



## Dorothy Drive and Bradley Smith Drive

Serving Serenade from both north and south

**12/2016: Late Breaking News:** The City of Troy is in the middle of a design process that would greatly improve Bradley Smith Drive, creating 3 lanes, a storm water system that would eliminate ditches, add decorative lighting and other features. That should happen shortly but longer term commitments include the extension southerly to US Highway 40, as shown in the drawing below. This all in recognition that Bradley Smith Drive is truly intended to become the major north-south connector in Troy. Great news!!!



### **About Dorothy Drive:**

Dorothy Drive was stubbed in many years ago, but the extension to SRA Bradley Smith Boulevard was just accomplished, in the summer and fall of 2015.

It was dedicated a long time ago...when a former mayor, Oscar Gindler, bought an old railroad right of way (where a railroad stub served the local mine...about where Casey's is now), and divided it into lots.

The street stub, for access through these lots to land behind it was named after his wife, Dorothy.

### **About SRA Bradley Smith Boulevard:** Two important characteristics to highlight before a background story:

1. **Users of the street can access it from either end** and, therefore, either of two Interstate connections...one from Interstate 55/70 on the north, and one connecting Interstate 55/70 with U. S. Highway 40 on the south; a distinct benefit for employees and patrons of businesses there. Locally, it's an easy connection to and from the north and south parts of town. Or...businesses here can easily draw from both ends of town, or from anywhere.
2. **The intersection of the north end of Bradley Smith Drive and US 162 is a fully signalized intersection**, the first one east of the Interstates, and the first and only one to be permitted by IDOT. That establishes long-term connectivity there, making access easy, and directions for access simple...."just go east to the first signalized intersection."



### **Our project is built around this major north-south street.**

We're proud of this address and thought you ought to know a little about it. We consider the adoption of the name one of our finest (or luckiest) moments, and are honored with the involvement.

The road itself was built by Troy in 2009. It coincided with the construction and opening of Walgreens, who wanted access from the south, as well as from Illinois 162, which request accomplished it in the right time in our history. We were delighted to have the road, obviously, and donated the right of way. More...

With that, the City allowed us to contribute to the name of this significant new street and, while it could have carried a family name of some kind, we were still "thinking about it" when we received a call from the then-Mayor, Tom Caraker, asking if he could submit a candidate. This was just after the time that the parents of a Troy boy learned that their son lost his life in service of our country in Afghanistan, a devastating event. Making it more poignant was the fact that he died while trying to save a buddy, in a moment of incredible love and courage. (He was subsequently awarded The Silver Star for this action, given to the family in a ceremony at the Township Park in Troy, drawing a huge crowd of local, state and even, national figures.)

The town was still in mourning, searching for a way to share the family's grief, and looking for ways to honor this modern-day hero. The Mayor's call was to request consideration for using "Bradley Smith" as the name of the road. Someone locally had made that suggestion, and the Council had apparently discussed it positively and suggested the phone call. And as tradition suggests, the rest is history.

Our response was immediate. It was such a positive way to keep Bradley's name and memory, and to support the honor the town was feeling.

And ever since, we've felt honored to be involved, ...and so found another reason for making the whole project as good as it can be.

Of course we've met the parents, Gary A. and Paula Smith, and have become good friends. They are in this picture, tending to a display of flowers and memorabilia in his honor that graces our southern entrance, which they do frequently.

There is another brother in the family and a younger sister, and the town and the Smith family have embraced each other in a continuing act of sympathy and support. Gary has a home-based business serving the railroad industry, hence some "flex-time" to stay visible around town.

Part of the utilization of the street involves the annual "5 K Bradley Smith Run" in which, each September, about a thousand runners start in the nearby park and travel the length of this street and wind back to the park for the finish. The proceeds are given out in local scholarships.

And so, we hope you might come to share our enthusiasm for the name, and feel good about sharing the perpetual honor of this fallen hero. And that's a constant reminder, even a local one, that freedom isn't really free and that a few, like Bradley Smith and his family, pay a dear price. We've found that the connection surely does keep the memory to the forefront and that can only be good. We sincerely hope that the address continues to be recognized with honor and meaning.

