

Weekly Beat

January 9th, 2026

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- January 15th, 2026 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM City Hall
- 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.
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Supervisor Hoyt Water Department Strengthens Team with New Hires



Pictured from left to right are Jared Hopper and Jay Smith, the newest employees of the City of Seymour Water Department.

Seymour, Texas-- The City of Seymour Water Department continues to build a strong, dependable workforce with the addition of two outstanding employees who are already making a positive impact on the community. Under the leadership of Water Department Supervisor Chase Hoyt, the department has welcomed Jared Hopper and Jay Smith to join Jake Donnel, completing a highly productive and dedicated team focused on delivering safe, high-quality water to Seymour residents every day.

Jared Hopper brings valuable experience and a strong work ethic to the Water Department. A native of Crowell, Texas, Hopper graduated from Crowell High School in 2004. Prior to joining the City of Seymour, he worked for PH Pros under Robert Wells in Floydada, Texas, where he served as an irrigation technician. Hopper sees a strong alignment between his previous work and his current role, noting that the skills and knowledge he gained translate well into the field of water utilities.

Supervisor Chase Hoyt shared his confidence in the newest team member, stating that Hopper has already proven to be a major asset to the department. "Jared has demonstrated a strong work ethic from the start and fits in well with our team," Hoyt said. When asked what he enjoys most about working for the City of Seymour, Hopper emphasized the people and the variety of the job, sharing that working with a great team and experiencing something new each day keeps the work engaging, as no two days are ever the same.

Jay Smith also brings a wealth of experience and professionalism to the Water Department. Smith began working with the City of Seymour in October 2025 and has quickly become a tremendous asset to the department. He graduated from Hillcrest Christian School in May of 1992 and was previously employed as a manager with AT&T in Dallas before relocating to Seymour. His background in leadership and management has translated seamlessly into his role with the city.

Smith shared that his work with the Water Department has been both meaningful and rewarding. "Working for the Seymour Water Department is fulfilling because of the consistent array of unexpected tasks and challenges," Smith said. Since joining the team, he has demonstrated integrity, teamwork, and a strong commitment to excellence, making a difference in the department's daily operations and in the services provided to the community.

The City of Seymour proudly welcomes Jared Hopper and Jay Smith to the Water Department team and encourages community members to make them feel welcome and show appreciation for their dedication and service. Together with Supervisor Chase Hoyt and Jake Donnel, these employees form an invaluable team committed to improving the quality of life for Seymour citizens by ensuring reliable, high-quality water service every day.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

During the reporting period, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** responded to a wide range of animal-related calls and concerns throughout the City. Officer Shumate received a total of sixteen animal-related calls and responded promptly to each situation. During this time, seven dogs were picked up, with five dogs later released. Currently, one dog remains in the City pound. Animal Control also responded to a dog bite incident. At this time, the dog involved is not in quarantine. In addition to domestic animal calls, Officer Shumate handled several wildlife situations. These included the relocation of one possum, one raccoon, and three cats. A rattlesnake was safely removed from the RO Plant, and one sick skunk was removed to protect public safety. Animal Control staff also administered two rabies vaccinations to dogs housed in the City pound and issued one animal permit for a duck and a chicken. Throughout the reporting period, multiple deceased animals were removed from City streets, helping maintain public health and cleanliness. Animal Control continues to play a vital role in protecting public safety, ensuring animal welfare, and responding to community concerns in a timely and professional manner.

During the past week, the **Street Department** continued its efforts to improve the appearance, safety, and functionality of city properties under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek. Department crews completed the cleanup of a dilapidated property located on Tackitt Street. This project involved the removal of debris and unsafe materials, helping to improve the condition of the property and enhance the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, a department crew spent the majority of the week working at the Seymour Municipal Airport. This cleanup effort included removing debris that remained scattered throughout the airport grounds, addressing safety concerns, and cleaning up a cinder block hangar. Crews also filled in holes across the area to prevent equipment damage and allow the grounds to be safely and efficiently mowed moving forward. The Street Department remains committed to maintaining City properties and supporting community safety through ongoing cleanup and maintenance projects.

During the past week, the **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant** continued to operate efficiently and in compliance with regulatory requirements under the supervision of Plant Supervisor John Davis. Over the course of the week, the RO Plant produced approximately 4.1 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation to meet customer demand. Plant operators carried out routine monitoring and operational duties to ensure water quality and system reliability. These activities included monitoring chlorine residuals throughout the City, tracking the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, and taking daily operational readings on the primary RO units. These readings are critical for maintaining system performance and identifying potential issues early. In addition to daily operations, staff completed required regulatory reporting. This included the preparation and submission of end-of-month reports mandated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as well as the completion and filing of the Disinfectant Level Quarterly Operating Report. Maintenance activities were also performed during the week, including changing the pre-filters in one of the primary RO trains to maintain optimal filtration efficiency and support consistent water quality. The RO Plant staff remains committed to providing safe, reliable drinking water while maintaining compliance with all applicable regulatory standards.

This week, the **Electric Department**, under the direct supervision of John Joyce, continued its ongoing efforts to provide safe and reliable electrical service to the community while supporting city operations and infrastructure projects. Department staff conducted routine maintenance on all vehicles to ensure they remain safe and operational and performed weekly readings of reclosures to monitor system performance and identify potential issues proactively. The team also completed multiple utility locates to support safe construction and maintenance work throughout the city and removed Christmas decorations from city streets and facilities following the holiday season. In addition, the department assisted with building a city carport and installed a disconnect for the City Hall siren, improving system accessibility and safety. During the week, a light pole on W. California Street was replaced, restoring reliable street lighting, and power was disconnected, tested, and reconnected at the Chicken E facility to ensure safe electrical service during maintenance. Finally, a broken service line on E. Reiman Street was replaced, restoring electrical service to the affected property. Through these efforts, the Electric Department continues to demonstrate its commitment to the residents of Seymour by maintaining reliable electrical service, supporting city projects, and enhancing public safety throughout the community.

During the past week, the **Seymour Police Department** continued its commitment to protecting public safety and serving the community through proactive enforcement and responsive service. Under the leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, officers addressed a wide range of calls and situations throughout the city. Officers conducted multiple traffic enforcement activities aimed at promoting roadway safety and reducing hazardous driving behaviors. These efforts focused on maintaining compliance with traffic laws and ensuring the safety of motorists and pedestrians alike. The department also successfully located a missing elderly individual, demonstrating effective coordination, timely response, and dedication to safeguarding vulnerable members of the community. Throughout the week, officers performed numerous welfare checks in response to citizen concerns, ensuring the well-being of residents and providing assistance when needed. The department responded to multiple disturbance calls, working to de-escalate situations and restore order while maintaining a professional and calm presence. Additionally, officers provided motorist assistance on several occasions, helping stranded or disabled drivers and contributing to overall public safety. The Seymour Police Department also mediated several civil disputes, offering guidance and conflict resolution to help citizens resolve issues peacefully without further escalation. The Seymour Police Department remains committed to proactive policing, community engagement, and maintaining a safe environment for all residents under the continued leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer.

During the past week, the **Water Department** continued to address infrastructure needs and provide reliable service to the community under the supervision of Chase Hoyt. Department crews repaired a collapsed sewer line located behind the Catholic Church after an SPS truck drove down the alley and caused the ground to sink. The repair restored proper function to the sewer system and helped prevent further damage to the area. Crews also filled multiple holes resulting from recent water leak repairs, improving safety and restoring affected areas. In addition, the department rodded a sewer line on Holman Street to clear blockages and maintain proper flow. Water Department staff completed utility locates throughout the city to support ongoing projects and prevent damage to underground infrastructure. The department also handled routine water turn-offs as needed. Additionally, the department began training and working with its newest team member, Jared Hopper, ensuring he is properly oriented and prepared to support daily operations. The Water Department remains committed to maintaining the City's water and sewer systems while providing dependable service to residents.

