

POETRY POST

469.902.7001



WWW.POETRYTEXAS.ORG



5671 CR 323
POETRY, TX 75160

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 12th - Citizen Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting 6:00pm at Town Hall

March 18th - Special Meeting Town Council 5:30pm at Town Hall. This meeting is to Score Block Grant Administrator & Engineering Proposals

March 19th - Public Hearing & Regular Town Council Meeting 5:30pm at Town Hall. The Public Hearing portion of this meeting will be to gather citizen input on potential projects to be identified on our Block Grant application

March 27th - Bingo Night at Poetry Community Christian School. For more information: givebutter.com/c/poetrybingo

April 7th - TCEQ Discharge Water Permit Hearing for Bishop Airfield, Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 7:00pm, Royse City ISD Performing Arts Center, 700 FM 2642, Royse City, Texas 75189



COUNTY BURN BANS LIFTED

HUNT COUNTY

THE HUNT COUNTY BURN BAN WAS LIFTED EFFECTIVE MARCH 10, 2026.

COUNTY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THAT OUTDOOR BURNING IS NOW ALLOWED AGAIN.

KAUFMAN COUNTY

THE KAUFMAN COUNTY BURN BAN HAS ALSO BEEN LIFTED, ACCORDING TO THE COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

EVEN THOUGH THE BANS ARE LIFTED, TEXAS OUTDOOR BURNING RULES STILL APPLY:

- ONLY BURN NATURAL MATERIALS LIKE BRUSH, LEAVES, OR TREE LIMBS.
- NEVER BURN TRASH, PLASTICS, OR TREATED WOOD.
- ALWAYS STAY WITH THE FIRE AND KEEP WATER OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY.
- AVOID BURNING ON WINDY DAYS.

GET IN THE KNOW

SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 @ 5:30PM
@ POETRY TOWN HALL, 5671 COUNTY ROAD 323
POETRY, TEXAS 75160

THIS MEETING IS TO SCORE BLOCK GRANT ADMINISTRATOR & ENGINEERING PROPOSALS

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 202 @ 5:30PM
@ POETRY TOWN HALL, 5671 COUNTY ROAD 323
POETRY, TEXAS 75160

THE PUBLIC HEARING PORTION OF THIS MEETING WILL BE TO GATHER CITIZEN INPUT ON POTENTIAL PROJECTS TO BE IDENTIFIED ON OUR BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

March 2026

Neighbors,

What do you love about living in Poetry, TX? I know what my answer is, but I'd also like to know yours. Hopefully sometime in April we're going to put a survey on our town website, www.poetrytexas.org, to try and gather input from our citizens on what they love about Poetry and what they'd like to see our town government do to protect those things into the future. I encourage everyone to participate to give us as much insight as possible into what we value about our town.

In the meantime, let me share a few of my answers to the question.

I love the natural beauty of the area. We have creeks, pastureland, heavy timber, and lots of wildlife and livestock. Did I mention trees? I love the trees, the bigger and older the better.

I love the spaciousness of our town. We aren't all piled up on top of one another. There's space between us and around us. I love that. Every time I drive into one of our surrounding cities, I thank God for the open area we have here in Poetry.

I love the diversity of our town. There's something for everyone. Whether you want a big house on a little land or a little house on a lot of land, it can happen in Poetry. I know it's not everybody's thing, but I personally love the variety of living circumstances around me. It reminds me of the independent pioneer spirit.

I love the lack of traffic. I can get from anywhere in Poetry to anywhere else in Poetry quickly and easily. Most of the time it's like driving around a private community made up of friends.

I love the people of Poetry, even the hard to love ones. We're a very diverse group but I believe we have a lot in common. The desire to be left alone. The desire to do what we want. And for some of us the desire to have community. I love how we take care of each other. We have some incredibly caring people in Poetry, and I appreciate what they do for others.

How about you? What do you love about living in Poetry? —

—Mayor, Mike Jaffe

THE HISTORY OF VETCH IN POETRY, TEXAS

Early Agriculture in the Poetry Area

The town of Poetry, Texas, located about six miles north of Terrell in Kaufman County, developed during the mid-1800s as a small farming community originally known as Turner's Point. Settlers in the area established farms, cotton gins, and general stores, and agriculture quickly became the foundation of the local economy.

While cotton and livestock were early staples, the fertile black land prairie soils around Poetry and Terrell proved particularly suitable for forage crops. One of the most important of these crops during the mid-twentieth century was vetch, a legume widely used for livestock feed and soil improvement.

Rise of Vetch Farming

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, vetch had become one of the most significant crops grown in Kaufman County. In 1950 alone, about 35,000 acres of vetch were cultivated in the county, with the most concentrated production located along the road north of Terrell toward Poetry.

Along this corridor, roughly twenty neighboring farms produced more than 3,000 acres of vetch, making the area one of the largest centers of production in Texas. Several large landowners, including the Porter brothers and Lon Akin, operated farms with over 500 acres of vetch each.

Vetch was popular with farmers because it served several agricultural purposes:

- It functioned as a high-protein forage crop for cattle.
- It acted as a cover crop, protecting soil from erosion.
- As a legume, it added nitrogen to the soil, improving fertility for later crops such as cotton or grains.

Kaufman County: "Vetch Capital of the World"

The importance of the crop to the local economy became so great that Kaufman County was widely promoted for its vetch production.

In 1949, the city of Terrell hosted a Vetch Festival to promote the crop and celebrate the region's agricultural success. During that same year, Texas Governor Allan Shivers proclaimed Kaufman County the "Vetch Capital of the World."

The festival was held again in 1950 and attracted national attention. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brannan, even attended as a guest speaker—an indication of the crop's significance in the region's farming economy.

Decline of Vetch Dominance

Despite its mid-century prominence, large-scale vetch production gradually declined after the 1950s. Changes in farming practices, new fertilizers, and shifts toward other crops and livestock systems reduced the need for vetch as a soil-building cover crop.

As suburban development expanded east of Dallas in the late twentieth century, much farmland around Terrell and Poetry was subdivided into rural homesites and small ranch properties. Agriculture has remained part of the landscape, but the large continuous vetch fields that once characterized the area are no longer.

Legacy in the Poetry Region

Although vetch is no longer the dominant crop it once was, its history remains part of the agricultural heritage of the Poetry–Terrell region. During the mid-twentieth century, the farms along the roads near Poetry helped make Kaufman County a nationally recognized center of vetch production and a key contributor to Texas agriculture.

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.