

Weekly Beat

August 8, 2025

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came to an end

Departmental
News and Updates

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- 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 25th, 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

Fresh Paint, Safe Streets: School Zone Markings Ready for School Start on August 12



Pictured above Kenny Davis, Josiah Bush, Tony Morgan, and Shaun Teel are repainting the markings in front to the elementary school in preparation of the first day of school.

Seymour, Texas - As the start of the 2025-2026 school year draws near, the City Street Department—under the leadership of Ronnie Kolacek—is hard at work ensuring our streets are ready for the return of students. This week, crews began repainting crosswalks, stop lines, and school zone warnings in front of the local schools, with a focus on high-traffic areas and pedestrian crossings. Kolacek, an advocate for pedestrian safety, said the timing of this project is no coincidence. “With kids returning to school on August 12th, we want to make sure drivers are fully aware they’re entering a school zone,” he stated. “These markings aren’t just paint—they’re life-saving reminders.”

Freshly painted lines are not only more visible, but also serve as crucial visual cues for motorists to slow down, yield to pedestrians, and remain alert. Bright crosswalks and signage help children safely navigate busy streets and give drivers the necessary warnings to adjust their speed and stay focused. Local school officials and law enforcement have praised the effort as a vital step in protecting students during the busiest times of the school day—morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. According to national safety statistics, most pedestrian incidents involving children occur near schools, often because of distracted driving or unclear road markings.

As we welcome students back to class, all residents are reminded to do their part:

- **Reduce speed in school zones.**
- **Obey posted signage.**
- **Eliminate distractions, especially cell phone use while driving.**
- **Watch for children who may dart between vehicles or cross unexpectedly.**

“We all share responsibility for keeping our community’s children safe,” said Kolacek. “Whether you’re a parent, a neighbor, or just passing through, vigilance behind the wheel can save a life.” With school bells about to ring, the message is simple but vital: Drive safely, stay alert, and let’s protect the future of our community—one crosswalk at a time.

Lifeguards Close Out Summer with a Splash



Pictured left from right back row Jaxon Carrington, Jeb Stacey, Garrett Gwinn, Samuel Silva, Front Row left from right, Katelyn Heuchert, Aryah Ladd, Maleigha Torrez, Chays Frost, Manager Leonard Estraca, Gemma Estraca, Ta'Nya Lara, Heaven Betts, and Jordan Permyman. Not pictured Taeshaun Spotwood

SEYMOUR, TX — As summer winds down, the Seymour City Swimming Pool is celebrating a season of safety, fun, and community under the outstanding leadership of Pool Manager Leonard Estraca and his dedicated team of lifeguards.

Throughout the long, hot summer, Mr. Estraca and his crew braved the Texas heat day after day to keep the pool safe and enjoyable for everyone. Their commitment to swimmer safety, quick response times, and constant vigilance ensured that no major incidents were reported this season—a remarkable achievement and a reflection of their professionalism.

Dedication in the Hot Summer Sun

Whether guiding young swimmers, watching over busy afternoons, or maintaining the facility, the lifeguards showed up with energy and focus. Their endurance through the high temperatures and long hours did not go unnoticed by the community. “Our team gave it their all this summer,” said Estraca. “They worked hard, stayed sharp, and made the pool a safe place for everyone.”

Well-Deserved Celebration

To mark the end of a successful season, Mr. Estraca hosted an end-of-the-year party for the lifeguards, giving them a chance to relax, reflect, and celebrate their hard work. The event was filled with laughter, appreciation, amazing food, and a strong sense of camaraderie among the team.

Senior Swim Continues One More Week

While regular swim hours have ended, the pool will remain open for Senior Swim from 12:00–1:00 PM for one final week. This quiet hour offers older residents a peaceful opportunity to enjoy the water before the season officially wraps up.

Thank You, Team Estraca

The City of Seymour extends its heartfelt thanks to Leonard Estraca and his team of lifeguards for a summer filled with safe swimming, strong leadership, and genuine community spirit. Thanks to their dedication, the pool once again became more than just a place to cool off—it became a gathering spot, a laughter-filled escape, and a reminder of the carefree days so many of us cherished as kids. Just like summers past, it was a season where memories were made, friendships were strengthened, and the joy of community came alive in every splash.

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

From rescues to removals, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** had another impactful week serving the Seymour community—ensuring safety, compassion, and swift response across a wide range of animal-related incidents. This week, three dogs were adopted from the city pound, finding new homes and fresh starts thanks to Shumate's efforts and the community's support. Another dog was reunited with its owner, bringing relief and joy to a local family. In addition to the adoptions, Shumate responded to several urgent calls. He picked up two dogs that were later humanely euthanized by Dr. Tucker and caught and removed three raccoons from residential areas. He also handled the removal of deceased animals, including two raccoons, one squirrel, and three cats, helping maintain public health and cleanliness. One particularly notable case involved an abandoned dog, where Seymour Police contacted Shumate. The owner was notified and given 24 hours to retrieve the animal, demonstrating the city's commitment to responsible pet ownership. Shumate also responded to a call at the city park, where he successfully captured two large dogs with the help of their owner. The cooperative effort ensured the safety of park-goers and the dogs themselves. In total, Officer Shumate handled ten animal-related calls this week. Thanks to his proactive work, the city pound is currently empty, a rare and encouraging milestone that reflects both effective animal control and strong community engagement. The City of Seymour extends its appreciation to Rick Shumate for his continued dedication and steady leadership. His work not only keeps the streets safe but also helps build a more compassionate and connected community.

As summer winds down and the city gears up for the start of a new school year, the **Street Department**—under the steady leadership of **Ronnie Kolacek**—has once again proven its value to the community through a week of hard work and thoughtful preparation. From mowing and weeding the airport grounds to sprucing up the city park, the department has been working tirelessly to ensure that public spaces are well-maintained and welcoming. These efforts not only enhance the appearance of our city but also create a cleaner, safer environment for residents and visitors alike. One of the most impactful projects completed this week was the repainting of crosswalks and school zone markings throughout town. With students soon returning to school, these improvements come at a critical time. Freshly painted lines increase visibility for both pedestrians and drivers, helping to prevent accidents and reinforce safety near school campuses. In addition, crews sprayed weeds and cleaned up key intersections—small tasks that add up to a big difference when it comes to improving sightlines and curb appeal. These seemingly simple acts of maintenance help keep the city running smoothly and looking its best. Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek continues to lead by example, ensuring that every job is completed with care and attention to detail. His commitment to the community is evident in the pride his team takes in their work. In a time when the value of public service is more important than ever, the Street Department's dedication serves as a reminder that behind every clean corner and freshly painted line is a team of people working diligently to keep our city safe, functional, and beautiful.

Under the dedicated leadership of **Chief Bryce Sawyer**, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to exemplify professionalism, vigilance, and care in serving our community. This past week, officers responded to a vehicle crash, managing the scene with efficiency and ensuring the safety of everyone involved. Their quick action and calm presence made a difference during a stressful moment. Late one evening, the department investigated a fleeing four-wheeler incident involving a youth driving through town. Officers handled the situation with concern for public safety and a focus on preventing harm. Throughout the week, traffic enforcement was actively conducted across Seymour, helping to maintain safe roadways and encourage responsible driving behavior. In addition to field work, the department is investing in professional development. Sergeant Deanda is currently attending a 40-hour Crime Scene Investigation course, which will enhance the department's ability to process evidence and strengthen future investigations. Officers also participated in school safety training, reinforcing their readiness to protect students and staff in any emergency. The department conducted multiple welfare checks this week, demonstrating their compassionate approach to community policing and their commitment to the well-being of Seymour's residents. Chief Sawyer shared, "Our officers are not just enforcers of the law—they're protectors, mentors, and neighbors. I'm proud of the work they do every day to keep Seymour safe." The City of Seymour thanks Chief Bryce Sawyer and the entire Police Department for their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication. Your service is deeply appreciated and continues to make a lasting impact on our community.

The **City of Seymour** and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation received 5.0 million gallons of clean, treated water last week, thanks to the dedicated efforts of **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant Operator and Supervisor John Davis**. Mr. Davis managed every aspect of the plant's operation to ensure a continuous supply of high-quality water. From overseeing the treatment process to performing critical maintenance and monitoring, Davis kept the facility running smoothly throughout the week. Among his responsibilities, Davis monitored chlorine residuals across the city to confirm that disinfection levels met safety standards. He also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, maintaining compliance with environmental regulations. Each day, he recorded operational data from the primary RO units, keeping a close eye on performance and identifying any potential issues. During the week, Davis replaced the pre-filters in one of the plant's primary RO trains—an essential task that helps protect the system and maintain water flow. In addition, he titrated chemical feeds to ensure precise dosing and carried out quality control checks on both feed water and product water instrument panels. Routine maintenance of these panels ensured accurate readings and uninterrupted plant operation. Through his dedication and attention to detail, John Davis continues to play a vital role in supporting the region's water supply, proving that even one individual can make a significant impact.

Under the steady leadership of **Supervisor John Joyce**, the **Seymour Electric Department** continues to deliver reliable service, proactive maintenance, and a strong commitment to keeping the city powered and safe. This week, the team carried out routine vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all department vehicles are operating efficiently and safely. They also completed weekly readings of reclosures, a critical task that helps monitor system performance and prevent outages. Crews performed multiple locates to support safe digging and construction activities and drove out circuits 2 and 4 to inspect and verify system integrity. On Compress Road, the team changed out a damaged crossarm, reinforcing the reliability of the overhead infrastructure. At the Knights of Columbus facility, power was disconnected and reconnected as part of scheduled work, and a meter was updated at 511 N. Tackitt Street to improve service accuracy. Around the shop, staff mowed and weeded the grounds, keeping the area clean and well-maintained. One of the week's major accomplishments was the installation of a new service pole at Roots Retreat, expanding access and ensuring dependable power for the site. Supervisor Joyce and his crew continue to demonstrate dedication, technical skill, and pride in their work. The City of Seymour thanks the Electric Department for another week of outstanding service and for keeping the lights on—safely and reliably—for everyone in our community.

The City of Seymour proudly recognizes the outstanding work of the **Water Department, led by Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, for their dedication and tireless efforts in maintaining and improving our city's water infrastructure. This week, the team tackled several critical repairs and maintenance tasks that kept water services running safely and efficiently for residents and businesses alike. One of the most demanding jobs involved rodding a sewer line behind Chicken Express, extending all the way to Holub Tire, to clear a significant buildup of grease that had clogged the system. The successful clearing of this line restored proper flow and prevented potential backups in a high-traffic area. The crew also responded swiftly to a 6-inch water line leak behind Contech, completing the repair and minimizing service disruption. Their quick action helped preserve water pressure and avoid further damage. Additional repairs included fixing a meter leak on Custer Street and a service line leak on McLain Street, both of which were resolved promptly to ensure continued service and prevent water loss. "Our team takes pride in responding quickly and working hard to keep Seymour's water system reliable," said Chase Hoyt. "It's not always glamorous work, but it's essential—and we're proud to serve the community." The City of Seymour thanks Chase Hoyt and the entire Water Department for their commitment to excellence and their behind-the-scenes efforts that keep our homes, businesses, and streets running smoothly.