

Weekly Beat

August 1, 2025

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News from the City

New fence at
Convenience
Center

Departmental
News and Updates

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- August 3rd, 2025, the last day City Pool is open
- August 11th, 2025 @ 6:00 PM Budget Workshop 2 at City Hall.
- August 21st, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall.
- September 18th, 2025 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- October 16th, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- October 27th, 2025, Haunted City Hall at 6:00 PM -7:00 PM
- Chamber 3-Man Scramble September 13-14, 2025
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

City of Seymour Enhances Transfer Station with New Perimeter Fence



Pictured left to right: Kenny Davis, Josiah Bush, Tony Morgan, and Shaun Teel mulching brush from the cleanout of the fence line at the City's Convenience Center.

Seymour, TX — The City of Seymour has begun construction on a new six-foot chain-link fence surrounding the east and south sides of its municipal transfer station, marking a significant step toward improving facility aesthetics and environmental management.

The project, funded by a solid waste grant from Nortex Regional Planning Commission, was secured through a successful grant application written by City Secretary Lauren Bush. The contract for the fencing was awarded to Claw Contractor's of Seymour, with a winning bid of \$19,450.00.

The installation aims to enhance the appearance of the transfer station while also reducing the spread of windblown debris into the surrounding area—an issue that has challenged city staff for years. By containing waste more effectively, city officials believe the fence will contribute to both a cleaner environment and more efficient operations.

“Managing solid waste responsibly is part of our commitment to the community,” said city administrator Dr. Jeff Brasher “This upgrade isn’t just about aesthetics—it’s about stewardship, safety, and preparing for future growth.”

Since assuming daily operations of the facility in 1999, the City of Seymour has overseen the processing of approximately 580 tons of waste annually. With increasing volumes expected in the years ahead, the fence represents part of a broader strategy to ensure the facility remains equipped to handle demand sustainably. Construction is currently underway, with completion expected in the coming weeks.

Working for You: How Every City Department is Shaping Seymour's Future and Safety

It was anything but a typical week for **Seymour's Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate**, whose recent stretch of duty was packed with a variety of animal encounters—from the routine to the downright strange. Shumate's week began with the pickup of four stray dogs. One was quickly reunited with its owner, while the remaining three were taken to the city pound. All have been vaccinated, including receiving their rabies shots, and are now available for adoption. Midweek brought an unexpected wildlife call when a resident reported a possibly injured blue darter hawk. Upon arrival, Shumate determined the hawk was actually a healthy juvenile. After making sure the bird was unharmed, he safely released it back into its natural habitat. That same week, he also dealt with five raccoons, reinforcing the ongoing presence of local wildlife within city limits. Perhaps the most bizarre call came from a traveler passing through Seymour who reported that two snakes had emerged from his vehicle's dashboard while he was driving. Shumate responded promptly and conducted a thorough hour-long search of the vehicle—but no snakes were found. Later in the week, Shumate was dispatched to recover two miniature horses that had wandered away from their enclosure. He successfully located and returned them to their owner without incident. Additionally, he removed two stray cats from the community and issued one property maintenance notice for overgrown vegetation. In total, Shumate handled ten animal-related service calls throughout the week. His calm, professional response to a wide range of situations—from hawks to horses to snakes—demonstrates his continued commitment to public safety and animal welfare in Seymour.

Under the direction of **Street Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek**, the **City of Seymour's Street Department** has made significant strides this week in infrastructure maintenance and community improvement. Crews completed surface upgrades at four major intersections, applying chip and seal treatment following careful prep work. This method not only enhances roadway appearance but also extends pavement life and improves driving safety—delivering both practical and long-term value to local streets. In parallel with street maintenance, the department carried out a large-scale cleanup at the City's Transfer Station. The team cleared overgrown vegetation along the south and east fence lines, including trimming trees and chipping brush. The area has since been leveled and is now fully prepared for the installation of a new perimeter fence, which will improve both site security and visual appeal. Kolacek and his crew continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining the city's infrastructure and overall livability. Their recent efforts reflect more than just routine maintenance—they represent a continued investment in the community's future. As residents drive through newly treated intersections or notice the improved appearance of municipal facilities, they're witnessing the tangible results of a department focused on quality, safety, and service.

Under the leadership of **Police Chief Bryce Sawyer**, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to maintain a proactive presence throughout the community, ensuring public safety through a variety of law enforcement and support activities.

Over the past week, officers conducted multiple operations resulting in two adult arrests and two juvenile arrests, in collaboration with the Baylor County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). These joint efforts reflect the strong partnership between local agencies and their shared commitment to protecting residents and upholding the law. In addition to these arrests, officers carried out numerous security checks across the city, reinforcing safety at both public facilities and private properties. These routine checks help deter criminal activity and provide peace of mind for residents and business owners alike. The department also performed various traffic enforcement stops, addressing violations and promoting responsible driving behavior throughout Seymour. Such enforcement is a key component of accident prevention and roadway safety. Officers responded to a welfare check during the week, verifying the well-being of an individual in response to community concern. These compassionate responses are part of the department's broader role in community care and crisis response. Additionally, the department conducted a crash investigation, working to determine the cause and ensure that all parties involved received the appropriate support and documentation. Chief Sawyer and his team continue to serve the Seymour community with professionalism, vigilance, and integrity—building trust through daily action and a consistent presence in every corner of the city.

Under the leadership of **Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, the **Seymour Water Department** had a productive week focused on system maintenance, staff development, and facility improvements. Crews repaired water leaks on McLain and Custer Streets, helping to maintain service reliability for residents. Team member Alonzo Avilla took a Basic Water Class to pursue an additional certification, further strengthening the department's capabilities. In coordination with the Electric Department, staff repaired security cameras at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to improve site monitoring. The department also performed water meter rereads and turn-offs for non-payment, ensuring accurate utility management. Additionally, sewer lines were rodded on both Lincoln and China Streets to clear blockages and maintain proper wastewater flow.

Under the direction of **Supervisor John Davis**, the **Reverse Osmosis Plant** had a productive and efficient week, playing a vital role in the delivery of clean, safe water to the community. Over the past week, the plant produced 5.8 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. Throughout the week, plant operators conducted routine monitoring of chlorine residuals across the community to ensure water safety, while also tracking the volume of wastewater discharged from the facility. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to ensure optimal performance and system efficiency. Operators also collected monthly lab samples to monitor the water supply for microbial contaminants, maintaining compliance with public health standards. In addition, staff completed and submitted the end-of-month reports required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). As part of ongoing professional development, team members also successfully completed a Water Utilities Management course, further strengthening the department's expertise. Supervisor Davis and his team remain committed to providing high-quality water treatment and regulatory compliance, ensuring a reliable water supply for all who depend on it.

While **Electric Department Supervisor John Joyce** was on a well-deserved vacation this past week, the Seymour Electric Department didn't miss a beat. Thanks to the leadership and hard work of Garet Hons and Johnathon Olinger, operations continued seamlessly, with the team handling a full slate of maintenance, repairs, and cross-departmental support. The week's efforts began with the team servicing departmental vehicles and inspecting reclosures, ensuring the city's electrical infrastructure remained reliable and prepared for any demand. The crew also assisted the Street Department on Nevada Street, helping mulch brush during a cleanup project. Electric staff made several important repairs to street lighting, including a light for the Housing Authority, another at the Street Department, and a service light at the Catholic Church, where they also ran a new electrical line. A faulty meter on West Ingram Street was changed out, and the team responded quickly to repair a service line on West Nevada. In another call, they replaced a main line fuse behind North Main Street after a vulture caused an outage by shorting the line. As needed, the team read utility meters, reconnected power to a residence on North River Street, performed underground utility locates, and even lent a hand to the Water Department at the Sewer Plant to resolve a service issue—demonstrating the department's collaborative spirit and versatility. In addition to his regular electrical duties, Johnathon Olinger, known for his skill in signage, worked on upgrading the Transfer Station sign, continuing his ongoing contributions to the city's visual and informational infrastructure. This past week showcased not only the dedication and technical ability of Seymour's Electric Department, but also the strength of teamwork and leadership in action. With Garet Hons and Johnathon Olinger at the helm during Joyce's absence, the department proved once again that the city's critical systems are in capable hands—no matter the challenge.