

***In case you missed it!*** Election results 602 votes FOR incorporation and 213 Against. This was a 73.9% victory for Poetry Incorporation passed and made official Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020!

**For the People of Poetry:** This newsletter is an attempt to communicate to the citizens of Poetry. As no officials have been elected, it is not an official communication *from* the Town, but an attempt to communicate *to* the town. Town officials may decide to continue or to terminate this newsletter.

## Happenings for the Town!

\*Letters written to Judges of both Kaufman and Hunt Counties regarding road maintenance.

\*Phone Meetings with civic attorneys and mayors of other small towns to obtain advice.

\*Researching road science and providers for road budget purposes.

\*Discussion with Oncor for Franchise fee Revenues processing. We are awaiting map updates.

\*Renovations for future Town Hall (follows)

\*Fundraising with firewood sells!



We have had some expert and some amateur volunteers! [Plumbers are now needed!] There has been quite a bit of activity at the

Sunday School Building (a.k.a. the “Annex Building”) at the Campground Church which will be our new Town Hall!. Internally the floors have had carpet removed and have been sanded in preparation for being renewed and walls have been reconfigured to make the space more usable and the bathrooms have been renewed to modern standards. New



electrical wiring has been installed by journeyman electricians and electricity has been restored to the building. This has allowed a security system to be installed and will greatly facilitate

continued work. New exterior doors with new locks have been installed.

Externally, the old siding has been removed. New insulation has been added and that is being covered by new lapped siding to match the church building itself. The old septic system has been inspected and found deficient, so it has been properly decommissioned and filled in. The grounds have been graded so that water now flows away from the building, to prevent issues with water accumulating. Such accumulation had happened in the past and contributed to foundation issues, which was one of the very first things addressed.

Unfortunately, the grand oaks died last year and had to be removed for safety reasons, but what can be converted into lumber for furniture and other work on the church has been salvaged. What isn't suitable for those purposes is being cut and split for **firewood--that has and is being sold as a fundraiser** to further fund the restoration efforts.

Thank you to all those who have contributed time and monies! Please **BUY Some firewood** at 972-521-7795, which directly helps the cause!!

**You are invited to attend the first town meeting on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> to nominate potential candidates and complete forms at Faith Temple Baptist Church at 7 pm. The Deadline for filing to enter the election begins Wednesday Jan. 13, 2021 and ENDS Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 at 5 pm for the **May 1 election.** Candidates should be willing to work hard on a volunteer basis, have written and verbal skills, be able to understand contracts, understand budgets, be trustworthy and persons of solid character and integrity. Candidates should be able to work well with others and remain cool, calm and collected in stressful situations. They should have “thick skin” yet be able to listen well to citizens.**

**Team Sign ups! At the Jan. 12th meeting:**

- 1) **Poetry Preservation Team** – Working together to preserve the beauty of Poetry.
- 2) **Poetry Historical Team**—pictures & memorabilia to put in future town areas.
- 3) **Friends of Poetry**—fundraising for the Town’s needs
- 4) **Secretarial/Writing Team**—grants for the town, newsletter inserts, press releases for town website etc. –will coordinate with Town leadership to communicate happenings.
- 5) **Poetry Road Team** –road experts or just folks willing to spray paint the potholes. To coordinate with town leaders.



**Roads!** Kevin Senkevech made homemade T-shirts which say “Poetry Road Team”. He also covered TWO MILES of road filling in potholes. It was primarily determining how much time and material is needing to repair our potholes. He had only a shovel and tractor. Thank you, Kevin!

**Animal Care** by Rose Ingram For those who have added a new family pet, there are many things you can do to make their transition into your home easier for them for you. I will only go over a few; you might need to seek some professional help especially if you encounter behavioral issues. Too many cute, young pets end up in shelters when they get bigger and don’t mind their manners or worse, become destructive and out of control.

Here I will deal with kittens and puppies both of which can be taught basic obedience. Don’t want your kitten/cat walking across the table or counter tops, destroying the curtains or shredding furniture other things? Keep handy some rolled up newspapers (to hit the table, counters or other) or a water spray bottle and whenever they do unacceptable things, give a firm “NO!” and use the paper or water bottle near them and remove the pet from that area. Then give them something else to do that you approve of. This works for puppies/dogs as well but in addition the canines should be taught basic obedience commands with follow through. These are just a very few ideas; much more could be said. Don’t give up on your pets. They need to know how to behave so you can fully enjoy them and live in harmony together.

**Restore the Church! Come meet the community at the next work day Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 9-5 pm** If you would like to contribute to this historic cause, please send checks to Poetry Community Campground Cemetery, Inc. and write “**Restore the Church**” in the memo! You can send it via mail to c/o 19012 FM 986 Poetry, TX 75160. All donations are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE as it is a 501c3 non-profit. . Or **BUY Some firewood** at 972-521-7795 which directly helps the cause!! This newsletter requires about \$200 to print 1050 copies. Any donations are appreciated. Newsletter contributors: Tara Senkevech, Brian Vinson and Rose Ingram