

# TWAIN HARTE AREA



**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

## MONTHLY UPDATE

### November 2024

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

#### Contents:

Program Manager	Page 1
THCSD GM Report	Page 2
THFD Report	Page 3
THCSD W&S Report	Page 4
EV Fire Blanket for THFD	Page 5
Night Crossing	Page 6
Flags Hung with Care	Page 6
Blood Drive	Page 7
Partners Breakfast	Page 7
Mystery Solved	Page 8
Cash Grab	Page 8
Monkey Bread Recipe	Page 9
Where'd the Time Go?	Page 10
Safety Article	Page 10
What's Next?	Page 11
Merry Christmas	Page 12



Nearly perfect lookout

## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



November arrives like a warm embrace, bringing with it a sense of togetherness as families gather to celebrate the joys of the season. With the air crisp and cool, the stunning colors of fall paint the landscape in shades of orange, yellow, and deep red, creating a beautiful backdrop for cherished moments. While Thanksgiving Day is often the highlight of the month, filled with delicious food and laughter, it seems that the spirit of celebration stretches across the entire month. From friendly gatherings to cozy evenings spent enjoying hearty meals, November is packed with the warmth of family and friends.

As the year draws to a close, life can feel busier than ever, with holiday preparations in full swing and plans for the upcoming year starting to take shape. Amidst the hustle and bustle, it's important to take a moment to appreciate the little things the comfort of home-cooked meals, the joy of shared stories, and the simple pleasure of being together. So, whether it's the Thanksgiving feast that fills our hearts with gratitude or the countless other moments of joy throughout the month, November truly is a time to celebrate family, fun, and food in every sense.

The month of November was a busy one for our team as you will see while reading the articles within this newsletter. We had a couple of deployments, the hanging of the flags for Veteran's Day, our Partners Breakfast, and the opportunity to grab some cash. It was a fun month because we were doing things together.

Participating in community events can bring people together and create lasting memories. These gatherings often celebrate the season's change with fun activities delicious food and the warmth of friendship. It is important to take time to appreciate these moments as they can strengthen our bonds with friends and neighbors. Embracing the spirit of autumn not only enriches our lives but also enhances our sense of belonging in the 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](mailto:twainhartecert@gmail.com) for consideration of the topic by the board.

# THCSD GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

by Tom Trott, THCSD General Manager



## GM REPORT

November 13, 2024

### ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 23-24 Audit Preparation
- Administrative Services Cross Training
- 24/7 Receptionist Services Exploration
- Sewer System Improvements Analysis/Strategy
- TH Meadows Christmas Tree & Lighting
- Value Engineering - Fire Training Parking Lot
- Evaluating Costs of Full-Time Fire Engineers

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 10/18 County Drought Task Force
- 10/29 Audit Preparation Meeting
- 11/5 24/7 Receptionist Services Exploration
- 11/7 Stormwater Grant Amendment Meeting
- 11/12 FY 23-24 Field Audit

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Majority of Project work is complete. Santa Maria BBQ installation and other punch list items will continue through November. 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 will be complete this week and the project will be re-bid.

#### Motor Control Center (MCC) Replacement

Budget: \$310,000

The Water Treatment Plant is offline and MCC construction is underway. Construction is anticipated to be complete this month.

### 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



## Facility



Gym project to house sauna, cold plunge, & lockers.

## Fleet



New carrier barrings for the pump drive line on E-721.

## \$25,000 Grant from the Office of Traffic Safety



The multi-jurisdictional grant will allow us to acquire a new battery-powered combination jaws tool that will be added to E-722, further strengthening our emergency response capabilities.

Thank You  
Albert Desrosiers



for your 20 years  
of service!

## Twain Harte Elementary Fire Prevention Demonstration



## Staffing

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

## Incident Responses by District

Twain Harte: 34%  
Tuolumne County: 63%  
Cal Fire: 1%  
Mi Wuk: 1%  
Sonora Fire: 1%

## Sept. Responses: 27

EMS Incidents: 14  
Fires: 3  
Public Service Assists: 5  
Emergency Standby: 4  
Sept. Training Hours: 215

## Congratulations Landon Bryant



On joining the  
Contra Costa County  
Fire Department



# THCSD WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCSD Operations Manager



Tuo Co Operational Area Pre Winter Meeting



160 Acre Feet Westside Dam Project.



T-Stan IRWMA tour of the 160 Acre Feet Westside Dam Project



Final concrete work from a leak



Completion of the curb repairs at Eproson Park

## ALSO...

We supplied 1.75 MG of water to TUD for the Ditch Outage. Sportsman Meter box was raised along with several other small projects that were completed.

# EV FIRE BLANKET FOR THFD

by Neil Gamez, THFD Fire Chief



## TWAIN HARTE AREA COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (THA-CERT) DONATES ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) FIRE BLANKET TO TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT (THFD).

THFD is thrilled to announce the generous donation of an electric vehicle (EV) fire blanket from the THA-CERT. This critical equipment will enhance the department's ability to safely and effectively manage the unique challenges presented by electric vehicle fires, which have become increasingly familiar with the rise of EV ownership.

EV fires differ significantly from traditional vehicle fires. They often burn at much higher temperatures and are difficult to extinguish due to the presence of lithium-ion batteries. The EV fire blanket is designed to smother and contain such fires, preventing the spread of flames and limiting toxic smoke emissions. This tool not only enhances the safety of THFD personnel but also minimizes risks to the community and the environment.



THA-CERT, a volunteer organization dedicated to community safety and preparedness, recognized the importance of equipping the fire department with modern tools to address evolving threats. Their donation underscores the strong partnership between THA-CERT and THFD in ensuring the safety and resilience of the Twain Harte community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to THA-CERT for their ongoing support. This donation is a testament to the power of community collaboration in meeting today's challenges. The EV fire blanket is now in service and ready to help protect lives and property in Twain Harte.



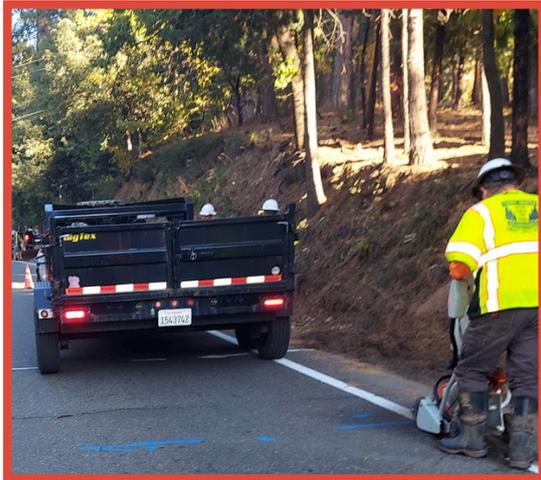
Preparedness involves planning for future events or challenges. As our town is a popular tourist destination we will see an increase in electric cars on our roads. It is essential for our fire department to have the right tools to handle any emergencies related to these vehicles. The addition of the new EV Fire blanket enhances our ability to respond effectively to electric vehicle fires. By being better prepared we can ensure the safety of both residents and visitors in our community.

# NIGHT TIME CROSSING

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



On a chilly afternoon, a water leak occurred on Twain Harte Drive, prompting the Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD) to seek assistance with traffic control. To ensure safety and smooth traffic flow, Matt Kain, Mary Dearborn, and I put on our high-visibility coats and grabbed stop signs, ready to guide drivers through the busy area. As we stood at our posts, the sun began to set, bringing with it the quick onset of darkness and a drop in temperature. Despite the inconvenience caused by the leak repairs, the drivers passing through were remarkably patient, understanding that the work was essential to restore the water supply. The repair work commenced at 300 PM, just as the hustle and bustle of the afternoon traffic peaked. We communicated with each driver, helping them navigate safely around the work zone while acknowledging their cooperation and understanding. It was a team effort, and everyone played their part to ensure safety on the road. As the evening approached, we stayed vigilant, knowing that our role was crucial in protecting our community members and facilitating the necessary repairs to fix the leak and restore normalcy to Twain Harte Drive.



We are always happy to help!

# FLAGS WERE HUNG ON POLES WITH CARE

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief



In our small town, the vibrant display of flags that flies high in the air each year brings a sense of joy and pride to everyone. Two teams come together for this special occasion one team is responsible for hanging these beautiful flags, while the other prepares to take them down once the celebration is over. We hang the flags to honor and remember our beloved veterans,



whose sacrifices have allowed us to enjoy our freedoms today. When the flags are up, the entire town feels lively and festive, with each flag capturing the spirit of gratitude we hold for those who have served. As the flags flutter in the breeze, there is a profound sense of community and appreciation that connects us all. However, when the time comes to take them down, we can't help but feel a little sadness, as the colorful symbols of honor temporarily vanish. During these moments, we reflect on the importance of recognizing our veterans and their impact on our lives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in hanging the flags and reinforcing our collective appreciation for our veterans, making our town a warm and welcoming place filled with respect and gratitude.

# BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



Fire Chief Neil Gamez worked with the Red Cross to bring a blood donation event to Twain Harte. The first event took place in November and it was a great success with 33 donors participating. Members of the Twain Harte Area Community Emergency Response Team (THA-CERT) volunteered to help during this event. We are pleased to announce that we will hold the second blood donation event in March. As the date approaches, we will share more details. Please stay tuned.



# PARTNERS BREAKFAST

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



The Partners Breakfast organized by THA-CERT was a great event enjoyed by all our partners. In attendance included THCS D staff, THCS D Board members, THFD, CALFIRE and THA-CERT staff who prepared the delicious breakfast. The community center was beautifully decorated with autumn-themed decorations and soothing music created a warm atmosphere. Lively conversation filled the air as everyone connected and shared stories. The highlight of the morning was the tasty pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee that satisfied our hunger and brought smiles to our faces.



Lee Smith decided to buy two new griddles for our team. He gathered donations to cover the cost of these griddles showing his commitment to our group. After purchasing them he seasoned the griddles to prepare them for cooking. The partners' breakfast was the perfect chance to test them out. I am pleased to say that they worked wonderfully making the meal even more enjoyable.

# SMOKE DETECTOR MYSTERY SOLVED

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



We received a call about a chirping smoke detector. It was at a location that I had been to before. When I arrived the lady said, "My smoke detector won't stop chirping!" I followed her into her home, armed with fresh batteries and a willingness to lend a hand.

Upon replacing the batteries in the chirping smoke detector and checking it, I was taken aback; the persistent chirp still echoed through the air, unyielding in its annoyance. Determined to solve this riddle, I walked to the other side of the house. I waited and sure enough, I could hear a beep-beep-beep sound but it was not coming from the back of the house.

I followed the sound back towards the kitchen. I waited and then I heard it again but it seemed odd because it was nowhere near the smoke detector. I mentioned it to the woman of the house and she said she did not hear it. We waited a minute or so and there it was again. She, seemingly unfazed, approached her microwave and just then opened the door. In a moment of revelation, she reached in to retrieve her steaming cup of coffee, which had just finished heating.

The chirping was no fire alarm, but rather the tired beeping of the microwave, signaling that its timer had run out. We both burst into laughter as the mystery unraveled, her initial worry dissolving into relief. I couldn't help but appreciate the simplicity of the moment; sometimes, the most alarming sounds can have the simplest explanations.



The mystery is solved and all the smoke detectors are working great now too!

# CASH GRAB

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager



Black Oak Casino restarted a special and generous event called "Cash Grab" to support non-profit organizations. This was the first time for them to hold this event since 2019. THA-CERT was lucky enough to be selected to participate in this exciting activity, along with 9 other non-profit groups.



Mike Mandel, our Team Leader and a dedicated member was chosen (voluntold) to enter the cash grab booth and collect as much money as possible. He successfully grabbed \$2,010 which was a fantastic achievement. The atmosphere was lively as everyone

enjoyed watching and cheering for the different non-profits making it a fun and profitable evening for all involved.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and joy as people gathered to celebrate. Everyone who participated felt a sense of community and togetherness. The organizers did a fantastic job ensuring that everything ran smoothly and that all guests felt welcomed. Overall this event left a lasting impression and brought smiles to many faces. What a great fundraising event!

Read more in mymotherlode: <https://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/3463182/black-oak-casino-resort-cash-grab-rewards-non-profits.html>



# Savory Monkey

## Bread



serves a party



3 hours & 30 min

### INGREDIENTS

#### Bread Dough:

- Neutral oil, for the bowl
- 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 4 1/2 teaspoons granulated sugar
- 1 packet (2 1/4 teaspoons) instant yeast
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 cup warm water (between 90 & 110 degrees F)
- 1/2 cup warm whole milk (between 90 & 110 degrees F)
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

#### Coating:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons dried garlic flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds
- 2 tablespoons white sesame seeds
- 4 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh chives
- 4 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- Flaky salt, for sprinkling

#### Dip:

- 1/4 cup roughly chopped carrots
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped celery
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped red bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 scallion, finely chopped
- 4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Freshly ground black pepper

### NOTES

For the dough, you can use frozen bread dough. Most people think of Monkey bread as a sweet treat but this is a savory surprise and great for an appetizer to take to a party.



### DIRECTIONS

- 1. Bread dough:** Lightly grease a large mixing bowl and set aside.
  - In a separate large mixing bowl or in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook attachment, whisk together the flour, sugar, yeast and kosher salt. Add the water, milk and 3 tablespoons of the butter and use a stiff rubber spatula or wooden spoon to mostly combine into a shaggy dough. Knead, either on a work surface or adhere the bowl to the stand mixer and knead on medium speed (adding more flour if the dough is too sticky), until the dough is slightly smooth and sticky, 7 to 10 minutes. Transfer the dough to the oiled bowl, turning the dough to coat. Cover with a clean towel or plastic wrap and let the dough rise until doubled in size, 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
  - Brush a 2-quart nonstick bundt pan well with the remaining 2 tablespoons melted butter.
  - Punch the dough down and divide into 4 equal-sized pieces. Cut each piece into 10 small, equal-sized pieces, yielding 40 pieces total.
- 1. Coating:** To prepare the various toppings, pour the melted butter into a small bowl. Into another, separate small bowl, add the Parmesan cheese. In another small bowl, combine the garlic flakes and paprika. In separate small bowls, add the poppy seeds and sesame seeds. In the final, small bowl, combine the chives and parsley.
  - Take a dough piece and gently roll into a ball. Dip in the plain melted butter, then dip in one of the toppings and place in the prepared bundt pan. Take turns dipping the buttered balls in the toppings (one topping per ball), and place in the prepared pan, making about 2 layers (you don't need to worry too much about the layers, it will all sort of happen naturally as you layer). Make sure to end the layering with lots of toppings face up. Drizzle any leftover plain melted butter over all and sprinkle with flaky salt. Cover with plastic or a clean towel and let rise for 30 minutes.
  - Position an oven rack in the lower third. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
  - Bake until the top is golden brown, 35 to 40 minutes. (The internal temp of the bread should read 190 degrees F.) Place on a cooling rack for 10 minutes.
  - While the monkey bread is cooling, make the dip.
- 1. Dip:** In the bowl of a food processor fitted with the blade attachment, add the carrot, celery, bell pepper, parsley and scallion. Pulse until roughly chopped. Then, into the same bowl of the food processor, add the cream cheese, sour cream, garlic powder, kosher salt, lemon juice and several grinds of pepper and process until light and smooth, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Transfer into a serving bowl.
  - To unmold, place a plate over the monkey bread and invert. Place onto a serving platter bottom-side up, and serve warm with the dip.
  - Monkey bread is best right after it is made, but leftovers will keep well wrapped at room temperature for 1 to 2 days. Reheat in an oven or toaster oven to serve. Extra dip will keep covered in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 days.

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

<b>November</b>	Administration =	145
	Training =	0
	Deployment =	124
	Total hours =	269



# WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer

I came across an article about Winter Holiday Safety from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that I would like to share. This article provides important tips on how to stay safe during the holiday season.

It reminds us to enjoy our time with family while also being mindful of safety measures.

Instead of focusing on worries we can take simple steps to prevent accidents. By keeping safety in mind we can have a joyful and secure holiday experience.

Merry Christmas to all!



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

## FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Events

Visit Tuolumne County:

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

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:

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



**Columbia College Community Chorus**  
with orchestra  
Dr. Daryl Hollinger, Conductor

### Sounds of the Season

FRI, DEC 6 - 7:30 PM  
SAT, DEC 7 - 3:00 PM  
SUN, DEC 8 - 3:00 PM

**Sonora Opera Hall**  
250 S. Washington St., Sonora

**TICKETS \$20**  
(\$25 at the door)  
18 and under FREE  
(must reserve seat)

**TWAIN HARTE CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER**

Saturday, December 7th, 2024  
Twain Harte Elementary School Cafeteria  
18815 Manzanita Drive, Twain Harte

This is a free dinner for the  
*Twain Harte Community*

Dinner Begins at 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Please come and meet your neighbors

Event is Sponsored by:  
**TWAIN HARTE ROTARIANS**  
AND  
**CUB SCOUT TROOP 513**

**The TWAIN HARTE Winter Wonderland Parade**  
Friday, December 6th, 2024

Caroling at 5:30pm with Jazz@8 Tree Lighting at 6:00pm  
Parade at 6:00pm Visit with Santa Claus After Parade

**TWAIN HARTE**

Sponsored By:  
TWAIN HARTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
HARTE'S TREE SERVICE  
Special Thanks To: SONORA AREA FOUNDATION

Presented by Twain Harte Christmas Committee  
For More Information Contact  
209-352-0770

**TWAIN HARTE AREA**

### THA-CERT SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

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>

**\*Parade Entry - No Fee\***  
Contact: [allthatmatters@att.net](mailto:allthatmatters@att.net)

**\*Free Parking & Shuttle Service\***  
Twain Harte Bible Church  
& Twain Harte Shopping Center

**Join or start a FIREWISE neighborhood**

Contact: Karen Caldwell  
[tcfirewise@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Meetings

**THCSD Board Meeting**, 22912 Vantage Point, TH  
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>  
Wednesday, Dec 11, 2024 9:00 am

**THA-CERT & Fire Association Board Meeting**  
**No December Meeting**  
**Merry Christmas**



# Happy Holidays!



*As we bustle into winter, it's easy to miss the magic this time of year brings. The changing leaves are making their way to the damp ground below, the geese are headed south, and many of us are making plans to enjoy the company of family and friends. Promises of a new year are paired with memories of yesteryear, much like champagne paired with grandma's famous pecan pie. As we reflect on the past and plan for the future, may your holiday also bring you pause to appreciate the present - to breathe in the warm hug of a friend, the laughter heard from across the room, and the sweet scent of that pecan pie.*

*Breathe in the magic and have a wonderful Holiday.*

