

Weekly Beat

December 5th, 2025

Stay in the know—your community, your news, your future.



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the City

City Celebrates
Christmas

Departmental
News and Update

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- December 11th, 2025 City of Seymour's Lighted Christmas Parade at 7:00 PM
- December 13th, 2025 Lighted Christmas in the Park 6:00-8:00 PM.
- December 18th, 2025 at 7:00 PM City Council Meeting
- January 15th, 2026 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM City Hall
- February 21st, 2026 Trout Fishing Tournament at Salt Fork Recreational Facility: 9:00-11:00 AM.
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

City of Seymour Annual Staff Christmas Party – A Celebration of Excellence



In the photos above, Mayor Mark McCord, City Council members, and staff share a meal together as they celebrate a year of accomplishments and honor the dedicated employees who make a meaningful difference in our community every day.

The holiday season shone brightly in Seymour as the City Council, Mayor McCord, and dedicated City Staff gathered at the Salt Fork Golf Course for the Annual Staff Christmas Party. This cherished tradition brought together leaders and employees to celebrate excellence, camaraderie, and the accomplishments achieved throughout the year — all wrapped in the joyful spirit of Christmas.

The evening began with a delicious meal prepared by Jason and Tereas Ermis, featuring savory chicken and beef fajitas. Sharing food around the table was more than just dinner — it was a moment of fellowship, laughter, and gratitude for the teamwork that sustains the city.

After the meal, the celebration turned toward recognizing the hard work and dedication of the staff. Awards were presented to highlight outstanding contributions, reminding everyone that the city's success is built on the commitment of its people.

With recognitions complete, the evening transitioned into lively Christmas-themed games. In the spirit of friendly competition, participants battled for festive prizes, and those who triumphed were honored with awards of their own. The laughter and cheer echoed the joy of the season, reinforcing the bonds that make the City of Seymour a true community.

The Annual Staff Christmas Party is not just about enjoying a great meal or playing a few games. It is about coming together to celebrate excellence, teamwork, and the accomplishments we have achieved as a city. In the glow of Christmas lights and the warmth of fellowship, Seymour once again proved that its strength lies in unity and shared purpose.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

During this reporting period, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** carried out a wide range of duties to ensure public safety and animal welfare within the community. Officer Shumate responded to multiple incidents involving deceased animals, removing one raccoon and one cat from local roadways. He also picked up two stray dogs, both of which were successfully returned to their owners on the same day. In addition, he met with two separate citizens regarding complaints of dogs killing neighboring cats, addressing the concerns and providing guidance on responsible pet ownership. Further, Officer Shumate captured and removed three raccoons, two skunks, and one cat from various locations in town. His efforts helped mitigate potential health and safety risks associated with these animals. Over the course of the week, he responded to a total of nine animal-related calls, demonstrating his continued commitment to serving the community and maintaining a safe environment for residents and their pets.

The **Street Department**, under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, continued progress this week on its ambitious goal of removing another dilapidated property from the city. After successfully completing demolition work on the properties located along North East Street, the crew has now relocated to 208 North Tackitt. This particular structure is significantly larger and is expected to take approximately two to three weeks to complete, depending on the availability of roll-offs provided by Waste Connections.

In addition to demolition efforts, the department has been working to diagnose persistent mechanical issues with its skid steer. Despite repeated attempts to resolve the problem, the equipment continues to experience unrelenting issues. Because the skid steer is imperative to the daily operations of the Street Department, the City has decided to move forward with soliciting bids for a replacement unit. This step will ensure that the department can continue to operate efficiently and meet its goals without interruption. Overall, the Street Department remains committed to improving the community by removing unsafe structures and maintaining essential equipment. Supervisor Kolacek and his team continue to demonstrate resilience and dedication in the face of challenges, ensuring steady progress toward their objectives.

The **Reverse Osmosis Plant**, under the supervision of John Davis, continued its vital role in providing safe and reliable water to the community. Over the past week, the plant produced 3.8 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 carefully monitored chlorine residuals across town to ensure water quality standards were consistently met. They also tracked the amount of wastewater discharged from the plant, maintaining compliance with environmental requirements. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to monitor performance and efficiency, and the team completed the end-of-month reports required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). In addition to these routine responsibilities, operators changed the pre-filters for one of the primary RO trains, ensuring continued effectiveness of the treatment process. This week's work reflects the dedication of the RO Plant staff to maintaining high-quality water service, meeting regulatory obligations, and proactively managing the city's water infrastructure for the benefit of all residents.

During this reporting period, the **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, carried out a variety of tasks to maintain reliable service and support community needs. The team completed its regular vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all department vehicles remain safe and operational. Weekly readings of reclosures were performed to monitor system performance, and locates were conducted for customers requiring identification of underground utilities. The department also inspected a new service and installed a new meter on South Stratton. In preparation for the holiday season, Christmas decorations were repaired and reorganized where needed. An unexpected issue occurred when a phone line was cut by SPS, which triggered the city sirens; the department responded promptly by turning off all power to the sirens after the short. Capacitors were taken offline as part of system adjustments, power was disconnected on East Morris Street as required, and service was repaired and restored on Hill Drive. Overall, the Electric Department balanced routine maintenance, customer service, and emergency response effectively this week, ensuring both reliability of the electrical system and support for community projects.

The City of Seymour Police Department, under the supervision of Chief Bryce Sawyer, has been actively engaged in a wide range of law enforcement and community service efforts. Their recent work reflects a strong commitment to public safety, crime prevention, and community outreach. In recent weeks, officers carried out multiple drug arrests that removed dangerous substances from the community and held offenders accountable. As part of ongoing investigations, the department also executed a search warrant that led to the seizure of evidence and further disrupted criminal activity. Routine traffic enforcement was conducted to ensure roadway safety, with citations and warnings issued to promote compliance with traffic laws and reduce the risk of accidents. The department also assisted the Texas Department of Public Safety in responding to a crash involving a suspected intoxicated driver. Their support contributed to the safe arrest of the individual and the protection of all involved. Beyond enforcement, Seymour officers have continued to prioritize community engagement. They visited local schools to build positive relationships with students, promote safety awareness, and encourage trust between youth and law enforcement. Officers also responded to several welfare check requests, ensuring the well-being of residents in need and highlighting the compassionate side of policing. Through these combined efforts, the Seymour Police Department continues to balance enforcement with community care. From tackling drug-related crime to engaging with students and assisting in emergencies, Chief Bryce Sawyer and his team remain dedicated to protecting and serving the citizens of Seymour.

The **Water Department**, under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, carried out a wide range of important tasks this week to maintain infrastructure, support utility partners, and prepare for future improvements to the city's water system. On California Street, crews repaired sewer lines after a leak developed during boring operations by SPS. Although the sewer line was not struck, it began leaking on its own and required immediate repair. The department also worked closely with Syntrio, Atmos, SPS, and TxDOT to diagnose and resolve issues that arose during the boring process as new gas lines were installed. In preparation for upcoming projects, the department obtained quotes for water well line pipe. A new well is scheduled to come online soon, and the Water Department will connect it to the Compress Road line, which will then feed into the Reverse Osmosis Plant to strengthen the city's water supply. Quotes were also gathered for installing plugs at lift stations to allow generator use during power outages. This improvement will ensure that lift stations remain operational when electricity is unavailable, enhancing system reliability. Additional work included covering holes and performing locates to assist with ongoing utility projects and ensure safe excavation practices. Overall, the Water Department demonstrated its commitment to maintaining critical infrastructure, collaborating with utility partners, and planning for long-term improvements. By addressing immediate repairs, supporting new installations, and preparing for future upgrades, the department continues to safeguard the city's water and sewer systems for the benefit of all residents.