

Weekly Beat

January 30th, 2026

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News from the City

Service Above Self
Department
Services and
Progress

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- February 16th, 2026 President's Day: City Hall Closed
- February 19th, 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.
- March 19th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall. 7:00 PM
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Service Above the Storm: City of Seymour Staff Stand Strong for Our Community



Pictured above, the Street Department began work early Monday morning, clearing safe pathways throughout town—including the ISD, banks, post office, and City Hall—so residents could conduct their daily business safely. This effort reflects the city’s commitment to serving the community and ensuring the safety and accessibility of our town for everyone.

SEYMOUR – During the recent snow and ice storm, the City of Seymour’s dedicated employees worked tirelessly to protect the safety of life and property for all residents. While the weather created hazardous conditions across the community, city staff stepped up around the clock, demonstrating professionalism, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Throughout the weekend, Seymour Police Department Chief Bryce Sawyer and his team remained on active patrol, ensuring safe travel for those who had no choice but to be on the roads. Officers assisted stranded motorists, helped pull out stuck vehicles, and provided a reassuring presence during dangerous conditions. Their continued vigilance played a critical role in keeping the community safe during the storm. The Street Department, under the leadership of Ronnie Kolacek, was equally instrumental in the city’s response. Crews worked through the weekend and into the early hours, moving significant amounts of snow and ice from streets, City Hall, and business areas so residents could safely access essential services. Their efforts ensured that businesses could reopen, city operations could resume, and the community could return to normal as quickly as possible. The City of Seymour also extends its appreciation to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for its assistance before and during the storm. TxDOT crews helped the city prepare in advance of the cold weather and later assisted with snow and ice removal along Nevada Street and other areas throughout town. District TxDOT Supervisor Craig Hostas exemplified true teamwork, working alongside city staff to support residents and help make Seymour a safer place for everyone. Behind the scenes, the city’s water system was kept running thanks to extraordinary dedication at the RO plant. John Davis worked with minimal rest—sleeping only about six hours over nearly three days—to ensure the plant remained operational and residents continued to have water. When a frozen transducer forced portions of the plant to be operated manually, Water Department Supervisor Chase Hoyt assisted John Davis in resolving the issue. During this time, the plant required constant monitoring, with pumps being manually activated every hour, day and night. After multiple days of effort, the transducer was successfully thawed and the system was returned to full automation. The City of Seymour is deeply grateful for the sacrifice, resilience, and hard work of its employees and partners. Their combined efforts during this winter storm reflect a shared commitment to serving the community and ensuring that Seymour remains a safe and dependable place to live—no matter the conditions.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

The City of Seymour would like to provide residents with a weekly update on the work of **Animal Control Officer** Rick Shumate, who continues to serve the community with professionalism and dedication. During this past week, Officer Shumate successfully released one dog that had been in quarantine for ten days following a reported bite incident. The animal completed the required quarantine period in compliance with applicable regulations and was released accordingly. Officer Shumate responded to a total of seven animal-related calls throughout the week. During these calls, one pit bulldog was picked up, but the situation was resolved quickly, and the dog was released back to its owner within a short period of time. The City appreciates Officer Shumate's continued efforts to ensure public safety, enforce animal-related ordinances, and handle each situation responsibly and efficiently. His work plays an important role in maintaining a safe and compassionate community for both residents and animals.

Under the leadership of **Street Superintendent** Ronnie Kolacek, the City of Seymour Street Department worked tirelessly throughout last week's winter weather event to keep streets safe and accessible for the community. Snow removal operations began Saturday afternoon, with crews focusing on clearing snow from key intersections along Highway 82. Early Monday morning, the department continued efforts by removing snow in front of City Hall, then expanded operations throughout the city. Throughout the week, Street Department crews consistently worked across Seymour, including areas around local schools, the hospital, downtown, and residential streets. Equipment utilized during the operation included two skid steers, a maintainer, and a snow plow. Despite experiencing mechanical issues during the week, the department remained committed to the task at hand and continued operations without interruption. Their dedication and persistence played a critical role in improving road conditions and keeping the community safer during the winter weather. The City of Seymour appreciates the hard work and commitment of the Street Department and Superintendent Kolacek during this challenging weather event.

The City of Seymour recognizes the dedication and hard work of **Reverse Osmosis Water Plant Operator** John Davis during a demanding week following severe winter weather. Over the past week, the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Plant produced 5.3 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This production represents a 43 percent increase compared to the week prior to the severe winter storm, demonstrating the plant's capacity and reliability during periods of heightened demand. Throughout the week, plant operators closely monitored chlorine residuals across the distribution system, tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, and recorded daily operational readings on the primary RO units. In addition, pre-filters were replaced in one of the primary RO treatment trains to ensure continued efficiency and water quality. Mr. Davis worked throughout the weekend to ensure the safe and effective operation of the RO plant, providing residents with confidence that Seymour's water supply remains secure and dependable. His commitment reflects the City's dedication to maintaining high standards of water treatment and protecting public health, even during challenging conditions.

The City of Seymour would like to recognize the dedication and professionalism of the **Seymour Police Department**, operating under the leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, for their continued commitment to public safety and community service. Throughout the week, officers focused their efforts on ensuring the safety and well-being of the community, particularly during challenging weather conditions. Seymour police officers responded to numerous calls involving stranded motorists, providing assistance to residents and travelers alike. In addition, officers actively monitored traffic conditions to promote safe travel and reduce the risk of accidents. Beyond enforcement, the department remained visible and accessible, assisting community members whenever and wherever help was needed. This proactive and service-oriented approach reflects the department's dedication to protecting lives and supporting the community during times of need. The City of Seymour is grateful for the hard work and unwavering commitment of Chief Sawyer and the Seymour Police Department. Their presence and responsiveness throughout the week helped ensure that residents felt supported, safe, and cared for during difficult conditions.

The City of Seymour would like to recognize the continued hard work of the Electric Department, operating under the direct supervision of Electric Superintendent John Joyce, during a challenging week of winter weather. Throughout the week, department staff conducted regular vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all equipment remained reliable and ready for service. They completed weekly readings of reclosers, performed required locates, and carried out routine meter reads across the city. To maintain emergency readiness during the winter conditions, crews cleared snow around the electric shop, allowing trucks to leave quickly if called out for service. In addition, all three-phase meters were inspected, and a broken street light on Park Street was repaired. The department also updated and replaced meters at multiple locations throughout the city, including East McLain, Stadium Drive, East Lincoln Street, South Foley Street, South Cedar Street, and East Reiman Street. Electric staff further assisted the Water Department with a water leak located outside the electric shop. Despite extremely cold temperatures and significant snow, sleet, and ice, the City's electric infrastructure remained secure and operational throughout the week. This performance reflects the effective leadership of Superintendent Joyce and the dedication and reliability of the Electric Department, ensuring that essential services continue safely and efficiently for the community.

The City of Seymour would like to recognize the continued efforts of the **Water Department**, operating under the supervision of Water Superintendent Chase Hoyt, during a week marked by freezing temperatures and challenging weather conditions. Throughout the week, Water Department crews responded to and repaired a 2-inch water leak on Morris Street, as well as a 2-inch leak near the electric barn, helping to prevent further water loss and service disruption. Staff also handled multiple water shut-offs related to freeze damage, assisting residents who experienced leaks and required their water service to be temporarily turned off. In addition to field work, department personnel took time to organize the water department shop, improving efficiency and readiness for future response needs. Crews also worked diligently to troubleshoot new issues at both the water plant and the wastewater plant caused by freezing weather. These issues were successfully resolved, allowing both systems to remain fully operational. Despite the extreme cold, the Water Department's quick response and problem-solving ensured that critical water and wastewater services continued uninterrupted for the community. This work reflects the department's dedication and the effective leadership of Supervisor Hoyt in maintaining essential infrastructure during adverse conditions.

United in the Cold: City Departments Working Together to Keep Seymour Safe and Running



Jay Smith, pictured above, works neck deep in frigid conditions repairing a water leak with assistance from the Water Department, demonstrating dedication to keeping city services running.



Pictured above, Shawn Sanchez operates a snowplow while clearing snow from Cedar Street.



Pictured above, Electric Department employee Johnathon Olinger works from the bucket repairing a connection in frigid temperatures, while Gareth Hons stands below monitoring the area to ensure safety.