

Weekly Beat

February 13th, 2026

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City Celebrates
Success

Department
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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 13th, 2026 Spring Break City Holiday
- March 19th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall. 7:00 PM
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

City of Seymour Celebrates Major Week of Progress and Milestones

The City of Seymour marked a highly successful and productive week, achieving several significant milestones that demonstrate the community's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, infrastructure improvement, and quality of life for its citizens.

Major Financial Milestone Reached

This week, the City completed all bank reconciliations and submitted the information to the City's auditor, Paul Fleming. This accomplishment is especially noteworthy given that the City had previously been three years behind on its annual audits.

The timing of this progress is critical. During the most recent legislative session, the Texas Legislature enacted new requirements mandating that municipalities complete their annual financial audits by the end of March 2026. Under the new law, cities that fail to meet this deadline could face penalties, including restrictions that would prevent adopting a property tax rate above the "no-new-revenue" rate. In simple terms, this legislation is intended to ensure timely financial reporting and transparency by tying audit compliance to local tax-setting authority.

By submitting all necessary reconciliation data now, the City has provided the auditor with sufficient time to complete the audit and place it on the March 2026 City Council agenda for consideration and approval. With this step completed, Seymour will be fully current on all audits and will continue preparing proactively for the March 2027 audit cycle.

Ongoing Efforts to Improve Neighborhoods

In addition to financial progress, the City continued its work this week addressing dilapidated and unsafe properties. These efforts represent another milestone in enhancing the community's appearance and safety. Removing blight not only improves neighborhood aesthetics but also supports higher property values and a better quality of life for all residents.

Water Department Expansion Enhances Operations and Appearance

The Water Department also made notable progress by adding a fenced yard area adjacent to its facility. This improvement will:

Enhance the visual appearance of the surrounding neighborhood

Protect equipment from theft and vandalism

Provide additional storage space for operational needs

Importantly, the fenced addition is designed to complement the neighborhood rather than detract from it, balancing operational efficiency with community aesthetics.

Golf Course Irrigation System Nearing Completion

At the City's golf course, staff members Shawn Sanchez and Sean Weisner have continued making substantial progress on the sprinkler irrigation system. Their work is bringing the entire watering system closer to full automation.

Once fully operational, the system will provide significant cost savings by allowing irrigation to occur overnight without staff present. This will free daytime hours for mowing, maintenance, and course cleanup, improving overall course conditions and efficiency.

Looking Ahead

These collective accomplishments reflect the City's ongoing dedication to strong financial stewardship, improved infrastructure, and a safer, more attractive community. From catching up on critical audits to revitalizing properties and upgrading facilities, the City of Seymour continues to focus on making measurable improvements that enhance the daily lives of its citizens.

City officials emphasized that this week's successes are part of a broader, long-term commitment to responsible governance and continuous improvement. As these initiatives move forward, residents can expect continued progress aimed at strengthening the community and improving the quality of life for everyone who calls Seymour home.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate provided extensive animal control services for the City of Seymour this week, addressing a wide range of wildlife and domestic animal issues while responding promptly to citizen concerns. During the week, Officer Shumate picked up and relocated two squirrels, six raccoons, five skunks, three possums, and three cats, helping to reduce nuisance wildlife activity and prevent potential damage to property and risks to public health. In addition, he responded to domestic animal concerns by picking up three dogs, with one dog currently remaining in the city pound under supervision. Officer Shumate also addressed feral hog activity on land near the RO plant, where four wild hogs were successfully captured and sold. This action helped protect city infrastructure and surrounding areas from damage often caused by feral hog populations. Throughout the week, he received and responded to nine animal-related calls from residents, demonstrating a continued commitment to public safety, responsible animal management, and responsive customer service. His ongoing efforts play a critical role in maintaining safer neighborhoods, reducing wildlife conflicts, and supporting the overall quality of life for citizens across the community.

The **Street Department**, under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, completed a productive week focused on equipment maintenance, downtown improvements, neighborhood cleanup, and roadway enhancements for the City of Seymour. Throughout the week, staff worked on multiple department vehicles to ensure they remain in safe and reliable operating condition, which is essential for maintaining efficient daily operations and timely response to work orders across the city. Crews also assisted with downtown improvements by relocating a concrete flower bed to accommodate a new feature planned by the Helping Hands Center. This coordinated effort supports ongoing beautification and revitalization initiatives within the downtown area while allowing community partners to enhance public spaces for residents and visitors. In addition, the department continued cleanup efforts on dilapidated properties, contributing to safer neighborhoods and improving the overall appearance of the community. Removing debris and addressing blighted areas helps reduce hazards and promotes a more attractive environment for citizens. The Street Department also completed a road improvement project in the area off Oak Street and Pecan Street. This work addressed roadway conditions to improve drivability, enhance safety, and extend the useful life of the street infrastructure. These efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to maintaining reliable transportation routes and supporting the City's goal of improving quality of life for all residents.

Over the past week, the **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**, under the supervision of John Davis, produced 4.3 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This production ensured a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water for both municipal and regional customers.

During routine operations, plant operators closely monitored chlorine residuals throughout the city, tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, and recorded daily readings on the primary RO units to ensure all systems were functioning efficiently. Operators also collected lab samples from both raw water and RO permeate to verify the effectiveness of treatment processes and maintain compliance with regulatory standards. In addition to routine monitoring, staff performed maintenance and repairs to support ongoing operations. This included changing the prefilters in one of the primary RO trains, clearing a blockage in a flow sensor for RO permeate, and repairing a malfunction in the blend valve controller. These actions ensured the plant continued operating efficiently and that water quality and system reliability were maintained. Overall, the RO Plant's efforts over the week demonstrate a strong commitment to providing safe, reliable, and high-quality water to the community while maintaining and improving the operational performance of critical treatment infrastructure.

The City of Seymour **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, completed a productive week of maintenance, upgrades, and service operations to ensure reliable electric service across the community. This week, the department replaced a utility pole and crossarm on the 200 block of W. Custer, strengthening the distribution system in that area. Staff also changed out a transformer and lightning arrester behind the United facility to improve reliability and protect the system from potential lightning damage. The department conducted planned service work, including taking a service down on E. Belknap and disconnecting and reconnecting service at 611 W. Nevada, ensuring safe and efficient operations for customers. Additionally, the Electric Department updated and replaced lighting in the pump house at the Reverse Osmosis Plant, enhancing both safety and functionality for water treatment operations. These activities reflect the department's ongoing commitment to maintaining reliable infrastructure, supporting city facilities, and providing safe and continuous electrical service to residents and municipal operations.

Over the past week, the **Seymour Police Department**, under the supervision of Bryce Sawyer, continued its commitment to public safety through a variety of proactive and responsive activities. Officers conducted traffic enforcement throughout the city, focusing on maintaining safe roadways and encouraging compliance with traffic laws to protect residents and visitors alike. Department personnel responded to multiple calls for service, addressing a range of public safety concerns and providing timely assistance to citizens. Officers also conducted regular property checks, helping deter criminal activity and ensuring the security of both public and private properties. In addition to routine patrol duties, the department carried out several follow-up investigations, working to resolve ongoing cases and ensure that all incidents were thoroughly documented and addressed. Officers also conducted school visits, reinforcing safety awareness, community engagement, and positive interactions between law enforcement and students. Through these combined efforts, the Seymour Police Department continues to uphold public safety, maintain community trust, and foster a secure and welcoming environment for all citizens.

The City of Seymour **Water Department**, under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, had a productive week focused on maintaining and improving the city's water and sewer infrastructure. Staff completed rodder operations on the sewer lines along Lincoln Street and on Main Street, ensuring proper flow and addressing any blockages that could impact service. The department also conducted multiple utility locates and provided support to SPS to prevent damage to city infrastructure during outside construction or utility work. This proactive approach safeguards water and sewer lines and minimizes potential disruptions to service. In addition, the team spent time troubleshooting several issues at the sewer plant, addressing operational challenges to maintain efficient and reliable treatment processes. These efforts reflect the department's ongoing commitment to ensuring safe, effective, and continuous water and sewer services for the community. Staff continue to prioritize both preventative maintenance and responsive troubleshooting, reinforcing the City's goal of maintaining high-quality utility infrastructure and protecting public health.

