chill

INGREDIENTS

Crust:

- One 11-ounce box vanilla wafer cookies
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest, plus more for garnish
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted

Filling:

- 1 cup heavy cream
- Three 8-ounce blocks full-fat cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest plus 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream, at room temperature
- 1 quart strawberries, sliced

DIRECTIONS

1. For the crust: Line a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with parchment paper, allowing for a 2-inch overhang on the sides.
2. Place the cookies in a resealable plastic bag. Seal and use a rolling pin or meat mallet to crush the cookies into fine crumbs. Pour into a bowl and add the granulated sugar, lemon zest and salt. Pour the melted butter into the bowl and mix thoroughly with a rubber spatula. Firmly press the crumb mixture into the baking dish in an even layer. Place in the freezer while you make the filling.
3. For the filling: Beat the heavy cream in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Set aside.
4. Beat the cream cheese, vanilla and lemon zest and juice in a bowl until fluffy and light, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the confectioners' sugar and sour cream. Beat until just combined, making sure there are no lumps. Fold in the whipped cream. Remove the crust from the freezer. Pour the mixture over the crust and spread in an even layer. Place in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours and up to overnight.
5. Use the parchment overhang to lift the bars out of the baking dish. When ready to serve, arrange the strawberries on top and sprinkle some lemon zest over the top. Slice into squares and serve chilled.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

October	Administration =	252
	Training =	53
	Deployment =	0
	Total hours =	305



SAFETY ARTICLE

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer



Winter Readiness & Safety Tips

- 1 STAY WARM** Be prepared to wear multi-layered loose clothing with a watertight outer layer.
- 2 AVOID OVER EXERTION** Don't shovel heavy snow or push a car which could trigger a heart attack. Sweating can lead to chill or hypothermia.
- 3 USE CAUTION** Stay off icy or snowy roads.
- 4 PREPARE YOUR CAR** Carry a winter storm kit in your car. Make sure lights, windshield wipers, and the heater are in working condition. Keep the gas tank full.
- 5 BE AWARE OF CARBON MONOXIDE** Only use grills and generators in an outdoor space, never inside your living space. Make sure your carbon monoxide detector is working and your outside vent is clear.
- 6 STAY INFORMED** Check weather reports and forecasts before you embark on an excursion to a destination. Call 511 for up-to-date traffic conditions.
- 7 KEEP IN TOUCH** Keep your device charged and inform a friend or relative of your travel plans.
- 8 KNOW THE SIGNS OF FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA** Warning signs of hypothermia include uncontrolled shivering, confusion, and slowed breathing. Frostbitten skin can be red or gray with numbness, or tingling.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about frostbite and hypothermia provided by The American Red Cross.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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

Nov 11: Happy Veteran's Day!



Call for Fall Soup-Cooking Demo
Thursday, November 7, 11:30-12:30
Tuolumne County Library
480 Greenley Rd, Sonora, CA



3RD ANNUAL
FIELD OF HONOR
Nov. 8th-11th. | Standard, CA
Standard Park @ 18500 Standard Rd

Twain Harte's Women's Veterans Memorial
Nov 16th
10:00 am
DEDICATION CEREMONY

SONORA
Christmas
ARTISAN FAIR

Thanksgiving Weekend Friday & Saturday
9am to 5pm

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN
\$6 Admission at the door

November 29 + 30, 2024

Mother Lode Fairgrounds

Give blood.
Help save lives.

American Red Cross

**Twain Harte Fire Dept
Community Blood Drive**

Monday, November 11, 2024
10:00am - 3:00pm

Twain Harte Community Center
18775 Manzanita Dr. Twain Harte

For an appointment, please visit
RedCrossBlood.org enter: Twain Harte

For additional information contact Fire Chief Neil Games at
209.768.8287

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

NOVEMBER MIXER
Presented by
The Twain Harte Area Chamber of Commerce and

CAMP EARNEST

NETWORKING • RAFFLE • FOOD • DRINKS

Tuesday, November 12th 5:30p-7:30p
21553 Cedar Springs Rd,
Twain Harte, CA 95383

For more information, email:
info@twainhartecc.com

BUSINESS FIRST

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

**Join or start a
FIREWISE
neighborhood**

Contact: Karen Caldwell
tcfirewise@gmail.com

FIREWISE USA
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Meetings

THCSD Board Meeting, 22912 Vantage Point, TH
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>
Wednesday, Nov 13, 2024 9:00 am

THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting
Community Center, Twain Harte, CA
Thursday, Nov 14, 2024

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, or call Mike at 209-770-2674.

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



Happy

THANKSGIVING



As we gather with friends and family this time of year, we are reminded of all we have to be thankful for. May your holiday be filled with laughter and love as you revel in family folklore, find comfort in old traditions, and embrace new ones.

