

POETRY POST

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5671 CR 323
POETRY, TX 75160

Small-Town Lights and Country Christmas Nights A Poetry Country Christmas



Regular Town Council Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2026
5:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

At Poetry Town Hall
5671 County Road 323, Poetry, TX

Leadership Spotlight: Chief Wayne Clark

Chief Wayne Clark serves as the Fire Chief of the Union Valley Volunteer Fire Department, leading a dedicated team of volunteers who work to protect the Union Valley community and surrounding areas. As a volunteer chief, Clark donates his time and experience to ensure residents receive reliable emergency fire protection and support.

Under Chief Clark's leadership, the department has focused on improving equipment, training, and readiness for rural and residential emergencies. He has played an important role in expanding the department's capabilities, including upgrades to vehicles and tools used to respond to grass fires, structure fires, and motor vehicle accidents.

Chief Clark's commitment reflects the department's mission of community service. Through strong leadership and teamwork, the Union Valley Volunteer Fire Department continues to provide safety, protection, and peace of mind to the people it serves.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

January 2026

Neighbors,

This month I want to share a little background on the roads in our town. Now if you've ever looked at the map of our town you've likely realized it's a pretty unconventional layout as compared to other cities. It includes narrow strips of land running up and down miles of road. A copy of our map can be found on the town's website at www.poetrytexas.org. The majority of the land that many of us consider to be part of the Town of Poetry is not in the town at all but rather lies in our extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Since our ETJ is not actually a part of the town, by law, no town funds can be spent maintaining any part of it, roads or otherwise.

Contained within the town boundaries or limits are a total of 39.73 miles of road. This breaks down to 7.91 miles of state roads, 2.5 miles of private roads and 29.32 miles of town-maintained roads. By law, we are not allowed to use town funds to maintain private roads even though they lie with the town boundary as they are considered private property. For different reasons we do not spend town funds to

maintain state roads as they are the property and responsibility of the State of Texas. As a little bit of trivia, of the 29.32 miles of road that the town is responsible for, 4.51 miles of that are what I call half-width roads where half of the road is in the town and half remains in the county. Consequently, town funds can only be used to maintain the part of the road from the centerline into the town boundary. I realize all of this detail may not be of interest to many of you but it is very real and important to myself and the Town Council as we work to maintain our roads.

I'll leave you here with a reminder of the \$215,255.11 total income for last year that we discussed last month, to maintain 29.32 miles of road. And as a point of reference, to completely rebuild 1 mile of road costs around \$500,000. But there's good news and we'll talk about that next month.
-Mayor, Mike Jaffe



A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT WORKED HARD AND VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE THE 1ST POETRY CHRISTMAS PARADE A SUCCESS

- Volunteer Christmas Committee
- Volunteers that helped with decorations and cookies.
- Poetry Baptist Church
- Poetry Community Christian School
- Lumpys Electric
- DPS Trooper Hinojosa and Lopez
- Pikett Family
- Chad McFarlane- Two Guys Laser Printing
- Poetry Tack & Ag
- Whataburger Corp. Mesquite
- Destiny Life Church
- Longhorn Organics
- Becky Carter
- Kelly Lane, Kaufman Co. Commissioner
- Mayor Mike and Council
- Santa and his Elf
- All of the parade entries
- Terrell and Union Valley Volunteer Fire Departments



How the Union Valley Volunteer Fire Department Supports Local Safety

The Union Valley Volunteer Fire Department in Royse City / Hunt County, Texas provides a range of essential public safety and community services focused on protecting lives and property for residents of Union Valley and the surrounding rural area. Here's what they do:

1. Emergency Response
 - Fire suppression and fire protection: Responds to fires in homes, businesses, and rural/grassland areas to help stop flames and limit damage.
 - Motor vehicle accidents: Assists at crash scenes to rescue occupants, mitigate hazards, and help with traffic safety.
 - Other emergency calls: Volunteers respond to various urgent situations where fire department support is needed.
 - These core emergency responses are typical for volunteer departments serving rural and small-town communities.
2. First Aid, CPR & Life-Saving Assistance
 - The department offers first aid and CPR classes to the public, helping community members learn life-saving skills and improve overall safety readiness.
3. Community Safety & Preparedness
 - As a local fire department, they help raise awareness about fire safety, prevention, and preparedness, especially for residents in rural and fast-growing areas around Lake Ray Hubbard and Hunt County.
 - They depend on community engagement and often provide outreach during events and through education.
4. Volunteer Opportunities & Community Support
 - The department is staffed by local volunteers who donate their time and training to serve neighbors, creating a strong sense of local involvement and civic service.
 - Community donations and local fundraisers help maintain equipment and support fire protection services.
5. Equipment & Coverage Area
 - Union Valley VFD covers an approximate service area of dozens of square miles around Union Valley and Royse City, adapting response vehicles and tools (like brush trucks for rural terrain) to local needs.

The Union Valley Volunteer Fire Department is a locally based, volunteer-driven emergency and safety organization that protects lives and property through fire response, emergency support, training programs like CPR/first aid, and community outreach. Their work helps improve safety and preparedness for residents in their service area.

Get Informed

Did you know the Town of Poetry has a Zoning Ordinance. Be sure and take a look at it to make sure you're up to date on the latest changes in Poetry. You can find the link at PoetryTexas.org

Town Hall hours Thursdays 1 pm to 5 pm.

Do you need assistance, but can't make it during office hours? Just give us a call or drop us and email. We will be happy to work out a time to meet with you.