

Weekly Beat

November 7th, 2025

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- November 11th, 2025 City Hall Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day.
- November 14th, 2025 at 1:30 PM Grand Opening of Seymour Skate Park.
- November 27th and 28th City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving
- November 20th, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- February 21st, 2026 Trout Fishing Tournament at Salt Fork Recreational Facility: 9:00-11:00.
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Keeping Seymour Flowing A Spotlight on the Wastewater Plant and Greg Shumate



Pictured above Wastewater Plant Operator Greg Shumate clears debris from the bar screens at the Seymour Wastewater Plant, a critical first step in ensuring that incoming wastewater flows properly into the clarifier for treatment.

Behind the scenes of Seymour's daily life, one essential operation quietly keeps everything moving—our Wastewater plant. Under the dedicated leadership of Greg Shumate, this facility plays a vital role in protecting public health, preserving the environment, and supporting the city's infrastructure. Greg Shumate brings years of experience and a steady hand to the complex work of wastewater management. From monitoring treatment systems to ensuring compliance with environmental standards, Mr. Shumate works diligently to process and treat the city's wastewater safely and efficiently. On average, the plant cleans approximately 100,000 gallons of wastewater each day, which is then chlorinated and sent to Brazos River and down to Possum Kingdom Lake. The facility has a maximum capacity of 500,000 gallons per day, and during periods of heavy rainfall, it has been pushed to its limits. These high-volume events require Mr. Shumate to monitor operations closely to ensure the plant continues to function safely and effectively. The Wastewater plant's impact reaches every household and business in Seymour. It ensures that wastewater is properly treated before being returned to the environment, preventing contamination and supporting long-term sustainability. Whether it's responding to equipment issues, managing daily operations, or preparing for future growth, Mr. Shumate's work is critical to the city's well-being.

But what if the plant shut down—even for a single day?

The consequences would be immediate and far-reaching. Wastewater would begin to back up in the system, overwhelming septic tanks and sewer lines. Homes could experience slow drains, unpleasant odors, or even dangerous overflows. Businesses would be forced to halt operations, and the environmental risk of untreated discharge would rise dramatically. In short, the very systems we rely on to keep our homes clean and safe would be compromised. Thanks to Greg Shumate and support from the Water Department, Seymour doesn't have to face that scenario. Their behind-the-scenes work ensures that every flush, every drain, and every drop is managed with care and precision—keeping our community healthy, functional, and prepared.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

This week, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** continued his tireless work to protect both the residents and wildlife of Seymour. His efforts reflect a deep commitment to public safety, animal welfare, and responsive service. Mr. Shumate successfully relocated a variety of animals from residential and public areas, including five possums, one raccoon, three skunks, one cat, two deer, one squirrel, and one buzzard. These relocations help prevent property damage, reduce health risks, and ensure that wildlife is returned to safe, natural environments. In addition to wildlife management, Mr. Shumate facilitated the adoption of two dogs, giving them a fresh start in loving homes. He also responded to three stray dog reports; all were safely picked up and later reunited with their owners. Throughout the week, Animal Control received a total of fourteen calls for service. Each call was handled with professionalism and care, reinforcing the department's role as a vital part of Seymour's public services. Officer Shumate's work is a reminder of the importance of humane animal control and the value of having a dedicated professional on call. Residents are encouraged to report animal concerns to the Police Department and to consider adoption when looking for a new pet.

This week, the City of Seymour's **Street Department** completed the cleanup of a property on North Main Street and then relocated to North Tackitt Street, where demolition began on a severely dilapidated property. Work on this site will continue into next week as the department awaits the delivery of additional dumpsters needed to complete debris removal. Crews also addressed drainage issues along Whiteside Street by leveling the right-of-way to improve water flow and reduce pooling during rainfall. At the end of Weiss Drive, a large pothole was filled to improve safety and drivability for local residents. In addition to these projects, the department cleaned and leveled the area surrounding the skate park, enhancing the space for recreational use and ensuring a smoother experience for park visitors. The Street Department remains committed to maintaining and improving Seymour's infrastructure. Residents are encouraged to report any street-related concerns to City Hall for future scheduling.

John Davis, the dedicated **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant Operator** for the City of Seymour, continues to manage the facility single-handedly with precision and professionalism. Over the past week, the RO Plant produced an impressive 4.0 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. Throughout the week, Mr. Davis conducted routine monitoring of chlorine residuals across town to ensure water safety and compliance with health standards. He also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, maintaining accurate records for environmental oversight. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to assess performance and detect any operational issues. In addition, Mr. Davis replaced the pre-filters in one of the primary RO trains, a critical maintenance task that helps preserve the efficiency and longevity of the system. As part of monthly regulatory requirements, he collected water samples for laboratory testing to monitor for microbial contaminants. These tests are essential for safeguarding public health and ensuring the integrity of Seymour's water supply. To close out the month, Mr. Davis completed and submitted all required reports to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), maintaining full compliance with state regulations. In addition to these duties, Mr. Davis met remotely with representatives from TCEQ to discuss and evaluate the city's water loss data. This meeting is part of a state-mandated effort to ensure municipalities are actively working to minimize water loss and improve system efficiency. His work ensures that Seymour residents and neighboring communities receive clean, safe, and reliable water every day. The city thanks Mr. Davis for his continued dedication and expertise.

Under the direct supervision of John Joyce, the City of Seymour's **Electric Department** has had a productive week, completing a range of essential maintenance and seasonal projects to keep the city running smoothly and looking festive. The department began the week with routine vehicle maintenance checks and readings of reclosures, ensuring that all systems and equipment remain in top working condition. Crews also responded to multiple locate requests, helping to prevent utility damage during excavation and construction activities. In preparation for the holiday season, the team built and installed a new service loop at the city park to support additional Christmas lights. They also installed power banks at the park to ensure reliable electricity for the festive displays. Downtown, crews worked on Christmas decorations, contributing to the city's seasonal charm. At the Salt Fork Golf Course, the department installed new poles to support netting for the driving range, enhancing safety and usability for golfers. Back at City Hall, they repaired a service loop that had broken off the building, restoring critical electrical infrastructure. Finally, the department responded to a service issue on Grossman Street, successfully repairing a damaged service line and restoring power to affected residents. John Joyce and his team continue to demonstrate their commitment to reliable service, public safety, and community pride through their diligent work across Seymour.

Under the leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to serve the community with professionalism, vigilance, and compassion. This past week, officers carried out a wide range of duties that reflect their commitment to public safety and civic engagement. Officers conducted routine school visits, reinforcing positive relationships with students and staff while maintaining a visible presence to ensure campus safety. These visits are part of the department's ongoing effort to build trust and foster communication between law enforcement and local youth. Traffic enforcement remained a priority, with officers monitoring roadways to deter speeding and unsafe driving. Their presence helps reduce accidents and encourages responsible behavior behind the wheel. The department also mediated several civil issues, helping residents resolve disputes peacefully and fairly. These interventions often prevent situations from escalating and demonstrate the department's role as a stabilizing force in the community. In addition, officers responded to various welfare checks, ensuring the well-being of individuals reported to be in distress or in need of assistance. These calls are handled with care and discretion, reflecting the department's dedication to protecting vulnerable members of the community. Multiple follow-up investigations were conducted throughout the week, as officers continued to pursue leads and gather evidence in ongoing cases. Their diligence ensures that justice is pursued thoroughly and responsibly. Finally, the department assisted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) with the execution of a warrant in Knox County, demonstrating strong interagency cooperation and support beyond city limits. Chief Sawyer and his team remain committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and responsive environment for all Seymour residents.

Under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, the **Seymour Water Department** has been hard at work maintaining the city's water infrastructure and responding to service needs across multiple neighborhoods. This past week, crews successfully repaired water leaks on River Street, Grenada Street, and Washington Street. These repairs help prevent water loss, protect property, and ensure consistent service for residents. Following the leak repairs, the department filled and restored the affected areas, leaving the streets safe and clean. In addition to emergency repairs, the team completed several locate requests for customers planning construction or excavation. These locates are critical for preventing damage to underground utilities and ensuring safe digging practices. The department also took time to clean and organize its shop, improving efficiency and readiness for future service calls. A well-maintained workspace supports faster response times and better coordination among crew members. Chase Hoyt and his team continue to demonstrate their commitment to reliable service and proactive maintenance, keeping Seymour's water system running smoothly for all residents.

Seymour City Council Votes to Put Salt Fork Golf Course Up for Sale



Mayor McCord and members of the Seymour City Council joined local residents for a special called meeting to discuss the sale of the Salt Fork Golf Course.

On Friday, November 7, 2025, the Seymour City Council convened at 12:00 PM at City Hall to discuss the future of the Salt Fork Golf Course. The meeting drew members of the community who came to listen and share their thoughts on the potential sale of the long-standing municipal property. During the public portion of the meeting, several citizens voiced their opinions, expressing both concern and support for the proposed sale. The council acknowledged the importance of community input and emphasized their commitment to transparency throughout the process. Following the public discussion, the council entered Executive Session under the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code 551.072, which allows for deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property. After the closed session, the council reconvened and voted to move forward with putting the Salt Fork Golf Course up for sale. They agreed to open the process for bids and stated that, at the appropriate time, they would actively seek community feedback on any proposals that come forward. The decision marks a significant step in determining the future of the golf course, which has been a topic of financial and operational concern in recent years. The council's approach aims to balance fiscal responsibility with public engagement as Seymour considers the next chapter for the property.

