

City of Seymour Texas

At the Crossroads of North Texas

January 3rd, 2025

“Weekly Beat”

KEEPING YOU
INFORMED!



CITY OF SEYMOUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 16th, 2025, City Council Meeting at City Hall Auditorium at 7:00 PM.
- February 22nd, 2025, from 9:00-10:30 AM Trout Fishing Tournament at Salt Fork Recreational Complex.

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Address: _____

Wall Mount: _____ Yard Mount: _____



Each flag costs ONLY \$50/year! Local Lion's Club volunteers will put up and take down the flags on each patriotic holiday at no additional cost to you! Please make checks payable to Seymour Lions Club & drop off your payment and order form at any of these locations: City of Seymour, Interbank, Peoples Bank, or Herring Bank. Thank you for your donation!

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS	DATE	FLAGS OUT DATE	FLAGS PICK UP DATE
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	FEB. 17, 2025	FEB. 14, 2025	FEB. 18, 2025
MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 26, 2025	MAY 23, 2025	MAY 27, 2025
FLAG DAY	JUNE 14, 2025	JUNE 13, 2025	JUNE 16, 2025
INDEPENDENCE DAY	JULY 4, 2025	JULY 1, 2025	JULY 7, 2025
PATRIOTS DAY (9/11)	SEPT. 11, 2025	SEPT. 8, 2025	SEPT. 12, 2025
VETERANS DAY	NOV. 11, 2025	NOV. 10, 2025	NOV. 12, 2025

The Seymour Lions Club is beginning a new fund raiser to magnify Seymour's patriotism by placing flags by participating members on six designated major patriotic holidays. To participate in this awesome program please fill out the form by coming by City Hall and returning the form to the City Hall, Interbank, or People's Bank with a check made out to Seymour Lion's Club or cash of \$50.00. The \$50.00 will cover all six holidays and the Lion's Club will set the flag, put the flag out, and pick the flag up for each participant. The Lion's Club will contact you to ensure the flag is put out at your desired location. The flag project will begin on February 14th, 2025, when a flag will be placed out in front of the home or business of participants for the duration of each holiday. The flags all over town will demonstrate the patriotism of Seymour as we honor our country and those who have served so proudly. The funds generated from this project will be reinvested back to the community.

Long Time Finance Director Mary Griffin Retires After 26 Years of Dedicated Service



Pictured above Mayor Mark McCord joined City Hall to celebrate Ms. Mary Griffin's twenty-six-year contribution to the City of Seymour.

Seymour, Texas – After 26 years of dedicated service, Mary Griffin, the beloved Finance Director of the City of Seymour, officially retired on December 31st, 2024. Griffin, who has been an integral part of the city's administration since November 1998, has decided to step down, leaving behind a legacy of dedicated service and love of community.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Griffin has been known for her unwavering integrity and a deep sense of responsibility towards the city's financial health. Her contributions have been pivotal in ensuring that Seymour's finances are managed efficiently and transparently.

"Mary has been the backbone of our financial operations," said City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher. "Her dedication and expertise have been invaluable to the city. We will certainly miss her presence, but we are excited for Mary as she embarks on this new chapter of her life."

Griffin's journey with the city began when she joined as the Finance Director, bringing with her a wealth of experience from her previous role as a bookkeeper at Gene Robinson's Chevrolet dealership. Over the years, Ms. Griffin has overseen numerous financial projects, managed budgets, and worked closely with city officials to maintain fiscal responsibility.

Reflecting on her time with the city, Griffin shared, "It has been an honor to serve the community of Seymour. I have cherished every moment and am grateful for the support and trust of my colleagues and the residents. I look forward to spending more time with my family and pursuing new interests."

The city celebrated Ms. Griffin's contributions with a special gathering of colleagues at City Hall. The City Hall Family congregated to share stories, memories, and well-wishes as Griffin transitions into retirement. As Griffin steps down, the city has already transitioned to a successor. Ms. Suzanne Shumate has been at the helm for several months and will continue the high standards of financial management established by Ms. Griffin.

Mary Griffin's retirement marks the end of an era, but also the beginning of a new chapter filled with well-deserved rest and new adventures. Her dedication and hard work will be remembered and appreciated by all who have had the privilege of working with her.

Seymour Police Department Welcomes New Patrol Car



Seymour, Texas – Chief Bryce Sawyer of the Seymour Police Department is now equipped with a new police vehicle, specially outfitted to enhance his ability to protect and serve the community. The new car, a Chevrolet Tahoe, was recently put into service following a decision by the City Council to replace the old Dodge Charger with an upgraded vehicle. The new police car was paid primarily by a USDA grant and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and safety features, including advanced GPS systems, enhanced communication equipment, and improved emergency response capabilities. This upgrade ensures that Chief Sawyer can respond more effectively to incidents and maintain a higher level of public safety. Mayor Mark McCord expressed his support for the upgrade, stating, "We are committed to providing our police department with the best tools and resources to keep our community safe. Chief Sawyer's new vehicle is a testament to that commitment." Chief Sawyer, who has been with the Seymour Police Department for over a decade, expressed his gratitude for the new vehicle. "This car will significantly improve our response times and overall efficiency," he said. "I'm excited to hit the streets with this new resource and continue serving the wonderful citizens of Seymour."

Rick Shumate: Devoted Animal Control Officer Ensuring the Safety and a Better Quality of Life for Seymour Residents

Seymour, Texas – In a remarkable display of dedication and expertise, Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate has successfully relocated an impressive number of species of wildlife from the Seymour community over the last twenty-one months. His efforts have ensured the safety of residents and improved the quality of life for Seymour residents. Officer Shumate, who has been with the Seymour Animal Control Department for twenty-one months, has relocated a staggering **232 skunks, 212 raccoons, 79 possums, 326 cats, 78 squirrels, 25 armadillos, and 4 deer** out of the city limits. Officer Shumate has also circulated **309** dogs through the dog pound during this time. His work involves safely capturing and relocating these animals outside the city limits. "Rick's commitment to animal control is truly commendable," said City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher. "His efforts have made a significant impact on our community, ensuring both the safety of our residents and improving the quality of life of every citizen while ensuring the safety of himself."

Shumate's job is not without its challenges. Each apprehension requires careful planning and execution. Officer Shumate must consider behavior and intelligence of the animal, trap placement, bait selection, weather conditions, and safety risks. His expertise in handling various species and his deep understanding of animal behavior have been crucial in his success. "I love what I do," said Shumate. "Every day is different, and it's rewarding to know that I'm making a positive difference in the community."

Residents of Seymour have expressed their gratitude for Shumate's work. Local resident Kay Simek recently called and shared, "We've had issues with a neighbor dog in my yard and Rick was quick to respond and addressed the issue. It's reassuring to know we have someone like him looking out for our community." Maintaining the wildlife population is a huge asset to our community. This includes enhanced public safety, health and hygiene, property protection, and overall quality of life for every citizen.

As Officer Rick Shumate continues his mission, the community of Seymour can rest assured that their safety and well-being are in capable hands. If Sasquatch or Wendigo come to town they don't stand a chance with Officer Shumate at the helm.

City of Seymour Department Updates

The Street Department, as reported by Supervisor **Ronnie Kolacek** reported that his department cleaned up drainage at various locations around the park, trimmed trees that was interfering with the creek flow, mowed the hospital hill to the East of the City Park and took down the City's Christmas lights in the park. The department also mowed and cleaned up the evaporation pond dams at the RO Plant and surrounding area to ensure safe operation and so that maintenance can be performed if needed.

The **City of Seymour Electric Department**, supervised by **John Joyce**, communicated that his department took down Christmas lights on Main Street, picked up electric circuit banks in the park, and took down lights in the park. The department also changed a transformer at the old soccer field for the new ISD housing development, performed meter reads, worked on transformers behind South Main Street, connected power at a residence on South Main Street, and fixed a service line at Starlight Drive. The Electric Department also reconnected power at a residence on North Donald Street, replaced a transformer fuse on Primary Rose, and executed meter reads.

The City of Seymour **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** picked up a deceased armadillo, one deceased possum and caught one possum in a trap, picked up two racoons, trapped one skunk, and picked up seven dogs that were eventually returned to their owners. Mr. Shumate has received four animal related calls.

The **Seymour Police Department** under the supervision of **Chief Bryce Sawyer** communicated that the department continues to be proactive in traffic control, issued two criminal trespasses, two arrests for reckless driving and racing on Custer Street, engaged in two crash investigations, responded to calls for service and replied to various agency requests to assist.

Over the course of the last week, the **Reverse Osmosis Plant** under the supervision of John Davis produced 3.1 million gallons of treated water that was distributed to the City of Seymour and Baylor Water Supply Corporation. During the week plant operators monitored chlorine residuals around the town, monitored the amount of wastewater discharged from the plant, took daily readings on the primary RO units, changed the pre-filters in one of the primary RO trains, performed maintenance on the chlorine analyzer, and cleaned the main RO office.

The City of Seymour **Water Department supervised by Chase Hoyt** communicated his department this week cleaned up and filled in holes created by the repairing of water leaks, specifically the large leak on East McLain. The department also repaired a water meter at the Sagamar Inn, drained the water fountain in the park, flushed hydrants around town as required by policy, and executed lift station inspections. The department inspected the water fire hydrant on East McClain and determined that it will need to be cut out and replaced, and rodded sewer line from Lincoln to Miller Street.