

Weekly Beat

February 6th, 2026

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News from the City

New Demolitions
Scheduled

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

West McLain and N. East Property Cleared for Eradication



Pictured above, the Street Department and Electric Department work together to clean up brush so that another dilapidated property can be taken down making our community cleaner, safer, and more aesthetically pleasing improving the quality of life of every citizen. Johnathon Olinger is operating a bucket truck to safely trim and remove an overgrown tree..

SEYMOUR, TX- The City's ongoing efforts to improve neighborhood conditions and enhance community pride continue to gain momentum, with two additional cleanup projects now officially underway. Properties located on North East Street and West McLain Street, long considered eyesores, are the latest to be addressed as part of the City's broader remediation initiative.

Both properties had fallen into severe disrepair and posed persistent concerns for nearby residents. Overgrown brush, structural deterioration, and prolonged neglect made them clear candidates for remediation. However, as with all such actions, the City followed a deliberate and legally required process. After months of paperwork, notifications, and adherence to established legal procedures, the City was finally in a position to move forward.

Initial cleanup work began recently, led by Mr. Kolacek and his team, with assistance from the Electric Department. Crews focused first on clearing heavy brush and debris to allow access to the sites. This preparatory work is a critical step, enabling the Street Department to safely bring in heavy equipment, including a bulldozer, to proceed with demolition of the deteriorated structures.

City officials emphasized that the benefits of cleaning up these properties extend well beyond their physical removal. Eliminating unsafe and unsightly structures improves quality of life for neighboring residents, enhances overall community appearance, and helps restore pride in affected neighborhoods. Just as importantly, these efforts create new opportunities for redevelopment, opening the door for future residential or economic investment on properties that had long been considered unusable.

The cleanup of the North East Street and West McLain Street properties represents continued progress toward the City's long-term goal of addressing similar problem sites. Officials noted that the City will remain proactive in identifying additional properties in need of remediation while also seeking opportunities that support responsible growth and economic development. As these projects move forward, City leaders reaffirmed their commitment to building safer, cleaner neighborhoods and ensuring that long-neglected properties no longer hinder the community's future.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

During this reporting period, **Animal Control Officer** Rick Shumate responded to a variety of animal-related calls and completed several enforcement and control activities throughout the City. This week, Officer Shumate successfully removed one skunk, two raccoons, and two possums from within city limits. In addition, three hogs were trapped at the RO Plant and subsequently sold, generating \$36.00 in revenue for the City. Officer Shumate also handled five dog-related cases. Of these, four dogs were released to their owners. One dog remains in the City pound and will need to be adopted out. The remaining dog received a rabies vaccination administered by Dr. Tucker, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements. Overall, Officer Shumate responded to ten (10) animal-related service calls during the week. His continued efforts help protect public health, ensure animal welfare, and maintain safety throughout the community.

Under the leadership of Ronnie Kolacek, the **Street Department** made significant progress on multiple projects this week that continue to improve safety, appearance, and infrastructure throughout the City. For several days, the department focused on cleaning up a property on North East Street that is scheduled for demolition. This work included clearing debris and preparing the site for upcoming demolition activities. At the same time, Mr. Kolacek and his team began demolition efforts on a second property located on West McLain Street, advancing the City's ongoing nuisance abatement and property remediation efforts. In addition to property-related work, the department addressed numerous potholes across town as the City continues to recover from recent ice and snow events. Crews also graded multiple roads that had become rough and uneven due to winter weather conditions, improving drivability and safety for residents. The Street Department also devoted time to equipment maintenance and repairs. The motor grader required troubleshooting due to starting issues, and the bulldozer underwent necessary repairs before being returned to service. Ensuring equipment reliability remains a priority to support daily operations. Overall, the Street Department continues to make a positive and visible impact throughout the community through consistent effort, effective leadership, and a commitment to maintaining City infrastructure.

During the past week, under the supervision of **RO Plant Operator** John Davis, the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant produced 4.9 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to the City of Seymour and Baylor Water Supply Corporation to meet system demand. Throughout the week, plant operations staff conducted routine monitoring and compliance activities essential to maintaining water quality and regulatory standards. Operators monitored chlorine residual levels at multiple locations throughout the City to ensure proper disinfection and public safety. In addition, the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant was tracked and documented as required. Daily operational checks were completed on the primary RO units, including system readings to verify efficient and consistent performance. Staff also completed end-of-month reports required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), ensuring continued regulatory compliance. Chemical treatment processes were maintained through titration and adjustment of the antiscalant chemical feed, supporting membrane protection and long-term system reliability. Quality control (QC) checks were also performed on the finished water instrument panel to verify accuracy and proper system operation prior to distribution. Overall, the RO Plant continues to operate efficiently and in compliance with all applicable standards, with Mr. Davis providing consistent oversight and attention to detail in daily plant operations.

During the past week, the **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, completed a wide range of operational, maintenance, and infrastructure improvement activities to support reliable electrical service throughout the City. Routine responsibilities included weekly vehicle maintenance inspections to ensure fleet readiness and safety, as well as weekly readings of reclosers to monitor system performance and reliability. Staff also responded to utility locate requests, supporting safe excavation activities across the community. The department completed several field projects and service upgrades, including changing out and updating two electric meters located in the 400 block of West Nevada Street and on South Tackitt Street. Crews also trimmed trees along West McLain Street to support a scheduled house demolition and reduce potential hazards near power lines. Infrastructure improvements included replacing a utility pole on East Bennett Street, installing a new pole and electrical service on 12th Street, and reinstalling power along North Foley Street. Crews also dragged brush to maintain right-of-way areas and ensure safe access. Technical work continued with staff working on feeder 20 alongside a technician to address system needs and enhance performance. Additionally, the department repaired a broken streetlight on Alma Lane and changed out exterior lighting at the RO Plant, improving visibility and operational safety at that facility. Overall, the Electric Department continues to make steady progress in maintaining system reliability, improving infrastructure, and responding to both routine and special project needs throughout the City.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, continues to maintain a strong presence throughout the City to ensure public safety. This week, officers conducted traffic enforcement across town, focusing on speed compliance and safe driving practices to help keep streets safe for all residents. Department personnel also visited local schools, fostering positive interactions with students and staff. In addition, officers responded to a variety of calls for service, addressing both routine and emergency situations promptly and efficiently. The department completed several follow-up investigations to ensure that ongoing cases are properly documented and resolved, and criminal trespass notices were served where necessary to protect private property and maintain order within the community. The Seymour Police Department remains committed to protecting and serving all residents, encouraging community engagement, and ensuring that the City remains a safe and secure place to live.

During the past week, the **Water Department** remained actively engaged in addressing system maintenance needs, service requests, and infrastructure repairs throughout the city. Crews repaired a 1.5-inch water main leak located in front of the elementary school, preventing further water loss and potential service disruptions in the area. In addition, a 1-inch service line leak behind City Hall was identified and repaired promptly. The department also installed a new 1-inch water tap on 12th Street to support service expansion and meet customer needs. Multiple service shutoffs were conducted for non-payment, in accordance with City policy, as well as additional shutoffs required to isolate leaks for repair purposes. On the wastewater side, crews repaired a sewer line on Custer Street, restoring proper function and preventing further issues. Throughout the week, staff completed multiple customer locate requests, ensuring safe excavation and protecting underground utilities. Overall, the Water Department continues to respond efficiently to system issues while maintaining service reliability and supporting customer needs across the community.