

Weekly Beat

May 15th, 2026

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- May 21st, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 PM
- May 23rd, 2026 at 1:00 PM "Splash Day" Opening Day of the City Pool
- June 18th, 2026 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM City Hall
- July 21st-23rd, 2026 City of Seymour Golf Camp, 9-12 at Salt Fork Golf Course
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

IN THIS ISSUE

News from the City

Kolacek sworn in as new Council Member

Department Services and Progress

Growth, Service, and Community: Karen Kolacek Sworn In to Seymour City Council



Pictured above, Mayor Mark McCord administers the oath of office to newly elected City Council Member Karen Kolacek during the City Council swearing-in ceremony at City Hall.

Seymour, Texas: The City of Seymour officially welcomed a new member to the City Council on Thursday during a swearing-in ceremony held at the Seymour City Hall Auditorium. Mayor Mark McCord administered the oath of office to newly elected Place 1 Council Member Karen Kolacek. Mrs. Kolacek ran unopposed in this past year's election to fill the vacant seat previously held by former Council Member Lan Winn. Mrs. Kolacek brings prior municipal leadership experience to the position, having previously served as a council member in Grays Prairie, Texas. City officials expressed confidence that her background in local government and community service will be an asset to the City of Seymour.

Following the ceremony, Mrs. Kolacek shared her enthusiasm for serving the community in her new role. "I am excited to serve as a new City Council member because it will give me the opportunity to listen to residents, strengthen our community, and help shape a positive future for our city," Kolacek said. "I look forward to working with business and community leaders to support growth and opportunities that improve everyone's quality of life." City administration and Mayor McCord stated they look forward to working alongside Mrs. Kolacek as the City continues efforts to strengthen municipal services, encourage economic growth, and improve the quality of life for all Seymour residents. The swearing-in ceremony marks the beginning of Mrs. Kolacek's term representing Place 1 on the Seymour City Council.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

The City of Seymour **Street Department**, under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, has continued making improvements throughout the community through a variety of maintenance, cleanup, and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the appearance, safety, and functionality of City properties and public areas. Over the past several weeks, Street Department crews have worked diligently to pick up debris and mulch brush on various properties throughout the City. These efforts help improve neighborhood appearance while also reducing potential safety hazards and maintaining cleaner public spaces. Crews have also continued mowing and maintaining City-owned properties to ensure public areas remain clean, accessible, and visually appealing for residents and visitors alike. Additional work completed by the department included metal fabrication and repair work at the Seymour Police Department. Street Department personnel assisted with needed improvements and maintenance projects to support City facilities and operations. In an effort to improve stormwater flow and drainage near the park area, department crews also performed work to dip out and clean a creek channel. This project was aimed at improving water runoff and helping reduce drainage concerns during periods of heavy rainfall. The department has also conducted extensive weed spraying operations throughout the community, including along bicycle trails, around the airport, and in various public areas across town. These efforts help maintain public infrastructure, improve aesthetics, and reduce overgrowth in high-traffic areas. Street crews additionally spent time cleaning curbs and maintaining streets throughout the City as part of ongoing beautification and maintenance operations. City officials recognized the Street Department for its continued hard work and dedication to maintaining public infrastructure and improving the overall quality of life for Seymour residents. The department's wide range of responsibilities plays a vital role in keeping City facilities, parks, streets, and public areas safe and well maintained year-round.

The Seymour **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, continues to play a vital role in maintaining reliable electric service and supporting infrastructure improvements throughout the City of Seymour. Through daily maintenance, system upgrades, and response operations, the department works diligently to ensure residents and businesses continue receiving dependable electric service while improving the safety and appearance of the community. During the past week, Electric Department crews completed weekly maintenance checks on department vehicles and equipment to help ensure operational readiness and reliability for daily field work and emergency response situations. Crews also conducted weekly readings of reclosures throughout the electric system, helping monitor system performance and maintain electrical reliability across the community. Department personnel responded to utility locates and continued performing infrastructure maintenance throughout the City. Crews trimmed brush along South Browning Street to help maintain safe clearance around electric lines and reduce potential service interruptions caused by vegetation growth. Among the larger infrastructure projects completed this week, crews changed out a primary electric pole on East Miller Street and worked on Unit Vehicle Number 12 to maintain the department's fleet and operational capabilities. Electric Department personnel also installed a new electric service on North Donald Street and repaired a service line on West McLain Street to ensure continued reliable service for customers. Additional work included the installation of a new electric service and pole on East Ingram Street, along with additional trimming work associated with the project. Crews also manufactured and installed new street signs, contributing to public safety and improved navigation throughout the City. City officials expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of John Joyce and the Seymour Electric Department staff. Their continued efforts behind the scenes are essential to maintaining critical infrastructure, improving public services, and supporting the growth and quality of life of the Seymour community.

The Seymour **Water Department**, under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, continues working diligently to maintain and improve the City's water infrastructure while providing reliable service to residents and businesses throughout the community. Through daily maintenance, repairs, and infrastructure support projects, the department plays a critical role in protecting public health and ensuring dependable water service across Seymour. During the past week, Water Department crews installed a new water tap on Board Street, helping support continued service needs and future development within the community. Crews also repaired four leaking valves on water meters throughout town, helping reduce water loss and improve the efficiency of the City's water distribution system. Additional repair work included fixing a water leak on McLain Street and repairing another water leak located behind United Supermarket. These repairs are important in maintaining system reliability, conserving water resources, and preventing further infrastructure damage. Department personnel also filled holes resulting from utility work and continued performing utility locates for SPS to ensure the protection of underground infrastructure and safe coordination with other utility operations. The Water Department further assisted contractors currently installing new water lines in the southeast part of town, supporting ongoing infrastructure improvements that will help strengthen the City's water system for current and future residents. Crews also raised a meter can on Clay Street to improve accessibility and maintain proper system function. City officials expressed appreciation for the continued hard work and dedication of Chase Hoyt and the Seymour Water Department staff. Their efforts behind the scenes are essential to maintaining reliable water service, supporting infrastructure improvements, and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Seymour. e

The Seymour **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**, under the supervision of John Davis, continues to serve as a critical component of the City's water supply system, ensuring residents and regional partners receive high-quality treated water. Over the past week, the RO Plant produced approximately 4.6 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation, supporting reliable water service across the region. Throughout the week, plant operators maintained close oversight of system performance to ensure consistent water quality and operational efficiency. Daily responsibilities included monitoring chlorine residual levels throughout the distribution system to ensure safe drinking water standards were met, tracking wastewater discharge volumes from plant operations, and taking routine readings from the primary reverse osmosis units to ensure optimal performance and system stability. In addition to core treatment operations, staff continued essential facility upkeep and professional development activities. Crews mowed and maintained the grounds surrounding the RO Plant, helping preserve a clean and well-kept operational environment. Operators also cleaned and organized the main RO Plant office, supporting efficient workflow and administrative readiness. Demonstrating a commitment to safety, compliance, and modernization, plant personnel also completed required cybersecurity training during the reporting period, strengthening the City's protection of critical infrastructure systems. City officials recognized the RO Plant staff for their dedication and professionalism in maintaining a high level of service. The consistent production of millions of gallons of treated water each week reflects the importance of the facility and the steady, behind-the-scenes work that helps ensure safe, reliable water for the Seymour community and its regional partners.

The City of Seymour **Animal Control Department**, under the direction of Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate, continued providing important animal control and public safety services throughout the community this week. During the reporting period, Officer Shumate responded to six animal-related calls and worked to address stray animal concerns and nuisance issues throughout the City. Among the calls handled, Officer Shumate picked up two pit bulls that were later reclaimed by their owner from the City pound, as well as another dog that was also successfully returned to its owner. In addition to responding to calls, Officer Shumate assisted with the removal of deceased animals from public areas, including one skunk, ten squirrels, and three deer, helping maintain public health, roadway safety, and the cleanliness of City streets and properties. Officer Shumate also distributed ten weed letters to property owners regarding vegetation and property maintenance concerns as part of ongoing code enforcement efforts. City officials expressed appreciation for the continued hard work and dedication of Officer Shumate in helping maintain a safe, clean, and orderly community for Seymour residents.

The Seymour **Police Department**, under the direct supervision of Police Chief Bryce Sawyer, continues to demonstrate its commitment to protecting the community, serving residents, and maintaining public safety through proactive law enforcement and community involvement. Over the past week, officers responded to 34 calls for service covering a wide range of public safety matters throughout the City of Seymour. In addition to regular patrol operations, officers handled numerous civil matters, conducted traffic enforcement activities to help improve roadway safety, and followed up on city ordinance violations to help maintain the quality and appearance of neighborhoods and properties throughout the community.

The department also assisted with a boating accident response at Miller Creek, providing support and assistance during the incident to help ensure public safety and coordination with responding agencies. Alongside field operations, the department successfully completed a CJIS audit, an important process that helps ensure compliance with criminal justice information system standards and demonstrates the department's commitment to professionalism, accountability, and operational excellence.

In addition to enforcement and emergency response duties, members of the Seymour Police Department proudly provided escort services for Seymour High School state participants as they traveled to competition, showing continued support for local students and the Seymour community. The escort reflected the department's dedication not only to public safety, but also to encouraging and celebrating the accomplishments of local youth.

City officials expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Chief Sawyer and the officers of the Seymour Police Department, whose continued efforts help make Seymour a safer and stronger community for residents, families, and visitors alike.

The Seymour **Salt Fork Golf Course** continues to see steady improvements and high levels of care under the leadership of greenskeepers Sean Weiser and Shawn Sanchez, whose efforts are helping develop and maintain a premier recreational facility for the community to enjoy. Through consistent maintenance, system upgrades, and course enhancements, the team is focused on both day-to-day playability and long-term course quality.

Throughout the week, crews mowed all rough areas, greens, surrounds, and fairways to maintain optimal playing conditions and ensure a clean, well-kept appearance across the entire course. In addition, the sprinkler system was transitioned to a radio-controlled automated operation system designed to run during nighttime hours, reducing evaporation and improving irrigation efficiency. While the system is still being fine-tuned and adjusted, it represents a significant step forward in modernizing course maintenance and water conservation practices.

Maintenance crews also replaced several sprinkler heads throughout the course to improve irrigation coverage and system performance. Flag placements were adjusted for the week to enhance course variety and playing experience for golfers.

On Hole #6, staff spread sand and Bermuda seed, followed by careful watering to encourage healthy turf growth and improve long-term playing conditions in that area of the course. Additional improvement efforts included sanding, prepping, and repainting sheds and benches on holes 2, 3, 5, and 7, enhancing both the functionality and appearance of course amenities.

In a meaningful enhancement to the course's atmosphere, the Don Hulcy Memorial bench was carefully relocated and redesigned into a dedicated memorial space beside Hole Number 2, creating a more visible and respectful area of remembrance for golfers and visitors.

City officials expressed appreciation for the continued hard work and dedication of the Salt Fork Golf Course staff. The commitment of Weiser and Sanchez reflects a broader effort to elevate the facility into a community asset that is both enjoyable and sustainable, offering residents and visitors a high-quality recreational experience for years to come.

The City of Seymour continues to advance community development, communication, and operational efficiency under the leadership of City Secretary and Economic Development Director Lauren Bush, who also oversees Code Enforcement, Zoning, and Utility administration functions. Through coordinated efforts across departments, the City is strengthening its outreach to residents, supporting local businesses, and improving overall quality of life throughout the community. Recent updates to the City's website now include enhanced graphics promoting the Salt Fork Recreational Complex, along with upcoming marketing materials designed to increase awareness and encourage new memberships as regional visitation continues to grow. Residents and visitors are also encouraged to explore the City's online business directory, which highlights local businesses and provides increased visibility for economic development. Businesses interested in being listed may contact Lauren Bush at 940-889-3148 or lbush@cityofseymour.org, and Chamber members receive additional promotional recognition through both City and Chamber directories, including enhanced member visibility features. In addition to economic development initiatives, the City continues to focus on proactive code enforcement and zoning administration. One application for a new manufactured home on North Donald is currently under review, with required public notices and notifications to adjacent property owners scheduled after May 18 and a public hearing set for June 18. Applications for zoning changes or variances must be submitted prior to May 18 for consideration in this cycle. The City is also actively addressing properties with tall grass, debris, junk accumulation, and unsafe structural conditions, with several cases currently moving through cleanup and condemnation processes to promote neighborhood safety and compliance. Utility customers are also advised that updated garbage collection rates, pending City Council approval at the May 21, 2026 meeting, are expected to take effect in June and appear on July utility bills, with an estimated residential impact of approximately one dollar per month. In addition, annual water quality reports will be distributed soon and will be included with regular utility billing mailouts.

City officials recognize Lauren Bush for her continued leadership and coordination across multiple critical areas of municipal operations, noting that her work plays a key role in supporting responsible growth, improving communication with residents, and strengthening the long-term economic and operational stability of the City of Seymour.