

Weekly Beat

October 31st, 2025

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

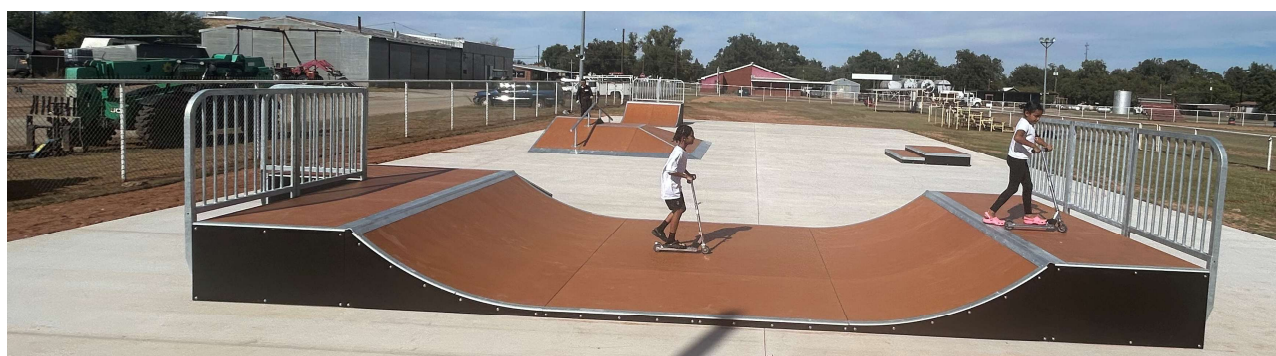
- November 11th, 2025 City Hall Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day.
- November 14th, 2025 at 1:30 PM Grand Opening of Seymour Skate Park.
- November 27th and 28th City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving
- November 20th, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- February 21st, 2026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

Bins, Bulldozers, and a Better Seymour: Winter Demolition Underway



SEYMOUR, TX — The City of Seymour is continuing its mission to revitalize neighborhoods and enhance curb appeal by moving forward with the demolition of additional dilapidated properties this winter. The effort is part of a broader initiative to clean up the community and improve the visual appeal of key entry points into the city. This week, Ronnie Kolacek and his dedicated team took down another long-vacant structure on North Main Street. The removal marks another step in the city’s ongoing commitment to creating a safer, more attractive environment for residents and visitors alike. “Our goal is not just to remove eyesores,” said Dr. Brasher. “It’s about restoring pride in our neighborhoods and making Seymour a place people are proud to call home.” The city has placed a special emphasis on improving the gateways into town—areas that often form first impressions for travelers and potential new residents. By clearing blighted properties and preparing lots for future use, Seymour is laying the groundwork for long-term community development. Once finished, the cleared lots will contribute to a more viable, cleaner, and welcoming community landscape. The revitalization effort is expected to continue into the spring, with more demolitions and beautification projects on the horizon.

Seymour Rolls Out New Skate Park Thanks to Local Vision and Grant Support



A dream that began with a mother’s hope for her children has blossomed into a vibrant new space for the entire Seymour community. The newly constructed Seymour Speedway Bike and Skate Park, located at the corner of Reiman and North East Street, stands as a testament to vision, collaboration, and the power of community-driven progress. City Secretary Lauren Bush first imagined the skate park as a place where her children—and others in town—could safely skate, play, and grow. Her idea gained momentum when she discovered the Priddy Foundation of Wichita Falls, an organization known for supporting community self-improvement projects through grant funding. Inspired by the opportunity, Mrs. Bush wrote a compelling grant proposal outlining the skate park’s potential to enrich Seymour’s youth and public spaces. The Priddy Foundation responded with enthusiasm. After reviewing the application and conducting an interview, they awarded Seymour a generous grant of \$125,000 to bring the project to life. The funds covered a \$45,000 concrete pad and approximately \$80,000 in skate park structures, which were purchased from the American Ramp Company based in Joplin, Missouri. Now complete, the Seymour Speedway Bike and Skate Park offers a fresh green space and a dynamic recreational outlet for roller skates, skateboards, roller blades, bikes, and scooters. It’s more than just ramps and rails—it’s a place where children can build confidence, families can gather, and the community can celebrate active living. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to stop by and enjoy the park. For those who wish to contribute to its continued growth, donations are welcome. Supporters can have their names added to benches, tables, shade structures, or other accessories that enhance the skate park experience. Thanks to the dedication of Lauren Bush and the generosity of the Priddy Foundation, Seymour has gained not just a skate park—but a symbol of what’s possible when vision meets action. Grand opening for the park will be held on November 14th, at 1:30 PM at 300 E. McLain.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

Seymour's **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** had a busy and impactful week, continuing his commitment to public safety and animal welfare across the community. Over the past week, Officer Shumate responded to a total of fifteen animal-related calls, ranging from wildlife concerns to domestic pet issues. Among the animals he safely removed from residential and public areas were six skunks, one raccoon, three possums, one cat, and one squirrel. These efforts help reduce the risk of disease transmission and ensure that both residents and animals remain safe. In coordination with local veterinarian Dr. Tucker, three rabies vaccinations were administered, reinforcing the city's proactive approach to preventing the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases. On the adoption front, Officer Shumate successfully placed three dogs into new homes, giving them a second chance and reducing the shelter population. Two dogs currently remain in the city pound, while four new dogs were picked up and brought in for care and evaluation. Officer Shumate's work reflects the city's dedication to responsible animal control and community health. His efforts not only protect residents but also promote humane treatment and positive outcomes for animals in need.

Under the supervision of **Ronnie Kolacek, the Seymour Street Department** focused its efforts this week on the demolition of a property located on Main Street. The project is part of the city's ongoing commitment to improving public spaces and enhancing the appearance of the area coming in to town from the Wichita Falls Highway. The crew encountered mechanical issues with the track loader during the demolition process, requiring time to diagnose and repair the equipment before resuming work. In addition to the demolition, the department responded to several work orders, including pothole patching across town, mowing the right-of-way along East Custer, and mulching brush for local residents. Work also continued on the city's skid steer, which was successfully returned to service by week's end. Despite equipment challenges, the department remained responsive and productive, contributing to the upkeep and improvement of Seymour's infrastructure.

The City of Seymour continues to benefit from the tireless work of its **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant Supervisor John Davis**. Over the past week, the plant produced an impressive 3.8 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation—ensuring safe, clean water for residents and surrounding communities. The RO Plant team carried out a range of critical tasks to maintain water quality and system performance. Operators monitored chlorine residuals throughout town to ensure proper disinfection levels, a key factor in protecting public health. They also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, maintaining compliance with environmental standards. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to monitor system efficiency and detect any potential issues early. Maintenance was performed on the chlorine analyzer to keep equipment functioning accurately, and the main RO office was cleaned and organized to support a safe and efficient working environment. In addition, the team titrated the pre-treatment chemical feeds—an essential process that helps optimize water purification and protect the RO membranes from scaling and fouling. Supervisor Davis and his staff continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication to the city's water infrastructure. Their behind-the-scenes efforts ensure that Seymour residents have reliable access to high-quality water every day.

Under the leadership of **Supervisor John Joyce, the Seymour Electric Department** continued its essential work this week to maintain and improve the city's electrical infrastructure. The team's efforts reflect a strong commitment to safety, reliability, and responsive service for residents and businesses alike. Routine vehicle maintenance checks were conducted to ensure all department vehicles remain in top working condition. Weekly readings of reclosures were completed, helping monitor system performance and prevent outages. The crew also responded to multiple locate requests, supporting safe digging and construction activities throughout the city. Fieldwork included dragging brush and trimming primary lines to clear access for equipment. A key alleyway was opened to allow service vehicles to pass through safely. On South Franklin Street, the team repaired pole connections, and on the 400 block of North Cedar Street, they replaced two utility poles to improve service stability. Meter-related tasks were also a priority. The department completed regular meter reads, installed a new service on North Arkansas, and successfully troubleshooted and repaired several malfunctioning meters. Additionally, they disconnected and later reconnected power to Biggs Pizza, ensuring minimal disruption to the local business. Supervisor Joyce and his team continue to work diligently behind the scenes, keeping Seymour's power systems running smoothly and responding promptly to community needs. Their dedication plays a vital role in the city's infrastructure and quality of life.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the steadfast leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, continues to uphold its commitment to public safety and community service through proactive enforcement and responsive policing. This past week, officers made several key arrests that underscore their vigilance and dedication. Among the notable incidents was the arrest of an individual for evading arrest in a motor vehicle, a serious offense that posed a potential risk to public safety. Officers also apprehended a suspect for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle, reinforcing the department's zero-tolerance stance on property crimes. In addition, the department executed a warrant arrest for a parole violation, ensuring that individuals who breach the terms of their release are held accountable. Another significant arrest involved the theft of a firearm, a case that highlights the department's ongoing efforts to keep dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands. Beyond arrests, the department maintained a strong presence in the community through regular traffic enforcement, helping to promote safe driving habits and reduce roadway hazards. Officers also conducted numerous welfare checks, responding to calls from concerned citizens and ensuring the well-being of residents across Seymour. A major milestone this week was the successful closure of a felony theft investigation, the result of diligent detective work and community cooperation. This resolution brings justice to those affected and reflects the department's commitment to thorough and effective policing. Chief Sawyer praised his team for their professionalism and tireless service, noting that the department's success is rooted in a shared dedication to protecting and serving the people of Seymour. As the community continues to evolve, the Seymour Police Department remains a vital force in ensuring safety, trust, and accountability.

Under the direction of **Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, the **Seymour Water Department** continued its vital work this week to maintain and improve the city's water infrastructure. The team tackled a range of tasks that ensured reliable service and addressed both routine and unexpected needs across the community. One of the department's first priorities was filling holes left behind from recent water line repairs, restoring safety and appearance to affected areas. Staff also completed re-reads of water meters to verify usage and accuracy, and handled service disconnections for non-payment, following standard procedures. A major accomplishment this week was troubleshooting and successfully repairing the Whiteside lift station, a key component in the city's wastewater system. The team also responded quickly to damage caused by a customer at one of the city's water wells, repairing the rack to restore functionality. In support of local utility coordination, the department completed locates for SPS (Southwestern Public Service), helping prevent accidental damage during nearby construction and excavation projects. To wrap up the week, staff cleaned and reorganized the Water Department shop, improving efficiency and readiness for future operations. Supervisor Hoyt and his crew continue to demonstrate dedication and professionalism in their work, ensuring Seymour's water systems remain dependable and well-managed for residents and businesses alike.