

Weekly Beat

May 29th, 2026

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- 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

Mayor's Dive Creates Waves of Excitement at Splash Day 2026



SEYMOUR, TEXAS The Seymour City Pool officially kicked off the 2026 summer swim season in exciting fashion on Saturday, May 23, during the community's long-standing tradition known as "Splash Day." For many years, Splash Day has marked the opening of the City Pool by welcoming residents and families to enjoy free swimming, fun, and fellowship as summer begins in Seymour.

This year's event drew an impressive 198 visitors who came out to enjoy the sunshine, cool water, and time with friends and family. Children and adults alike filled the pool throughout the day, creating an energetic atmosphere that highlighted the importance of community recreation and family-oriented activities in Seymour.

To officially open the swim season, Mayor Mark McCord added a little humor and excitement to the festivities by taking a wild semi-dive off the diving board into the pool. In good fun, the Mayor's leap resulted in what many described as a "semi-belly flop," drawing laughter and cheers from the crowd while setting a lighthearted tone for the summer ahead. Lifeguards were reportedly standing by and carefully watching to make sure the Mayor resurfaced safely after the splash.

Mayor McCord expressed his continued support for the City Pool and the positive impact it has on local youth and families. "The Seymour City Pool is more than just a place to swim," stated Mayor McCord. "It gives our children a safe and enjoyable place to spend their summers, build friendships, stay active, and create lasting memories. Supporting opportunities like this helps improve the quality of life for our entire community."

City administration anticipates an outstanding swim season under the leadership of Pool Manager Kailia Donnell and a dedicated team of lifeguards led by team leaders Jaxon Carrington and Heaven Betts. Their commitment, preparation, and focus on safety are expected to help provide a fun and successful summer for all who visit the pool this season.

As temperatures continue to rise, the Seymour City Pool remains an important gathering place where families, children, and visitors can cool off, socialize, and enjoy one of the community's favorite summer traditions.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights



Pictured above is Madison Hostas, who was selected as Seymour City Pool's Lifeguard of the Week after successfully identifying and assisting a young swimmer in distress by safely removing the child from the water.

Under the leadership of Pool Manager Kaila Donnell, the **Seymour City Pool** is off to an outstanding start to the summer season, providing a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable environment for families, children, and residents throughout the community. This week alone, the Seymour City Pool welcomed an impressive 553 visitors, demonstrating the excitement and strong community support for the facility and its summer programs. The pool's highly anticipated Grand Opening Splash Day was also a tremendous success, attracting 195 visitors who came out to celebrate the beginning of the summer season and enjoy the refreshed community atmosphere. In addition to strong attendance, the Seymour City Pool staff has already demonstrated an exceptional commitment to swimmer safety and professionalism. Mrs. Donnell proudly nominated lifeguard Madison Hostas as "Lifeguard of the Week" after Ms. Hostas successfully performed the first save of the season. Her quick response, attentiveness, and training helped ensure the safety of a swimmer in need of assistance. Overall, the dedicated lifeguard team recorded a total of three saves during the first week of operations, reflecting the staff's vigilance, preparedness, and continued focus on public safety. These incidents highlight the importance of maintaining trained and attentive lifeguards at all times and serve as a reminder of the critical role these young professionals play in protecting the community. Mrs. Donnell's leadership continues to emphasize safety, customer service, and creating a positive experience for all visitors. Through strong supervision, dedicated staff training, and community engagement, the Seymour City Pool continues to provide an important recreational outlet for residents during the summer months. The successful opening week demonstrates not only the popularity of the facility but also the dedication of the pool staff who work daily to ensure swimmers can enjoy a safe and enjoyable environment. The City of Seymour encourages residents to continue supporting the Seymour City Pool and participate in the many activities and programs planned throughout the summer season.

Under the leadership of **Water Department** Supervisor Chase Hoyt, the City of Seymour Water Department remained active this week completing infrastructure repairs, utility service work, and preparation for future growth within the community. Among the department's accomplishments this week was the installation of a new water tap on South Tackitt, helping support continued development and utility expansion within the area. Crews also responded to and repaired water leaks on Weiss Street and Westview Street, helping reduce water loss and maintain reliable service for residents and businesses. In addition to repair work, department personnel completed multiple utility locates to assist with ongoing construction and excavation projects throughout the city. Accurate utility locating remains critical for protecting underground infrastructure and ensuring safe excavation practices. The department also spent time preparing for several upcoming water tap installations associated with new RV parks expected to come online in the near future. These preparations help position the City to support future growth and economic development while maintaining dependable utility service capacity. Water Department staff additionally conducted rereads of utility meters as part of ongoing efforts to ensure billing accuracy and maintain quality customer service for utility customers. The continued work of the Water Department reflects the City's commitment to maintaining reliable infrastructure, supporting new development, and providing responsive service to the Seymour community. Through daily maintenance, repair efforts, and forward planning, the department continues working to improve the quality of life for residents while preparing for future community growth.

Under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, the City of **Seymour Street Department** continued making meaningful improvements throughout the community this week through cleanup efforts, maintenance projects, and customer service work that directly benefit residents across the city. One of the department's major accomplishments this week was the cleanup of a property on West California Street. Crews worked diligently to remove concrete, debris, and unwanted materials from the location, helping improve both the appearance and safety of the area. Efforts like these demonstrate the City's ongoing commitment to neighborhood improvement and community pride. In addition to cleanup activities, crews continued patching potholes around town to improve roadway conditions and provide safer travel for motorists and residents. Maintaining city streets remains an important priority, and these repairs help extend the life of local infrastructure while improving daily transportation throughout Seymour. The department also completed mowing operations at both the City Park and the Seymour Airport. Routine maintenance of these public spaces helps ensure that residents and visitors continue to enjoy clean, attractive, and well-maintained facilities. Keeping these areas maintained reflects the pride the City takes in its public properties and recreational spaces. Crews also responded to a customer work request by mulching brush and clearing vegetation, further demonstrating the department's dedication to responsive customer service and efficient operations. The continued work performed by the Public Works Department reflects the dedication, teamwork, and strong work ethic of the City of Seymour employees who work each day to improve the community. Through cleanup efforts, infrastructure maintenance, and public service projects, the department continues to make a positive impact across the city while helping maintain a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for all residents.

Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate continues to play an important role in protecting both residents and animals throughout the Seymour community through responsive service, public safety efforts, and compassionate animal care. During the recent reporting period, Officer Shumate responded to a variety of animal-related situations across the city, handling nine separate animal calls while continuing routine enforcement and public service duties. Among the week's notable events, Officer Shumate assisted with the recovery of three dogs belonging to a victim involved in a vehicle incident. After ensuring the animals were safely secured and properly cared for, the dogs were later successfully adopted into new homes. Officer Shumate also responded to the abandonment of a dog at the Seymour Dog Park. The animal was safely recovered and remains housed at the local dog pound while awaiting placement or reunification. In continuing efforts to ensure animal health and public safety, one dog received a rabies vaccination administered by Dr. Tucker. Officer Shumate also managed several deceased animal removals throughout the city, including one deceased cat, one dog, one possum, and one squirrel, helping maintain public sanitation and community safety. One particularly unique call involved a raccoon on Pecan Street that had fallen into a hole previously dug by the gas company. Officer Shumate safely retrieved the animal and successfully relocated it away from the area without injury, demonstrating both patience and skill in handling wildlife situations. Additionally, Officer Shumate responded to two separate snake calls at local residences, safely capturing and removing the snakes to protect residents and reduce potential danger. He also issued seven weed letters as part of ongoing code and property maintenance enforcement efforts aimed at improving neighborhood conditions throughout Seymour. The work performed by Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate reflects a strong commitment to public service, compassion for animals, and dedication to maintaining the safety and quality of life within the Seymour community. Through quick response, responsible enforcement, and care for both domestic animals and wildlife, Officer Shumate continues to make a positive difference across the city each

Under the supervision of Police Chief Bryce Sawyer, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to remain highly active in serving and protecting the community through proactive policing, emergency response, traffic enforcement, and continued professional training. During the recent reporting period, officers with the Seymour Police Department responded to 58 calls for service involving a wide range of incidents throughout the city. These calls included disturbances, traffic-related incidents, public safety concerns, and other situations requiring immediate law enforcement response and assistance. Officers also conducted ongoing traffic enforcement efforts aimed at improving roadway safety and reducing hazardous driving behaviors within the community. These enforcement activities help protect motorists, pedestrians, and residents while promoting safer travel throughout Seymour. The department additionally responded to and investigated numerous vehicle crashes, requiring officers to secure accident scenes, assist involved parties, document incidents, and ensure public safety during roadway emergencies. Officers also handled multiple disturbance calls, helping de-escalate tense situations and maintain order within the community. Among the enforcement actions during the reporting period, officers made a public intoxication arrest and conducted numerous warrant arrests as part of ongoing efforts to hold offenders accountable and maintain public safety throughout the city. In addition to daily law enforcement operations, the Seymour Police Department continued investing in officer readiness and professional development through firearms and tactical training. Officers participated in extensive training exercises designed to strengthen proficiency, safety, tactical response, and preparedness for high-stress situations that may arise in the line of duty. Police Chief Bryce Sawyer emphasized the department's ongoing commitment to professionalism, preparedness, and community service. Through proactive enforcement, emergency response, and continuous training, the Seymour Police Department remains dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. The continued work of the Seymour Police Department reflects the dedication and professionalism of the officers who serve the community each day with integrity, courage, and commitment.

Under the care and maintenance efforts of Greensman Sean Weiser and Shawn Sanchez, crews at the **Salt Fork Golf Course** have been working diligently to prepare the course for the upcoming Seymour Summer Swing Tournament scheduled for June 6th and 7th. With recent rainfall finally arriving in the area, mowing operations have significantly increased as course personnel work to maintain ideal playing conditions and ensure the course looks its best for tournament participants and visitors. Staff have spent much of the week focused on turf maintenance, course appearance, and equipment improvements to provide golfers with a quality playing experience. A major part of this week's work involved performing maintenance on reel mowers, including changing bed knives and back lapping the reels to improve the quality and consistency of the cut on greens and fairways. Crews also replaced blades on several rotary mowers to further enhance mowing performance and overall course appearance. Additional beautification efforts were completed around the course as well. Staff painted the north clubhouse railing near the ninth hole, creating a cleaner and more positive visual appearance for golfers and visitors utilizing the facility. Course maintenance crews also proactively treated the ninth green for brown patch, a common ornamental turf disease that can damage greens and negatively impact playability if left untreated. Preventative spraying and ongoing turf management remain essential parts of maintaining healthy playing surfaces throughout the golf course.

The continued dedication and hard work of Sean Weiser, Shawn Sanchez, and the Salt Fork Golf Course staff reflects the City's commitment to maintaining a high-quality recreational facility for both residents and tournament guests. Their ongoing maintenance and preparation efforts help ensure the Seymour Summer Swing Tournament will provide an enjoyable and professional experience for all participants.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY SECRETARY

The City of Seymour continues working to keep residents informed, engaged, and connected through a variety of communication platforms and public service efforts. Under the supervision of **City Secretary** Lauren Bush, several important updates, reminders, and upcoming community events are being shared with residents as the summer season begins. One of the easiest ways for residents to stay connected this summer is by following the Seymour City Pool on Facebook, where upcoming events, schedule changes, and special activities are regularly posted. On June 3, the Seymour City Pool will partner with Joy Self and the Baylor County AgriLife Extension Office to host a Water Safety Day from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. During the event, free life jacket fittings for children will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Residents should also note that Senior Swim scheduled for June 3 will be canceled due to the event.

The City also continues updating information available on its website to improve public accessibility and awareness. Ordinance 2026-04, the City's newly adopted RV Park Ordinance, is now available online under Notices > Ordinances. Existing RV park operators have until January 1, 2027, to comply with the updated regulations established under the ordinance. In addition, City Secretary Lauren Bush reminds anyone seeking City Council consideration for permits or related requests that all application materials must be submitted to the City Secretary's Office prior to June 18 in order to be placed on the July 2026 City Council agenda.

The City's Code Enforcement Division has also experienced increased activity following recent Junk and Debris notices issued throughout the community. City officials remind residents that debris removal services must be scheduled in advance through City Hall and that removal costs will be billed to the property owner or account holder. Unauthorized placement of junk, trash, or debris along streets, alleys, or rights-of-way may constitute an additional public nuisance violation or illegal dumping offense and could result in significant fines. Residents needing assistance with proper disposal options are encouraged to contact City Hall for guidance.

The Utility Billing Department also issued an important reminder for customers who make payments by check. Customers are asked to include either their utility account number or service address with all payments to ensure proper and timely application of funds. Recently, several payments—primarily from out-of-town commercial customers and individuals assisting others with utility bills—were received without identifying information, creating delays in processing. The City also continues encouraging residents to enroll in the Text-to-Pay notification program. Even customers who do not plan to make payments through their phones may benefit from enrollment, as the system provides convenient text reminders when bills are ready. Utility bills are due on the 18th of each month, late fees are assessed after 10:00 a.m. on the 19th, and utility service disconnections may begin after 10:00 a.m. on the 25th.

For residents experiencing temporary financial hardship, payment plans may be available through the Utility Billing Department. To qualify, customers must make a partial payment before the 19th of the month, and payment plans may not be used for more than two consecutive months. Payment plans cannot be initiated on the day service disconnections begin. Residents needing assistance are encouraged to contact City Hall as early as possible to discuss available options. Through communication, customer service, and continued public outreach, the Office of the City Secretary remains committed to keeping Seymour residents informed and connected while helping ensure efficient and responsive city operations.

Seymour Police Department Completes Intensive Firearms and Tactical Training



Pictured above, Seymour Police Sergeant Felipe Deanda participates in intensive firearms qualification and tactical training exercises designed to strengthen officer preparedness, professionalism, and public safety.

Seymour, Texas: Under the leadership of Police Chief Bryce Sawyer, officers with the Seymour Police Department recently completed intensive firearms qualifications and tactical training designed to strengthen officer preparedness, professionalism, and public safety.

Training was conducted May 25th and 26th, 2026, at the Seymour Salt Fork Facility, where officers participated in extensive hands-on exercises involving multiple weapon systems commonly used in law enforcement operations. Throughout the training, officers discharged hundreds of rounds while focusing on safe firearm handling, accuracy, tactical movement, and rapid decision-making under pressure.

The comprehensive training program emphasized much more than marksmanship alone. Officers worked through realistic law enforcement scenarios, practiced weapon transitions, and trained in tactical positioning and movement techniques that may be required during high-stress situations in the field. These exercises are designed to ensure officers can respond effectively and responsibly while protecting the lives of both citizens and fellow officers.

Police Chief Bryce Sawyer emphasized the importance of continued professional training and preparedness within the department. "Officers hope they never have to use their firearms in the course of duty, but it is imperative that every officer maintains a high level of proficiency and preparedness with each weapon system they carry," Chief Sawyer stated. "Continuous training ensures officers can respond effectively, responsibly, and safely during high-stress situations where lives may depend on their actions."

Chief Sawyer noted that maintaining consistent, high-quality training standards remains a critical part of the department's mission to serve and protect the Seymour community.

The Seymour Police Department continues to prioritize officer development, public safety, and professional excellence through ongoing training opportunities that prepare officers for the challenges they may encounter while serving the citizens of Seymour. Through proactive preparation and commitment to excellence, the department strives to maintain the highest standards of safety, accountability, and service for the community.

Under the supervision of **RO Plant** Supervisor John Davis, the City of Seymour Reverse Osmosis Plant continued providing safe and dependable water service to the community and surrounding customers through ongoing treatment operations, system monitoring, and water quality testing. Over the last week, the Reverse Osmosis Plant produced approximately 4.1 million gallons of treated water that was distributed to both the City of Seymour and Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This continued production reflects the plant's critical role in maintaining a reliable and high-quality water supply for residents, businesses, and regional customers. Throughout the week, plant operators remained actively engaged in monitoring and maintaining system performance. Staff conducted chlorine residual monitoring throughout the city to ensure proper disinfectant levels were maintained within the distribution system and to help safeguard public health and water quality. Operators also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the facility as part of ongoing operational oversight and regulatory compliance efforts. Daily readings were taken on the primary reverse osmosis units to monitor production efficiency, system pressures, and overall plant performance. Maintenance activities were also completed during the week, including changing pre-filters in one of the plant's primary RO trains. Routine maintenance such as filter replacement helps protect equipment, maintain efficient treatment operations, and ensure continued high-quality water production. In addition, plant personnel collected monthly laboratory samples used to monitor the water supply for microbial contaminants. These routine compliance samples are an important part of ensuring the City's water system continues to meet state and federal drinking water standards.

The continued dedication and professionalism of John Davis and the RO Plant staff reflect the City's ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable, and properly treated drinking water to the Seymour community and surrounding service areas. Through careful monitoring, preventative maintenance, and strict regulatory compliance, the RO Plant continues serving as a vital part of the City's infrastructure and public health operations.

Under the direct supervision of John Joyce, the **Seymour Electric Department** continued working diligently this week to maintain reliable electric service, improve infrastructure, respond to outages, and support long-term planning initiatives that benefit the Seymour community. Department crews remained active across the city performing routine maintenance, infrastructure improvements, emergency response work, and system monitoring to help ensure dependable electric service for residents and businesses.

Among the department's regular operational activities were weekly maintenance inspections of department vehicles and weekly readings of reclosures to monitor system performance and reliability. Crews also completed numerous utility locates to support safe excavation and protect underground infrastructure throughout the city. Electric Department personnel successfully reinstalled power service to a residence on North Browning Street and later responded to restore power to Circuit 5 following an outage event. Quick response and restoration efforts helped minimize service interruptions and maintain dependable electric service for customers.

Infrastructure improvement projects also continued throughout the week. Crews installed a new yard light on Compress Road to improve nighttime visibility and public safety, changed out a utility pole on Memorial Drive, and installed a new pole and electrical service on West California Street to support continued system reliability and customer service needs. Additional maintenance and troubleshooting efforts included repairing a street light on Memorial Drive and evaluating a power issue at the City building located on Kenning Drive. These proactive efforts help maintain safe and efficient electrical operations across multiple City facilities and public areas.

Department staff also participated in a Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC) safety meeting focused on maintaining safe work practices and operational readiness for utility personnel. Safety training and continuing education remain critical components of the department's daily operations and commitment to employee and public safety. In addition to field operations, the Seymour Electric Department played an important role in assisting with the development of the City of Seymour's Wildfire Mitigation Plan alongside the City Administrator. This effort demonstrates the department's proactive approach toward system safety, emergency preparedness, and regulatory compliance while helping strengthen the City's long-term resilience during elevated fire risk conditions.

The continued dedication and professionalism of John Joyce and the Seymour Electric Department reflect the City's ongoing commitment to reliability, safety, infrastructure improvement, and exceptional public service. Through daily maintenance, emergency response, system upgrades, and forward-thinking planning, the department continues working to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Seymour while ensuring dependable electric service for the entire community.