



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2025

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 |
| Scholarship for Intern | Page 5 |
| No Smoke in the air | Page 5 |
| AED Installed | Page 6 |
| Wine Tasting Can Be Fun | Page 6 |
| Deploy to SoCal Fires | Page 7-8 |
| Fire Behavior Training | Page 9 |
| Cheesy Potato Casserole | Page 10 |
| Where'd the Time Go? | Page 11 |
| Safety Article | Page 11 |
| What's Next? | Page 12 |



January 2025 snow, finally

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett



January marks the beginning of a new year and a fresh start for many people. This year our area experienced its first snowfall which added a magical touch to the month. While I enjoy snowy weather I also appreciate the dry days at the start of the year because they allow us to complete various tasks.

During the month the team has been busy with installing AEDs, providing amazing training on Fire Behavior, wine tasting, installing smoke alarms, and so much more. I took time to cook breakfast at the THFD fire station for Captain Dixon's crew as a thank you. It was a comfortable morning sharing coffee, food, and stories.

I recently met with Chief Gamez to talk about what our community needs for this year's fundraising efforts. One important item we discussed is a heart monitor for the fire engine. If we can purchase this monitor Chief Gamez's team is ready to undergo the necessary training to use it effectively. This upgrade is crucial because many of the calls they respond to are medical emergencies. By providing this equipment we can enhance their ability to help our community in critical situations. So, 2025 fundraising efforts will go towards purchasing a heart monitor. With that in mind, we have already started our plans for this year's World Class Outhouse Race scheduled for June 7, 2025.

In the meantime, during snowy days I tend to stay indoors and enjoy the cozy atmosphere which I affectionately call a "Snow Day." Each January brings a mix of challenges and opportunities reminding us to embrace both the cold weather and the clear blue skies.

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

January 8, 2025



ADMIN ACTIVITIES

- FY 24-25 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment
- Development of Check Processing Services
- Development of 24/7 Receptionist Services
- Administrative Services Cross Training
- Administrative Services Staffing Analysis
- Fire Training Parking Lot Rebid & Award

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 12/12** Tuolumne County Permit Coordination
- 12/17** Virtual Receptionist Coordination
- 12/17** Small Claims Court – Water Leak
- 1/3** Eagle Scout Project Coordination
- 1/3** Customer Services Rep Retirement

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Fire Training Parking Lot

Budget: \$331,000

A construction contract is set to be awarded in January for this grant-funded project that includes permeable parking, bioswales and rainwater capture to fix drainage issues and provide more parking. The Project is anticipated to be complete by August.

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. Radio communication system design has begun. Remaining design is anticipated to begin in March.

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.

Twain Harte Meadows Park

Budget: \$3,000,000

Majority of Project work is complete. Due to transplanting issues, the Christmas Tree is delayed until 2025.

Bocce Court Renovations

Budget: \$20,000

A new project to replace bocce court turf and enlarge court drains has been included in the mid-year budget adjustment.

PLANNING PROJECTS

5-Year Sewer System Improvements

Budget: \$4,500,000

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: NOT AWARDED

SRF / BUDGET EARMARK - \$6.55M

Sherwood Forest Water / Award: NOT AWARDED

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



Columbia College Fire Academy Graduation



Charles Kjeldgaard, Lucas Stifter, Ethan Rowe, and Mason Jones. We proudly welcome them to the THFD family and look forward to their growth and contributions.



Facilities

Staffing

Full-Time Captains: 3
Seasonal Engineer: 1
Relief Captains: 5
Reserve Firefighters: 5
Intern Firefighters: 9



Incident Responses by District

Twain Harte: 39%
Tuolumne County: 60%
Cal Fire: 1%



All shifts have been working hard on the sauna room.



Captain Slater's crew worked on gutter repairs that were not covered by the company's lifetime guarantee.

December Responses: 37

EMS Incidents: 20
Fires: 2
Public Service Assists: 3
Emergency Standby: 6

December Training Hours: 190

December Awards



Fire Capt. Albert Desrosiers was awarded the 2024 Paul Waite Memorial Award.



Fire Capt. Ernie Dixon has been named the 2024 Firefighter of the Year.

Fire Inspections



All shifts have completed the annual Group R fire inspections, covering three commercial residential occupancy units.

THCSD WATER & SEWER REPORT

by Lewis Giambruno, THCSD Operations Manager



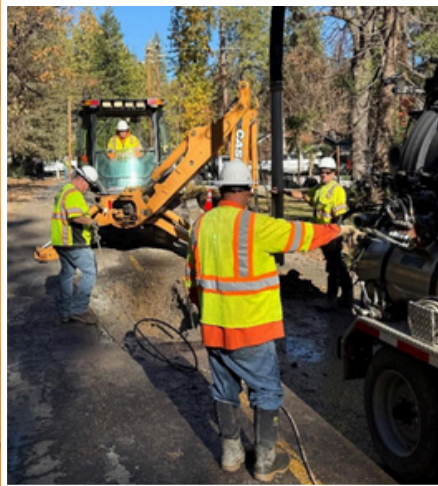
A biannual filter inspection was performed.



Sludge Tank pumping out and cleaning.



Underground Service Alert Dig Alert training.



Golfclub Drive leak repair.

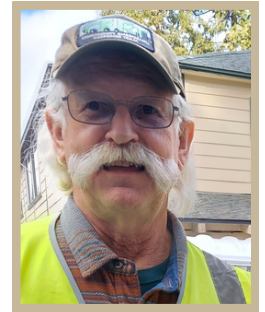


Traffic control assistance from THA CERT during leak repair.



SCHOLARSHIP FOR THFD INTERN

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



Carol and I recently discussed allocating scholarship funds to support a deserving intern at the Twain Harte Fire Department (THFD). After careful consideration and with the approval of the THA-CERT board along with the strong recommendation of Chief Gamez we are thrilled to announce that we awarded Vince Servin with a scholarship check this month. Vince has been serving as an intern with the Twain Harte Fire Department since June of 2024 and during his time here he has demonstrated remarkable dedication and commitment. In December, he completed his 6-month Introductory Period Firefighting Packet, marking an important milestone in his training and career development. Beyond his professional achievements, Vince is also a devoted family man which speaks volumes about his character and values. He embodies the qualities we are looking for in our recruits at THFD. His hard work and passion for serving others make him an invaluable asset to our community and we are proud to support his journey in the firefighting profession.

NO SMOKE IN THE AIR

by Mike Mandell, Team Leader



The Smoke Alarm Program is a vital initiative that plays a crucial role in keeping our community safe and out of harm's way. Leading this effort has not only been a responsibility but also a genuine pleasure for me. I take great joy in the opportunity to meet and assist the residents ensuring their homes are equipped with essential safety measures. This year I was fortunate to partner with Bob Schreiner who has proven to be an invaluable ally in this mission. Together we have successfully hung 103 smoke detectors and replaced countless batteries working diligently to enhance fire safety in our area. Each smoke alarm we install represents

a significant step toward protecting lives and preventing tragedies. The sense of pride we feel after completing our tasks is immeasurable; knowing that our efforts could potentially save someone's life is incredibly rewarding. It reinforces the importance of our work and motivates us to continue serving the community. If you or someone you know needs assistance with smoke detectors—whether it's installation or battery replacement—please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to help and ensure that everyone has the necessary tools to stay safe in their homes. Your safety is our priority!




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, disabled, and 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.

Only Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives



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

AED INSTALLATION

by Bob Schreiner, Logistics Officer

Thanks to our fundraising efforts, and the generosity of our community, we were able to buy 9 AED units for placement throughout our area.



Each unit consists of the AED, a cabinet (with an alarm), a guide on how to use the unit, and signage for both the interior and exterior of the building, along with the option of training for employees. The alarm on the cabinet is activated with a key and sounds when the cabinet door is opened. It does not interfere with using the AED.



John Buckingham and Carol Hallett spent two days driving around the community scouting out locations for the AEDs to be placed. Mike Mandell and I installed units in The Rock,



Apex Physical Therapy, The Harte of the Kitchen Store, Twain Hart Golf Course, and the Sportsman Coffee Shop in Twain Harte; Papa's New Roost in East Sonora; Covers in Tuolumne; and the Strawberry General Store in Strawberry. There is still one unit left, which is reserved for the Twain Harte Community Center and will be placed, once the new doors are installed.

With grant money and previous purchases by THA-CERT we also have AEDs installed at the Local Press, ACE hardware, Twain Harte Market, CALFire, THCSO office, and the Pharmacy in Twain Harte. THA-CERT has two AEDs for their deployable units. In total, there are 17 AEDs installed in the Twain Harte Area. Hopefully, you will never need one of these units, but it's nice to know they are nearby in case of emergency.

WINE TASTING CAN BE FUN

by Lise Lemonnier, Planning Chief



Judging the wines

Volunteers. That is us. It's in our blood. Those of us who volunteer for one thing often volunteer for several worthy causes. Mike Mandell and Matt Kain volunteer for the Fire Museum weekly, Mary



Dearborn volunteers for the Chamber and Rotary, Margaret Lawrence volunteers for the Blue Zone Project, and Maria Benech volunteers for the League of Women Voters. I volunteer for the Community Garden, Firewise, and a bunch of other stuff.



Jerry Zarate & Carolle Lemonnier

Just this past week, Mary Dearborn and I volunteered to pour wine at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. It is the largest wine competition in North America. There were over 5,000 wine entries. This was the first year for Mary to join my sister and me, but even with her help, we needed more people! So she voluntold her friend Jerry Zarate.



Mary Dearborn & Lise Lemonnier pouring wine

As with many of our volunteer activities, it was a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun, and we are ready to do it again. Yes, volunteering usually means you don't get paid, but in this case, we were paid in many bottles of wine for our service. But don't worry! We aren't drinking it all ourselves (well, maybe except the already-opened bottles). This is the wine that we sell at fundraising events around town each year. So, support our causes by coming out to the events and maybe buy a glass of wine! You won't regret it!

DEPLOYMENT TO SOCIAL FIRES

by Ernie Dixon, THFD Captain



The wildfires in Southern California caused widespread destruction and chaos. Many people lost their homes and needed urgent assistance. In response to the crisis, we organized a crew from Twain Harte to help with the relief efforts. Our team packed supplies and prepared to travel to the affected areas. They were determined to support the community and provide aid to those in need.



A thankful sister stopped by THFD to deliver treats.

On January 8th, Twain Harte Fire sent 3 firefighters and one from MiWuk/Sugar Pine fire on E-723 down to LA County to assist with the Eaton Fire. Other resources from Tuolumne County included Tuolumne County Fire E-561 and E-583, Tuolumne Rancheria Fire E-816, and MiWuk/Sugar Pine E-771 as part of Task Force 4101.

For the first few days, the task force was attached to division "Mike" locating and extinguishing hotspots inside of burnt structures and tactical patrol. On January 10th E-723 and E-816 accompanied by other resources helped stop a flare-up and saved residential structures. For the remainder of the 9 day deployment, TF4101 was assigned to the USAR operation, the task force was deployed and attached to a major USAR operation to search and clear burnt structures. After searching and clearing 8300 structures in 5 days the USAR teams were reassigned to the Pacific Palisades Fire and task force 4101 was able to return home on January 16th.

Those nine days were challenging but strengthened my pride in being part of the THFD team. Each day brought new obstacles that tested our skills and teamwork. Yet through every struggle, our crew remained dedicated and supportive of one another. Working together we learned to overcome difficulties and celebrate small victories. This experience showcased our resilience and deepened my appreciation for my fellow team members.



DEPLOYMENT TO SOCAL FIRES

by Ernie Dixon, THFD Captain



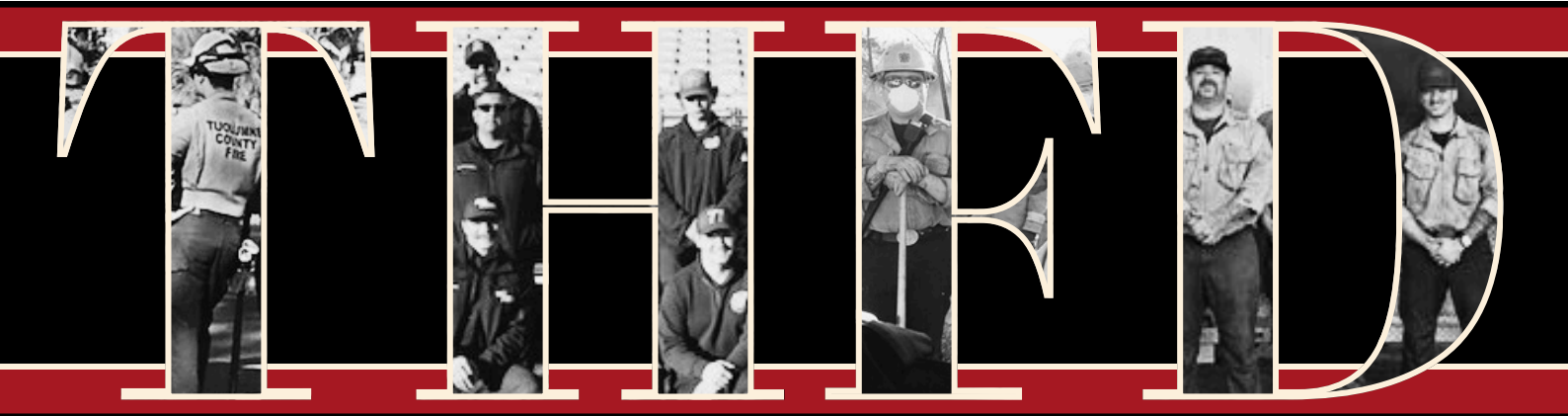
Dale Stanec III (Carol's grandson) at the Eaton Fire.



Jay Leno visits Base Camp.



Ember, an emotional support dog for the Sac Metro fire service, visits with the crew.



FIRE BEHAVIOR TRAINING

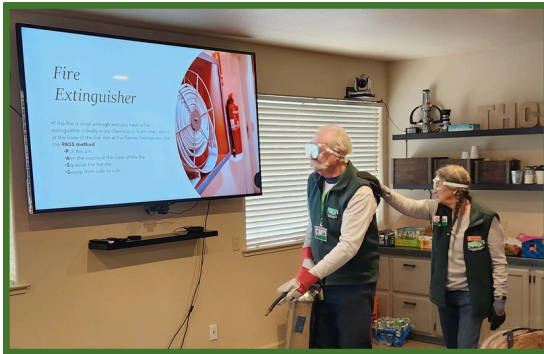
by Margaret Lawrence, Training Officer



This past Saturday we had the pleasure of hosting and attending an informative training session during our recent Fire Behavior class. The event attracted thirty-five enthusiastic members from our community all eager to learn about the fire risks specific to Tuolumne County. Throughout the session, participants engaged in meaningful discussions about the various steps each of us can take to mitigate the potential impacts of fires in our area. One of the key takeaways was the importance of clearing vegetation around our homes and establishing defensible space which plays a crucial role in reducing fire hazards.



In addition to these practical measures, we delved into vital safety protocols during our discussions. It was enlightening to hear firsthand accounts and insights from Captain Dixon of THFD who generously shared his expertise with us. He emphasized evacuation procedures' critical nature, advising everyone to take evacuation notifications seriously and leave immediately without hesitation. This advice is crucial during high-risk conditions where every moment can make a difference in ensuring safety.



The collaborative atmosphere of the class fostered a sense of community reminding us that we are all in this together when it comes to fire prevention and safety. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Captain Dixon, Vince Servin of THFD, and from CALFIRE, Daniel Portella and his partner for dedicating their morning to educate us on fire behavior and safety measures. Such knowledge is invaluable in empowering our community to proactively address fire risks, safeguard our homes and loved ones.

Some valuable resources that we discussed are: AlertCalifornia.org is a website you can access that has live fire camera video feeds throughout California and the [Watch Duty](#) application for your phone will alert you to recent fire starts and give you continual updates about that fire.

Also, we will be having our CERT three-day Basic Training in Twain Harte, April 25-27. Keep an eye out for more information coming out on this.



Join Tuolumne County's Emergency Alert notification program, [Everbridge](#). It is a reverse 911 program. This allows you to receive emergency notifications.



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



Cheesy Potato Casserole



12 servings



25 min prep

1 hour 30 cook

INGREDIENTS

- 5 lbs russet potatoes (about 6 large)
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more as needed
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, plus more for the baking dish
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups (1 quart) whole milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 pound pre-shredded sharp cheddar cheese (about 4 cups), divided
- 26 Ritz crackers (3 ounces)
- 1/2 ounce Parmesan cheese (1/3 cup firmly packed freshly grated or 2 tablespoons store-bought grated)

NOTE:

Make ahead: The casserole can be assembled without the cracker topping and refrigerated for up to 1 day. Top with the cracker mixture and bake according to directions, adding 15 minutes to the covered bake time.

Storage: Leftovers can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 4 days or frozen for up to 3 months. Reheat in the oven, stovetop, or microwave. The sauce may separate, but stirring should help it come back together.

Recipe shared by: Carol Hallett

DIRECTIONS

1. Place rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 350°F. Coat a 9x13-inch or other 2-quart baking dish (or larger) with butter. Place on an aluminum foil-lined baking sheet.
2. Peel potatoes and cut into rough 1 1/2-inch chunks. Place in a large pot and add enough cold water to cover by 1 inch. Add 1 tablespoon of the kosher salt, cover partially, and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to maintain a steady simmer and cook until potatoes are just barely tender, about 5 minutes. Drain in a colander.
3. Meanwhile, make the cheese sauce while the potatoes are cooking. Melt 1 stick unsalted butter in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup all-purpose flour and whisk until the flour has completely absorbed all of the butter, about 1 minute. Continue cooking, whisking constantly, until the mixture thickens, is light tan, and smells slightly nutty, 3 to 4 minutes.
4. While whisking, slowly pour in 4 cups whole milk and 1 cup heavy cream. Add 1 1/2 teaspoons salt and cook, whisking often, until the mixture thickens and a small amount of steam rises from the surface (don't let it come to a boil), 5 to 10 mins.
5. While whisking constantly, add 10 ounces of the shredded sharp cheddar cheese (about 2 1/2 cups) a handful at a time. Continue to whisk until the cheese is completely melted, about 1 minute. Remove the saucepan from the heat. Salt to taste.
6. Transfer 1/2 cup of cheese sauce to the bottom of the baking dish. Arrange potatoes on top of the sauce. Evenly cover the potatoes with half of the remaining cheese sauce (about 2 1/2 cups). Sprinkle with cheese (about 3/4 cup). Repeat layering the remaining potatoes, cheese sauce, and cheese.
7. Crush 26 Ritz crackers into coarse crumbs. Add 1/2 ounce grated Parmesan cheese (1/3 cup freshly grated or 2 tablespoons store-bought grated) and stir to combine. Sprinkle evenly over the casserole.
8. Cover the baking dish loosely with aluminum foil. Bake until the sauce bubbles thickly around the edges, about 45 minutes. Uncover and bake until the top is browned in spots, about 20 minutes more. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The total THA-CERT volunteer hours:

January

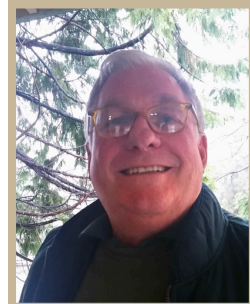
| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Administration = | 280 |
| Training = | 106 |
| <u>Deployment =</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total hours = | 386 |



NATIONAL CANNED FOOD MONTH

by John Buckingham, Safety Officer

It's National Canned Food Month and a time to learn about the history of canning, the nutritional benefits of canned food, and how to can your own food. It's also important to inspect your canned goods and discard them.



A cause for celebration because canned food is...

- A vital part of American nutrition
- Easy to prepare and store
- Affordable
- Often used in emergencies
- Important for food banks, non-profits, and community organizations

Ways to celebrate:

- Learn about the history of canning
- Learn how to can your own food
- Post your canned goods on social media using **#NationalCannedFoodMonth**
- Take inventory of your pantry and rotate your canned goods
- Check for rust, dents, and bulges in your canned goods
- Check the "use by" dates on your canned goods
- Participate in a canned food drive

When to discard canned food:

- If you see mold on the outside of a can or jar. It suggests a leak with the lid and should be discarded
- Changes in the color, or texture of the contained food
- If small bubbles or gas are emerging from the food
- If the jar squirts when you open it
- Cans or jars with bulging lids
- Note damaged cans and discard



WHAT'S NEXT? February

Visit Tuolumne County:
<https://www.visittuolumne.com/events>

Twain Harte Chamber of Commerce:
<https://www.twainhartecc.com/events>

The Twain Harte Outhouse Race is in the planning stages. If you are interested in participating, email CERT at twainhartecert@gmail.com. Limited spots are available.

FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE WIN THE GOLDEN PLUNGER PERPETUAL TROPHY

THE WORLD CLASS
TWAIN HARTE
OUTHOUSE RACES
June 7, 2025

Eproson Park, Twain Harte, CA

RACERS CHECK-IN: 0800
 OPENING CEREMONIES: 0900
 FIRST RACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER
 WE RACE UNTIL WE HAVE A WINNER

THE CURRENT WINNER (TWO YEARS RUNNING) AND LOCATION FOR THE FIREFIGHTER'S GOLDEN PLUNGER IS WITH TWAIN HARTE FIRE DEPARTMENT. CAN YOU WIN IT AWAY FROM THEM?

TO WIN THIS COVETED TROPHY FOR YOUR FIRE HOUSE, BUILD A CART AND WIN THE RACE.

To learn more: twainhartecert@gmail.com or call 209-481-5790



Calling all Firefighters! We can help you build an outhouse cart to help you win the Golden Plunger from THFD!



PRESENTS



THE WORLD CLASS TWAIN HARTE OUTHOUSE RACES

June 7, 2025

Eproson Park, Twain Harte, CA (AKA "Flushing Downs")
 Check in-8:00 am • Opening Ceremonies-9:00

WHEN IT'S
TRULY AN
EMERGENCY



Firefighter Challenge-Perpetual Trophy
 Wine, Beer & Margaritas
 Local Food Vendors
 Craft Vendors
 Tot Pot Races

For more information:
twainhartecert@gmail.com
 (209) 481-5790

Shuttle available from parking lots

For vendor information:
Peitra Rice-sunpoppyme@gmail.com

This fundraiser benefits: Twain Harte Volunteer Fire Department (THVFD) & THA-CERT.

Vendor spaces are available!
 Email Peitra Rice at:
sunpoppyme@gmail.com

Presented by
Sun Poppy Markets & Events



TWAIN HARTE Summer Festival

Saturday
July 26, 2025
10am - 8pm

Sunday
July 27, 2025
10am - 5pm

TWAIN HARTE, CA

for vendor information email
sunpoppyme@gmail.com

TWAIN HARTE

SMALL BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Tuesday, February 11th 2025
5:30p - 7:00p
Twain Harte Golf Course

Meet Local
Business
Owners

Discover
Small
Business
Resources

Showcase
Your
Business
Products and
Services

Free booth for Twain Harte Chamber business members
 \$25 booth fee for non-members
 Free admission to the public



Email us at
info@twainhartecc.com
to reserve your space





Training & Events

| | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| JANUARY 25 | Fire Behavior with THFD | AUGUST 5 | National Night Out |
| APRIL 25-27 | CERT Basic Training (3 Days) | AUGUST 31 | THFD Fireman's Pancake Breakfast |
| MAY 17 | OES Shelter Activation Training 0900 - Noon/Location TBD | SEPTEMBER 27 | THFD Fireman's Pancake Breakfast |
| JUNE 7 | Outhouse Races | OCTOBER 22 | Volunteer Appreciation Event |
| JUNE 15 | Father's Day Fly In | NOVEMBER 13 | Partner's Breakfast |
| JUNE 28 | First Aid & CPR | DECEMBER 5 | Twain Harte Christmas Parade |
| JULY 26/27 | Summer Festival | 2025 | |

Meetings

THCS Board Meeting
 Wednesday, Feb 12, 2025 9:00 am
 22912 Vantage Point, TH, THCS Mtg Room
<https://www.twainhartecsd.com/board-meetings>

THA-CERT & Fire Board Mtg
 Thur., Feb 13, 2025 9:30 am