



MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2021

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IN THIS ISSUE...

We begin with a word from our Program Manager, Carol Hallett and her reflections on the month of May. Next, we see the preparations in Twain Harte for Memorial day; profile CERT member and Public Health Volunteer, Betsy Main; hear about exciting new improvements in store for Twain Harte Meadows from Tom Trott, General Manager of Twain Harte Community Services District; and say a last goodbye to our friend, Nancy Stevens. Also we learn about what's happening with CERT Training; hear from Ryan Campbell, Chairman of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors on what the BOS are working on regarding fire safety preparations in Tuolumne County; and see how Memorial Day in Twain Harte was celebrated. Last, but not least, you'll get a chance to see what events are on the horizon for June, and get an accounting of volunteer hours for CERT.



We hope you enjoy this month's issue. Our goal is to provide information to the community, focusing on safety and health. If you have a suggestion for future articles, please contact twainhartecert@gmail.com for consideration of the topic by the board.

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

by Carol Hallett

May is a beautiful month with all the wonders of nature budding with new beginnings and our minds recalling memories of years past.

The dogwood put on a spectacular show this year all across the county you could see the beautiful white or pink blossoms. They light up the forest as they dance and sway in the wind. They are coming to an end now but they don't leave us completely...the trees are full of green leaves and the center of the flower that will continue to entertain us through the summer and fall, they are a delightful tree!

This is the start of vacation time, BBQs and family get togethers which all stir up memories of our childhood.

Since we were all cooped up for over a year and now we are beginning to see the county reopen. It is so lovely to see all those familiar faces and to enjoy each others company. The closure reminded us all how important our relationships are and how much we need people, companionship and human interaction. This is a unique need for people and especially me!

We end the month with Memorial Day, a time when we remember our fallen veterans who gave their life for country, our freedom and us. Tamra Bolton put it best for me:

"This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day, it's not a celebration, it is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom."



FLY THE FLAG

by Carol Hallett, Program Manager, THA-CERT

Memorial Day is celebrated each year in Twain Harte with the raising of the flag at the Arch. This year we decided that it would be really nice to have a few flags flying around town to add to the memorial. Lise Lemonnier, Allan Hancock, Lee Smith, and Vince Carini made it happen.

Betsy Ross and Lise Lemonnier have a lot in common. Betsy Ross is credited with sewing the first United States flag. A symbol of patriotism, she is often celebrated as the woman who helped George Washington finish the design. Lise Lemonnier took the challenge of hanging flags around Twain Harte to the next level. She worked on getting the flags prepared; washed, ironed, and connected to poles, as well as purchased hangers. Lise ensured that the flags would fly!

Vince Carini (below) installs a bracket to hold a flag in front of "Earthly Essentials in Twain Harte, with the assistance of Allan Hancock and Lise Lemonnier



Alan Hancock (above) helps Lee Smith install a flag at "The Harte of the Kitchen" in Twain Harte, as Lise Lemonnier supervises.

Once everything was ready she engaged Allan, Lee, and Vince to help hang them. They walked around town to get the cooperation from the merchants. The idea is to have one or two flags on every building (more for larger buildings). We wanted this done for Memorial Day weekend...when you drive through town you will see our glorious flag flying proudly everywhere!

After Memorial Day weekend we will collect them back up. CERT will put up the flags 4 times a year. Our goal is to purchase more holders so we can add flags along Fuller, too.

Lise, Allan, Lee, and Vince are amazing community members that can really make things happen. Marilyn Knudson, of Twain Harte Rotary, said she has thought of hanging flags in Twain Harte for years, as have most organizations, but CERT got it done. Special thanks to our members for helping our town Fly the Flag!

MEMBER PROFILE: BETSY MAIN

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, healthcare professionals around the world found themselves taking on tasks they had only done during their internships. Nevertheless, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers pitched in doing whatever necessary to ensure their patient's well-being. Many who had been retired for years rejoined the workforce. Others, like THA-CERT member Betsy Main volunteered their professional services to help their communities.

Betsy is no stranger for taking on new tasks. During her career that started in 1964, when she graduated from Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, she served in a variety of roles as a Registered Nurse. After graduation, she served in the US Army, first in Japan for a year, and then a year at Fort Ord. Upon discharge from the Army, Betsy began a career at Kaiser that lasted over 25 years. With Kaiser, Betsy was able to follow her husband as he was transferred from the SF bay area to the Los Angeles area, and back. Each transfer brought a new job and new responsibilities, from working in Maternity and the Neonatal ICU, to Supervisory positions, Maternal Child in-service, and Disability Case Management. Eventually her work became remote, working over the phone to manage cases.

When Betsy retired in 1994, she and her husband moved to Sonora and joined Twain Harte Bible Church. Through her church, Betsy has volunteered her services as a nurse through Faith Community Nursing, affiliated with Adventist Sonora Medical Center.

Betsy joined Twain Harte Area CERT in 2017. She first volunteered to help during the pandemic as a CERT volunteer, assisting at the drive-through POD vaccine clinics at Sierra Bible Church. Betsy saw the nurses administering vaccines and thought to herself, "Hey, I could do that!" so she signed up to work as a volunteer with the Tuolumne County Public Health Department. As a volunteer, she has worked both at the Closed POD clinics and going out to vaccinate shut-ins in their homes.



Betsy Main with one of her "Quilts of Honor"

When she isn't busy helping keep the community safe, Betsy enjoys making quilts and donating them to "Quilts of Honor", which donates the quilts to veterans. Even when she's not volunteering, she's serving others! We at THA-CERT are proud of our members who never fail to impress us with their service.

TWAIN HARTE MEADOWS SPRINGS TO LIFE WITH NEW GRANT

by Tom Trott, General Manager, Twain Harte Community Services District

We are thrilled to announce that the Twain Harte Meadows Park project will be underway soon thanks to a \$3.75 million grant that was recently awarded to Twain Harte CSD through the State Water Resources Control Board's Stormwater Grant Program. Meadows Park is one subproject of the larger collaborative Twain Harte Community Stormwater Enhancement Project (Stormwater Project) that seeks to turn Twain Harte's stormwater into a resource by incorporating simple, innovative stormwater improvements throughout the community.



The grant will cover more than half of the community-designed features of the new park, making it fully functional for community use and enjoyment. Only the large outdoor pavilion, restrooms, parking area and BBQ/picnic areas are not included in the grant. The mountain meadow, historical/cultural path, water play area, Me-Wuk garden, outdoor learning labs and other features are all included! If you are unfamiliar with Twain Harte Meadows Park, please visit our website at: www.twainhartecsd.com/meadows-park-history-and-development.

The grant is an amazing win for our community and Meadows Park is just one of the benefits! The Project brings Twain Harte CSD, Tuolumne County, Twain Harte School and Tuolumne County Resources Conservation District together as community partners to enhance water quality in our creek and lake, rehabilitate our failing storm drain system, improve water supply reliability, reduce erosion, create fire safe landscapes, and provide fun, interactive education that will empower residents to do the same on their properties.

The collaborative and innovative nature of the project coupled with the hands-on outdoor learning labs in Meadows Park makes Twain Harte a model and learning center for other communities.

TWAIN HARTE MEADOWS, cont'd

Some of the new Project features (in addition to Meadows Park), include:

- Rehabilitation of deteriorated storm drain from the shopping center to the park, eliminating the risk of dangerous sink holes, improving water quality and reducing sedimentation in the creek.
- New sidewalk and gutters along the east side of Joaquin Gully through downtown to provide better storm water flows and pedestrian access.
- A large tank at the School to capture and clean storm water from the storm drain, providing water for their field, reducing the need for treated water supply, and decreasing creek flows in storms.
- Rain tanks at the School to capture rainwater off building roofs to be used for landscaping, reducing the need for treated water supply.
- Replacement and expansion of paved parking area with permeable paving at the Twain Harte CSD office and fire training facility to support regional fire training, infiltrating storm water into the ground, reducing storm flows and existing flooding.
- Bioswales to slow storm water and filter/clean it before it flows downtown and into the creek.
- Rain tanks to capture rainwater off building roofs to water landscaping and keep areas more hydrated and fire safe.

The grant agreement is anticipated to be finalized in the fall and construction could begin as early as summer 2022. We are still hopeful that we can obtain grants for the remaining portion of Meadows Park. We are awaiting word on one grant application submitted in March and have another opportunity to apply in September. Both grants would fully fund the remaining Meadows Park improvements.

Update on the Bocce Court Improvement Project



Renovated bocce ball courts in Twain Harte

While we are excited to start the second phase of Meadows Park, we are just as excited to be finishing up the first phase – the Bocce Court Improvement Project. The final touches should be complete in the next month!

The Bocce Court Improvements serve as the core connection between Eproson Park and Twain Harte Meadows Park and have turned out beautifully. The rustic shade pavilion and rain tank provide a great visual of what's to come in the new park.

TWAIN HARTE MEADOWS, cont'd

Once the project is complete and COVID-19 restrictions lifted, we will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate its completion and dedicate the Bocce Court Improvements to Twain Harte CSD's and Twain Harte Homeowner's late board member, Jim Johnson.

This project would not be possible without the tremendous dedication and hard work of our community members, a Sonora Area Foundation grant, a State water conservation grant, and many generous donations from residents and businesses. Thank you!

REMEMBERING NANCY STEVENS

by Mary Schreiner, PIO, THA-CERT

Friends and family of Nancy Stevens gathered at Eproson Park in Twain Hart on May 22 to say goodbye and celebrate her life. Overnight, corrals, hay bales, a "saloon", and even The Duke himself (or, more accurately, a couple of cutouts) appeared in the park to contribute to the atmosphere for the Cowboy Picnic that followed the memorial service, to honor Nancy's love for John Wayne and the old west.

Nancy was born and raised in Sacramento. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Chico State and fulfilled a life-long dream of being a Park Ranger, working at Muir Woods. She also worked as a botanist, an auto mechanic, and had a 30-year career with AT&T, starting with pole climbing school to be and installer, and retiring as Project Manager in October 2011.

She and her wife Patricia lived in Pleasanton and moved to Twain Harte in 2016. Nancy loved the outdoors and being strong and fit. Although she no longer ran marathons or rode in Century bike races, she and Patricia and took advantage of their new surroundings hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. Nancy was a whiz at doing crossword puzzles and acrostics.



REMEMBERING, cont'd

Nancy's dedication to serving others led her to become a member of CERT, first in Pleasanton, and then in Twain Harte. At the memorial service, Carol Hallett, Program Manager for THA-CERT, shared a memory of working with Nancy:

"THA-CERT were requested to help out at a fun run up the hill many years ago, probably 2016 or 2017, and Nancy Stevens was one of the first to volunteer. There were 4 of us that responded...each had met but no one really knew each other very well.

It was a nice day for a run, cool but not cold. The skies were blue with puffy white clouds billowing overhead. The organizers of the event had done a lot of earth moving to make the trails nice for the runners as well as took the time to mark the trails best they could. The request was to help at certain corners of the trail to ensure that people did not get off the marked course. As the leader of the group I wanted to ensure that each person (runners as well as CERT volunteers) had a good experience and that THA-CERT was presented as a professional group.

We all donned our CERT vests, backpacks, and radios...and off we went to our assigned stations. Soon after the start of the race I hear a call on the radio about "bees". One of the volunteers said that there were lots of bees flying around in her area. I asked if it was an issue and she said she just wanted to report it but she was not overly comfortable. The next call on the radio was that one of the volunteers is highly allergic to bee stings and did not have her epi-pen with her.

Red flag...I needed to get those two to a safe place. Nancy volunteered to go get them and bring them back to me. We all jumped into my car and I parked the car at the most important corner of the trail. The three of them were to stay in the car and wave people towards the correct

direction to keep them on course. I went back to my station to ensure that people kept on the path.

We radioed back and forth during the event, confirming that everyone was ok. Each time I checked it seemed more chaotic with lots of laughter in the background. I would do a radio check and Nancy would always answer with "all ok". Once the last runner passed me, I went back to the car. I could see bees swarming the car. There were lots of bees on the windows; it looked like they were trying to sting the windows. And inside were my 3 volunteers; laughing so hard they had tears running down their faces. They tried to explain to me what was so funny and why they were laughing out of control but it was one of those, "you had to be there" moments. My thought was, I am so glad these ladies had this time to bond and get to know Nancy. Nancy was a valued member of THA-CERT, the Twain Harte Community, and my friend...she will be missed!



CERT members Nancy Stevens and Allan Hancock serve as crossing guards at Twain Harte School

REMEMBERING, CONT'D

Nancy was also remembered fondly by family and friends, several of whom mentioned what a great writer she was, winning two awards for newsletters she produced while living in Pleasanton. All who spoke at the memorial remembered Nancy's qualities of being a good friend and a great listener. CERT member Tony Ramos, who worked closely with Nancy as part of the UAS team recalled opening his door on his birthday to see Nancy there, leaving a card. "You're not supposed to be here!" Nancy exclaimed. She wanted to surprise Tony for his birthday.

As time goes by, I'm sure will figure out a way to do without our CERT member who was always the first to volunteer, the one who was a good listener, and the one who could always find a way to make you laugh. I'm sure I'll figure out a way to do without my proofreader and personal cheerleader. Actually, all I have to do is think of Nancy and I hear, "Great job!"

We'll find a way to do without, but no one will ever be able to take her place in our hearts.

Nancy Stevens and an equine friend



Childhood photo of Nancy (right) and her brother, John

Former THFD Chief Todd McNeal chats with Nancy's wife, Patricia, in front of the "saloon" before the memorial service



FROM THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S DESK

by Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Chairman

Our community has made great strides in the past year to make our county safer from catastrophic wildfires. Several ongoing projects like Tuolumne County's roadside fuels reduction project have made evacuation routes safer and created fuel breaks around communities. I was involved in writing the grant for this project a number of years ago, and we have already treated roads like Phoenix Lake Road and Priest-Coulterville Road, with many more planned over the next year.

The county has also increased collaboration with our partners in the Stanislaus National Forest to improve fire safety and provide for healthier forests. A perfect example of this collaboration is the Cedar Ridge-area fuels reduction project, which will reduce brush and clear fire fuels from a



92,000-acre swath of land surrounding Cedar Ridge and to the north of Twain Harte. The Board of Supervisors identified fire safety as our number one priority this year, and to that end we created the Tuolumne County Citizens Fire Safety Advisory Committee, which meets once a month. This group is comprised of a mixture of fire and emergency management personnel, supervisors and community members. The goal is to come up with focused solutions to the many fire safety challenges in our community.

One of the issues being considered before the citizen committee is whether Tuolumne County needs its own vegetation management ordinance. Right now, the only vegetation management rules that exist in Tuolumne County come from the state Public Resources Code 4291, which outlines basic requirements for fire fuels removal within 100 feet of a residence. There are currently no enforcement tools that require property owners who, for example, own unimproved parcels or properties adjacent to neighboring structures to do any vegetation management whatsoever.

I can't tell you how many complaints I've received from residents in my district regarding absentee neighbors who don't maintain their properties. It's frustrating to think that there is little that I can do to help.

That's why our Citizen Committee is looking at successful ordinances that are in place in Butte, El Dorado and Lake counties and the City of Sonora, to see what can be learned for our county.

Additionally, we are looking at the best methods to promote fire safety awareness and support the growing number of neighborhoods that have become Fire Wise communities.

As we rapidly approach fire season, I hope you will continue to educate yourselves and our community about the importance of being prepared BEFORE a major fire strikes.

TRAINING UPDATE

by Dawn Cronin, Training Unit Leader, THA-CERT

ATTENTION MEMBERS IN TRAINING (ONLINE), NEW MEMBERS AND OLD MEMBERS!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

What: Hands-On Training to complete your CERT training
* Fire Safety (Fire extinguisher training, fire suppression, etc.)
* Light Search and Rescue (Cribbing, Room Search, etc.)
* Medical (Bandaging, Splinting, Assessment, etc.)

When: Last Saturday in June (June 26, 2021), 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Twain Harte Community Services District office
22912 Vantage Pointe Drive, Twain Harte

RSVP: TwainHarteCERT@gmail.com

If you are currently in the process of completing your online training, please try to complete the course before this Hands-On Training so that we can present you with your Completion Certificate at the end of this training.

Recently trained (new) members and old members will appreciate this refresher course, and will be able to provide support and assistance to the new trainees. The more participants we have, the more fun and effective the learning will be! Please dress appropriately for hands-on exercises which will be outdoors, and may involve floor-level work.

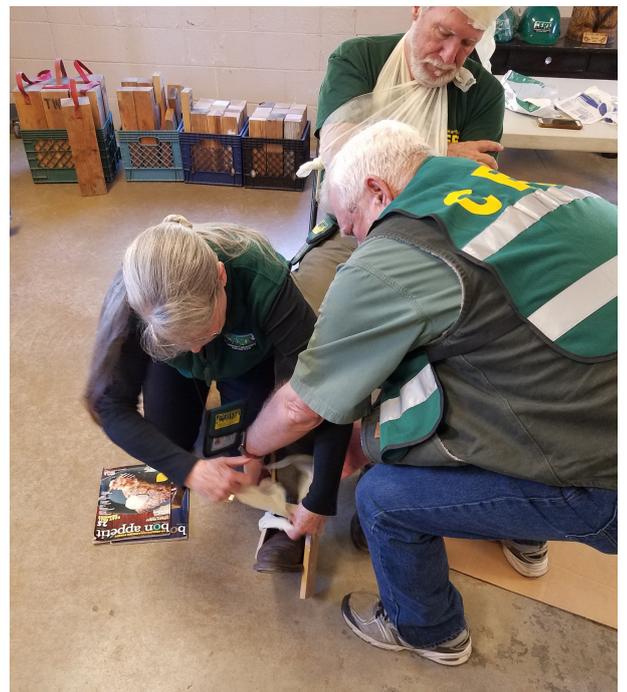
GENERAL MEETING / TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 2021

Mark your Calendars and don't miss out!
Meetings will be held every other month. All locations are To Be Announced. Time is usually 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Sat. June 26, 2021 Hands-On Training

Sat. Aug 28, 2021 Possibly a 'healthy' potluck lunch - details to follow

Sat. Oct 30, 2021 Possible Topic: Winter Preparedness and Safety



(Right) Carol Hallett and Lee Smith practice their bandaging and splinting skills on Matt Kain

MEMORIAL DAY IN TWAIN HARTE

by Lee Smith, Traffic and Crowd Control Unit Leader, THA-CERT



Local veteran, Lt Denny Thompson

While everyone is enjoying the family BBQs, picnics, and camping trips please pause for a moment to remember the reason for this holiday. This is not a celebration for our veterans. That day is Nov. 11th (Veteran's Day). We are remembering those who served and fought for our country from the beginning of this great nation till now but never came home. Those men and women who died for our freedoms will be remembered and thanked on this special day. There

are 26 American cemeteries in 17 countries around the world filled with Americans who never will come home to our shores. This is a day to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country and families.

In Twain Harte today, not only do we recognize all who died for our country but we take a moment to remember those local brave souls who gave their all.

Aaron Rasmussen of VFW 4748 (Master of Ceremony) did an amazing job during this annual flag raising ceremony. Summersville High School's Jazz@8 (a singing group), led by Jim Wells, did a lovely job of singing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs.



Summersville High School's Jazz@8

Aaron thanked the local area service groups (Twain Harte Area C.E.R.T, Twain Harte Rotary, and Cub Scout Troop 513). The Vietnam Veterans of America proceeded to lower and fold the American flag that has flown at the TH Arch this past year. This year the Flag was presented to the family of Troy Galloway in his honor. A second flag was folded and presented to the family of Doug Halvorson and wife Rebecca in their honor.

There were many tears during and after the reading of the poem "A Soldier Died Today" read by the Vietnam Veterans of American #391.

Dignitaries present were Sheriff Bill Pooley, Supervisors Ryan Campbell and Anaiah Kirk.

This event was well orchestrated and personally moved me.

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

by **Lise Lemonnier, Planning Section Chief, THA-CERT**

We were so busy in April that we didn't have time to crunch the numbers until after the April newsletter went out. The total number of volunteer hours for THA-CERT for April and May are as follows:

April

Administrative: 108.5

Training: 4

Deployments: 906

Total hours for April: 1018.5

May

Administrative: 190

Training: 16

Deployments: 50

Total hours for May: 256

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is here and things are starting to get back to normal. That means some of your favorite summer activities are again on the horizon. Check out list and mark your calendars!

Farmer's Markets

Tuolumne Township Farmer's Market: Wednesdays, 4 - 8 pm

Twain Harte Open Air Market: Thursdays 4 - 8 pm

Peaceful Valley Farmer's Market: Fridays 4-8 pm

Sonora Farmer's Market: Saturdays 7:30 - 11:30 am

Concert in the Pines, Twain Harte
Saturdays, beginning June 19th,
6 - 8 pm, Eproson Park

Concert in the Park, Tuolumne
Wednesdays, beginning June 16th,
6 - 8 pm, Tuolumne Park

Tuolumne Lumber Jubilee
Westside Memorial Park,
Tuolumne
June 25 - 27

CERT Basic Training Hands On
Training
June 26, 9:00 - Noon
Vantage Point Training Center,
Twain Harte

