

Weekly Beat

March 6th, 2026

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



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the City

Electric Powering
Up

Department
Services and
Progress

Sanchez Keep
Parks Shining

Service Awards

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- March 13th, 2026 Spring Break City Holiday
- March 19th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall. 7:00 PM
- March 20th, 2026 at City Hall Nita Hon's Retirement Reception: 1:00-3:00 PM
- April 17th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 PM
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Transformer Failure Behind City Hall Promptly Addressed by Electric Department

Seymour, Texas: The City of Seymour Electric Department, under the supervision of John Joyce, recently demonstrated its commitment to reliable service and rapid response when a malfunctioning transformer caused a power outage along Washington Street in the downtown area. Earlier this week, the department received reports of a transformer emitting smoke behind the downtown corridor. Shortly thereafter, electricity was interrupted along portions of Washington Street, affecting businesses and residents in the area. Upon receiving the call, Mr. Joyce and his team responded immediately to assess the situation and secure the area. Electric Department crews worked diligently throughout the afternoon to address the issue. While power was restored to customers relatively quickly through system adjustments, the process of safely removing and replacing the damaged transformer required additional time and careful coordination. The location presented a particularly tight working space, making the removal and installation process more complex. Despite these challenges, the team's experience and craftsmanship allowed them to complete the work safely and effectively, restoring normal operations to the downtown electrical system. Events such as this highlight the importance of ongoing infrastructure improvements. Following the incident, Mr. Joyce has begun exploring opportunities to strengthen the reliability of Seymour's electrical grid, including the potential integration of devices known as "trip savers." A trip saver is a type of automated protective device installed on overhead power lines. It functions similarly to a circuit breaker but is designed specifically for electrical distribution systems. When a disturbance occurs on the line—such as a tree branch touching a conductor, a lightning strike, or a brief fault caused by wildlife—the trip saver automatically interrupts the flow of electricity for a very short period of time. After the interruption, it quickly restores power by closing the circuit again. Many electrical faults are temporary in nature. For example, a branch may briefly contact a line during windy conditions and then fall away, or a momentary surge may occur during a storm. Without protective equipment like a trip saver, such faults can cause prolonged outages that require manual resetting by a utility crew. With a trip saver in place, the device can automatically clear the temporary fault and restore service within seconds, often before customers even realize an interruption occurred. By isolating problems more precisely and restoring power automatically when possible, trip savers can significantly reduce both the frequency and duration of outages. They also help protect transformers and other equipment from damage by stopping abnormal electrical currents before they can cause more serious failures. For communities like Seymour, the integration of trip savers into the electrical distribution system can enhance overall grid resilience. Fewer outages mean greater reliability for homes, businesses, and critical services, while also reducing the need for emergency repair calls and extended downtime. Mr. Joyce noted that the Electric Department continually evaluates ways to modernize and improve the city's electrical infrastructure. The recent transformer incident serves as a reminder of how essential proactive maintenance and system upgrades are to maintaining dependable service. Through the dedication of its staff and ongoing efforts to improve the electrical system, the Seymour Electric Department remains focused on delivering safe, reliable power to the community.



Pictured above Electric Department team consisting of John Joyce, Garet Hons, and Jonathan Olinger replace a bad transformer on Monday.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

The City of Seymour **Street Department**, under the leadership of Ronnie Kolacek, continues to make steady progress on projects that improve safety, appearance, and infrastructure throughout the community. Through consistent effort and teamwork, the department has been addressing long-standing issues while also supporting other city operations. One of the department's ongoing efforts has been the continued cleanup of a dilapidated property on South Tackitt Street. Over time, neglected structures and debris can create safety concerns and detract from the overall appearance of a neighborhood. Mr. Kolacek and his crew have been working methodically to remove debris, clear the lot, and restore the area. With the project now nearing completion, the transformation of the property represents another step toward improving neighborhood conditions and maintaining the pride residents have in their community. In addition to this cleanup effort, the Street Department recently partnered with the Salt Fork Golf Course crew to address a significant infrastructure issue involving a severely rusted and compromised culvert. Culverts play a vital role in road systems by allowing water to pass underneath the roadway, preventing flooding and protecting the structural integrity of the road surface. When a culvert deteriorates, it can lead to erosion, road damage, and potential safety hazards. The repair project required a multi-step process and careful coordination between crews. First, a section of the roadway had to be removed to expose the damaged culvert. Once the road surface was opened, crews excavated the surrounding area and removed the deteriorated pipe. The new culvert was then installed and positioned to ensure proper water flow and long-term stability. After installation, the team rebuilt the roadway from the ground up. The excavated area was filled with a solid base material to create a stable foundation. Concrete was placed around the culvert to secure it and provide additional structural support. Finally, the roadway was resurfaced with asphalt, restoring the driving surface and ensuring the road could safely handle regular traffic once again. Projects like this highlight the essential work performed by the Street Department every day. While much of their work happens behind the scenes, it directly affects the safety, functionality, and appearance of the city's infrastructure. Under Mr. Kolacek's leadership, the department continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to service, teamwork, and problem-solving. From neighborhood cleanup efforts to complex infrastructure repairs, the Street Department plays a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of life for the residents of Seymour.

Under the supervision of **Reverse Osmosis Supervisor** John Davis, the City of Seymour's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant continued normal operations this past week, providing a consistent supply of treated water to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. During the reporting period, the plant produced approximately 4.2 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed through the municipal water system and to Baylor Water Supply Corporation customers. Plant operators carried out several routine operational and monitoring tasks to ensure the system continues to function efficiently and in compliance with regulatory standards. Staff monitored chlorine residual levels throughout the city, verifying that proper disinfection levels are maintained within the distribution system. Operators also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, an important metric used to monitor plant performance and operational efficiency. Daily operational readings were taken on the primary reverse osmosis units to ensure the system continues to operate within proper parameters and maintain the quality of treated water being produced. Maintenance activities were also completed during the week. Staff replaced the pre-filters on one of the primary RO trains, an important preventative maintenance step that protects the system's membranes and helps maintain optimal filtration performance. In addition to operational and maintenance responsibilities, the plant completed the end-of-month operational reports required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These reports document plant performance and ensure the City remains in compliance with state regulatory requirements. Overall, the Reverse Osmosis Plant continues to operate efficiently while maintaining regulatory compliance and providing a reliable supply of treated water to the community and regional partners.

The City of Seymour **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, continues to provide essential services that ensure safe, reliable, and efficient electrical operations throughout the community. The department's work over the past week highlights their commitment to both routine maintenance and responsive problem-solving in support of the City's infrastructure and public safety. This week, the department conducted weekly maintenance checks on all service vehicles to ensure they remain safe and fully operational. Additionally, Truck 80 received a tune-up, maintaining reliability for field operations and emergency responses. Staff also performed weekly readings of reclosures, which are critical for monitoring the distribution system and ensuring the safety and reliability of power delivery, and completed several locates to identify underground utilities before digging or construction projects, preventing potential service interruptions. Electric Department crews completed several key infrastructure projects. They rehung service on N. Baskins Street to maintain reliable electricity for local residents and replaced three pole banks and a lightning arrester downtown following a power outage caused by a malfunctioning transformer, demonstrating the team's ability to respond quickly and restore service. The team also changed out a utility pole on Park Street to support the ongoing safety and reliability of the electrical grid. Beyond standard operations, the department actively supported broader community projects. They assisted the Street Department with the removal of a demolished house on the southeast side of town and cut down a dead tree in the park between the fountain and the pool, improving safety and aesthetics for residents and visitors. The crew also worked on park signage, contributing to community beautification and the usability of public spaces. The Electric Department's work reflects a balance of routine maintenance, emergency response, and community support. Under John Joyce's leadership, the team ensures that the City's electrical infrastructure operates efficiently, safely, and reliably while supporting projects that enhance the overall quality of life for residents of Seymour. Their dedication, technical skill, and teamwork exemplify the essential role of the Electric Department in maintaining a safe, functional, and thriving community.

At the City of Seymour's **Salt Fork Golf Course**, greensman Shawn Sanchez and his assistant Sean Weiser have been hard at work ensuring that the course remains in top condition for golfers of all skill levels. Their dedication and attention to detail keep the greens healthy, fairways playable, and the overall course welcoming for visitors. This week, the maintenance team continued the regular watering schedule, with greens receiving irrigation on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, while fairways and tee boxes are also being watered to maintain lush, vibrant turf. In addition to watering, the crew has started mowing key areas of the course, including fairways, fringes, tee boxes, and greens, helping the course look its best and play smoothly. Beyond routine course care, Shawn and Sean recently addressed an infrastructure issue on the golf course road, digging out and replacing a damaged culvert with assistance from the City Street Department. This repair ensures safe and reliable access to the course for both staff and visitors. The Street Department also assisted in patching areas of the parking lot, further improving the safety and accessibility of the facility. Course preparation continues with daily mowing of the greens and fairways already receiving regular cuts, ensuring a high-quality playing surface. Additionally, the team received a fresh load of sand, which will be used to sand the greens, a critical process for maintaining healthy turf, improving drainage, and promoting smooth putting surfaces. Through the combined efforts of Shawn Sanchez, Sean Weiser, and support from the Street Department, the Salt Fork Golf Course continues to maintain its reputation as a well-kept, enjoyable destination for golfers in the Seymour community. Their work demonstrates both skill and dedication, keeping the course safe, beautiful, and ready for every round.

The City of Seymour's **Animal Control Officer**, Rick Shumate, remained busy this week responding to a wide variety of calls and helping keep the community safe and orderly. Animal control work often goes unseen by the public, but it plays an important role in protecting both residents and local wildlife. Over the course of the week, Officer Shumate safely removed two cats, one possum, five skunks, one deer, two raccoons, two dogs, and two squirrels from various locations throughout the city. These removals help address potential safety concerns, reduce the risk of disease, and prevent wildlife from creating hazards in neighborhoods and public spaces. In addition to these removals, Officer Shumate also captured three feral hogs, which were later sold for \$63.00, helping offset operational costs while addressing an animal that can cause significant property damage if left unmanaged. Officer Shumate also responded to seven animal-related calls for service, assisting residents with a variety of concerns ranging from nuisance wildlife to stray animals. Animal control is an essential service that requires patience, skill, and a commitment to public safety. Through his continued efforts, Officer Shumate helps ensure that the City of Seymour remains a safe and clean community for both residents and animals alike.

Teddy Sanchez: Making a Difference One Park at a Time



Pictured above, Teddy Sanchez is seen raking leaves in the Sound Garden, contributing to the ongoing care and maintenance of one of the City's valued public spaces. While Mr. Sanchez's primary responsibility is maintaining the cleanliness and appearance of City Hall, his role extends well beyond the building itself. He regularly assists with the upkeep of the City's parks, helping ensure these spaces remain clean, well-maintained, and safe for residents and visitors to enjoy. Through his dedication and attention to detail, Mr. Sanchez helps support the City's broader commitment to maintaining welcoming public facilities and beautiful outdoor spaces. His work behind the scenes plays an important role in preserving the pride our community takes in its parks and civic spaces, ensuring they remain places where families and neighbors can gather, relax, and enjoy the natural beauty of Seymour.

City Workforce Strengthens Local Infrastructure with Culvert Repair



City crews recently completed an important infrastructure improvement on the road leading to the Salt Fork Golf Course, demonstrating the teamwork and dedication that keeps Seymour's public facilities safe and accessible.

Pictured above, Shawn Sanchez is operating the packer as part of a coordinated effort with Shaun Teel, Kenny Davis, and Sean Weiser to replace a broken and deteriorating culvert beneath the roadway. Culverts play a critical role in allowing water to pass safely under roads during rainfall and runoff events. When a culvert becomes damaged or compromised, it can lead to drainage issues, erosion, and eventually roadway failure if not addressed.

Recognizing the need for repair, the crew worked together to remove the old, failing culvert and install a new one designed to properly handle water flow and protect the roadway. Once the new culvert was positioned, the team carefully rebuilt the road structure. This process included stabilizing the area with concrete around the culvert, adding layers of base material to restore the roadbed, and finishing the surface with asphalt to ensure a smooth and durable driving surface.

Projects like this require coordination, equipment operation, and a strong commitment to quality work. Each member of the crew played an important role in completing the repair efficiently while ensuring the roadway would remain reliable for years to come.

The successful completion of this project helps ensure safe and dependable access to the Salt Fork Golf Course for residents and visitors alike. More importantly, it highlights the dedication of Seymour's city employees who work daily—often behind the scenes—to maintain the infrastructure that keeps our community running. Through teamwork, skill, and pride in their work, these crews continue to make improvements that benefit the entire community.

City of Seymour Honors Employees at Quarterly Staff Appreciation Luncheon



The City of Seymour gathered Friday afternoon for its quarterly staff appreciation luncheon, a time set aside to recognize the hard work, dedication, and teamwork of the men and women who serve the community every day. Employees from across City departments came together to enjoy fellowship and reflect on the shared mission of improving the quality of life for the citizens of Seymour.

The luncheon featured a delicious fish meal prepared by Mike Chumley Catering, providing an opportunity for employees to relax, visit with one another, and celebrate the accomplishments of City staff.

During the event, Mayor Mark McCord presented four service awards recognizing employees who have dedicated years of service to the City of Seymour. These awards honor individuals whose commitment and work ethic have helped strengthen City operations and the community as a whole.

Employees recognized for five years of service included Water Department Supervisor Chase Hoyt and City Administrator Jeffrey Brasher. Their contributions over the past five years have played an important role in maintaining essential city services and supporting the continued progress of the community.

Nita Hons was recognized for twenty years of service to the City of Seymour. During her time with the City, Nita served as the front desk utility clerk, a role that placed her at the heart of daily interactions with citizens. Through her professionalism, friendliness, and commitment to helping residents, she made a tremendous impact on the City's culture of customer service and excellence. For many citizens, Nita was the first face they saw when visiting City Hall, and her dedication to treating every customer with patience and respect left a lasting impression on the community.

Suzanne Shumate received recognition for an impressive twenty-five years of service to the City of Seymour. Reaching a quarter century of dedication represents a remarkable commitment to public service and reflects the loyalty and professionalism that help keep city government operating effectively. Ms. Shumate epitomizes excellence, professionalism, and integrity in her work. As the City's Finance Supervisor, she continues to set the bar for excellence through her attention to detail, strong financial stewardship, and unwavering commitment to responsible management of the City's resources. Her leadership and dedication have played a vital role in ensuring the City's financial operations remain organized, transparent, and accountable to the citizens of Seymour.

Honoring employees for their years of service is an important tradition for the City of Seymour. These recognitions acknowledge the experience, institutional knowledge, and long-term commitment that employees bring to their work each day. Public service often happens quietly behind the scenes, but the dedication of these individuals ensures that vital services—from water and utilities to administration and public works—continue to operate smoothly for the entire community.

Events like the quarterly luncheon also serve as a reminder that the City's success is built on teamwork. Each department and employee contributes to a shared goal: serving the citizens of Seymour with professionalism, integrity, and pride.

As the City continues to grow and move forward, the dedication of employees like those honored Friday afternoon remains one of Seymour's greatest strengths.