







The First Christmas Tree Lighting and Awards Contest Saturday, December 18th was a huge success!



Special thanks to Sheri & Brian Vinson for donating the tree, purchasing the lights, and installing the tree with help from Candy & Herbert Fletcher. The wind was quite strong, requiring extra cables for stability! More details are online at poetrytexas.org under Christmas Lights Contest.

Winners of the Christmas Lights Contest:

<p>First Place</p>  <p>Adrian & Kelly Muehlstein 10018 FM 1565 Score: 273</p>	<p>Second Place</p>  <p>Brian Burton 10810 CR 2458 Score: 240</p>	<p>Third Place</p>  <p>David & Debbie Emard 9499 VT 2432 Score: 212</p>
<p>Fourth Place</p>  <p>Dennis & Debbie Yarborough 10074 CR 2326 Score: 210</p>	<p>Fifth Place</p>  <p>Jeremy Melton 11110 FM 1565 Score: 204</p>	<p>Sixth Place</p>  <p>Mary Yarborough 10462 Woodland Estates Score: 200</p>

The first three winners received gift baskets donated by volunteers as well as goods from local businesses: Thanks to our prize donors: *Matt's Rancheros, Poetry Pecans, Poetry Tack & Ag, Royal Soaps, Sylvie's Holistic Massage & Spa, Living Life Nature's way, Morning Blooms Soaps, Healing Thyme, Eagle Hardware and Tiger Shaved Ice.* Thank you for your contributions to this fun community event! Pastor JB Bryant moderated.

Tuesday, Dec. 21st Council Meeting:

- Recaps of the November end town balance, the ongoing church annex restore project, and the recent Christmas lighting and Christmas lights contest.
- Update of the recently passed 2% sales and use tax; the town is waiting to hear back from the county comptroller on how to implement this.
- Reviews of the October and November balance sheets, which included discussion of potentially putting out bids for certain expenses, especially those recurring.
- Discussion about solar panels potentially being implemented more frequently and possibilities of regulation; the council, with the advice of attorney Emily Bowlin, determined that this topic be overseen by the P&Z committee.
- Review of the recently revised lease agreement with the campground community cemetery corporation, which is currently under review by the campground board. The council awaits updates from the board before any further action. Council members Brian Vinson and Terry Fowler discussed proposing possible edits to the agreement and agreed to work on one together.
- Discussion of a location for town hall meetings in 2022; the council discussed holding small meetings at the church annex location and large meetings at Faith Temple Baptist Church in exchange for the church's proposed \$50 per meeting."

WRECK ON FM 1565

December 28th at 10:55 a.m., a fuel truck carrying diesel going a high rate of speed on a curve marked 40mph, careened and overturned into the ditch in front of Faith Temple Baptist Church. Crews from Hunt County; Cash, Union Valley, Kaufman as well as TDOT worked the crash site. Poetry Emergency Management Coordinator, Chief Van Sickle as well as Mayor Senkevech were onsite for many hours. Hazmat worked for hours to clean up the fuel spill. Fm 1565 986 was closed all day.



Poetry Citizen, Cathy Blattman, (green shirt) Retired OR nurse assisted the EMS by staying with the wounded driver during the long process of cutting him out of the mangled truck. He was eventually transported via ambulance to a Plano hospital sustaining wounds to his lower extremities.



Poetry Planning Committee: *We want your thoughts and opinions. If you have experience you want to share, please let us know. Please write to PoetryPlanning@gmail.com*

Town Restore project this month:

- JCK Concrete poured the new sidewalks. HR Dirt works made the sidewalk forms.
- Brett Patterson-donated materials and labor for painting & staining help.
- Wesley Jackson and crew worked extra hard to finish and clean before the Tree Lighting Event.
- Kane Hansard & David Emard -donated time & some materials for electrical finish out.
- Carl Crow donated labor and materials for the new septic installation.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

* **January 18th** – Town Council Meeting 6:30pm
Faith Temple Baptist Church

* **Saturday, January 15th (revised)**—Camp Ground Community Church Work Day 9-5pm

**Installing door knobs, planting rye seed and trim work.*



Painters worked diligently this December to finish out 60-year-old windows to restore them to new beauty and to paint the exterior, clean and paint the interior.



Christmas Poetry Style: Kane Hansard brought his tractor and flag for the Christmas Tree Event.