

SEYMOUR MOMENTS

Monthly newsletter of the City of Seymour



SMALL TOWN SPACES

By: January Rutherford

The city of Seymour came together on the afternoon of May 25, 2021, to dedicate its newest downtown community green space.

As an extension of the John Mellencamp mural painted by Indianapolis artist Pamela Bliss, the area is the perfect gathering spot to enjoy lunch or reunite with friends.

The Mellencamp family donated \$50,000 to develop the site transforming it from a parking lot into what it is today.

Richard Mellencamp, John's father, participated in the event by ceremoniously cutting the ribbon to officially open the space for public use. He also provided creative assistance in the design phase of the project. Bliss also was in attendance.

The project was a unique public/private partnership between the Mellencamp family, the city of Seymour and Seymour Main Street.

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SMALL TOWN SPACES CONT.



Construction was completed by the City of Seymour team which included the parks and recreation department, department of public works and water pollution control. Chad Keithley, parks operations and maintenance director served as project manager

Other donations came from Duke Energy for lighting and Myers Sod Farm of Seymour, which donated the beautiful grass.

Also, as part of the project, a plaque was dedicated in memory of Larry McDonald, who played music with John Mellencamp when they were in high school. McDonald owned the music store, This Old Guitar, on which the mural is painted and was instrumental in the project. He passed away of cancer in February and will always be warmly remembered as Seymour's Music Historian and a champion of Seymour - THE small town.



"Previously, we would have been standing in a parking lot. Now, we've got a nice, beautiful green space in front of our awesome mural." - Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson said during Tuesday's dedication.





ON THE MOVE

By: January Rutherford

Seymour City Hall has relocated due to an emergency renovation project.

Most city hall offices are open and accessible at the former Reedy Financial building at 211 N. Chestnut St., just across Third Street from city hall's current location.

Mayor Matt Nicholson said the move is temporary but could last up to six months.

The clerk-treasurer's office, where residents pay their sewer bills, and Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. did not move and remain open at their current locations.

Seymour Housing Authority, Seymour Main Street and Leadership Jackson County, however, are part of the move along with parks and recreation, public transit, engineering, planning and zoning and the mayor's office.

Most public city meetings including city council, board of works, plan commission and board of zoning appeals are now meeting in the training and conference room at the police station and the parks board is meeting at the Seymour Community Center.

During the project there will be some employee parking available behind city hall, but additional parking is available at the Seymour Museum Center, at the Reedy Financial building and in the Keach Parking Lot behind the Post Office.

The \$1.55 million renovation project includes a new HVAC system, new ceilings, new LED lighting, new flooring and wall coverings and accessibility and security improvements. Some of the interior offices are going to be rearranged and some new office space will be created along with a third conference room.



I'm hoping that we're back in here by the end of the year, but we managed to work out a good space over there to be able to do this project."

-- Mayor Matt Nicholson

SMALL TOWN FACES

The City of Seymour welcomed three new employees and said goodbye to its "Flower Engineer" after she gave more than 20 years of dedicated service to the department of public works.



Laura Eglen retired May 14 after 22 years with DPW

Laura Eglen handled the downtown maintenance for the DPW and could always be seen beautifying the area with flowers, blowing the sidewalks free of dirt and other debris and even clearing sewer grates at times. While she was known for her green thumb, in her years of work, Eglen did "a little bit of everything,"

"I just feel like I've really been blessed to be allowed to go down there and work all of these years," -- Laura Eglen



Allycen Wheeler, new parks and recreation assistant program director. Ally will serve as the face of the Seymour Community Center.



January Rutherford, new public information specialist



Reid Wieneke was sworn in as a new firefighter on May 27.



SUMMER DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN



After a two-day delay thanks to cold air and water temperatures, the Shields Park Pool opened for the 2021 summer season on Memorial Day.

The pool has a new Facebook page created and maintained by the city's public information specialist that allows information about pool closings and other events to be shared and gives people the opportunity to get questions answered quickly.

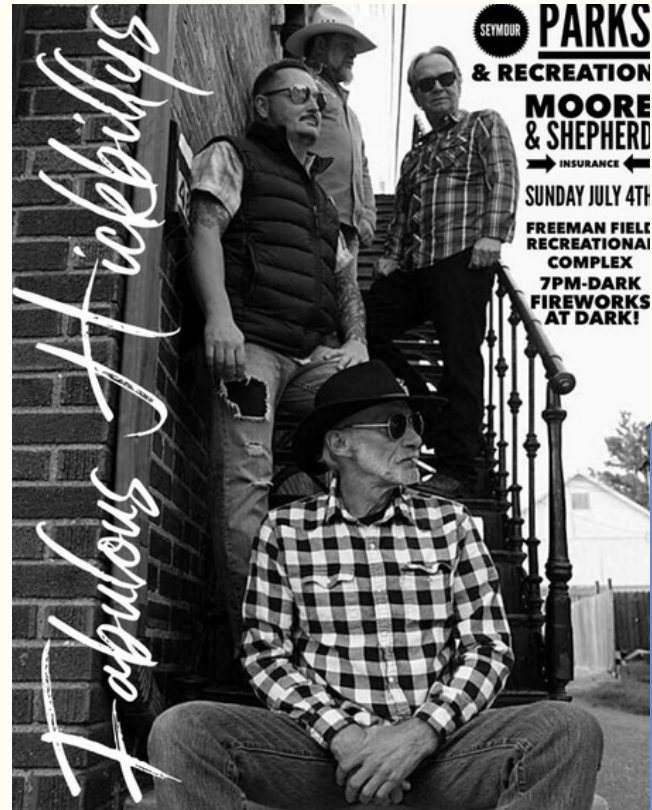
There's also a new QR Code for the pool that when scanned with a phone will direct you to pool information.



Scan QR code with your phone for pool information

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY

Seymour Parks and Recreation has you covered this Fourth of July. Start the day off with half-price admission at Shields Park Pool from noon to 5 p.m. Then head over to Freeman Field Recreational Complex for the inaugural Smalltown Star Teen Talent Show from 3-5 p.m. Afterwards, the Fabulous Hickbillys will take the stage for a free concert from 7 p.m. until dark. The night will end with the city's annual free fireworks display.



SMALLTOWN STAR!

TEEN TALENT SHOW

AN LJC EVENT HOSTED BY SEYMOUR PARKS & REC. AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

When?
Date: July 4th, 2021
Time: 3:00-5:00PM

Where?
Freeman Field
2476 N. HWY 11,
Seymour, IN

Submissions
Each family-friendly act will be limited to a max of 5 minutes or less. Send your audition video no later than June 14th, 2021 to Smalltown Star's Facebook messenger or upload to Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. and send the link to our email at smalltownstar@gmail.com

Eligibility
Grades 6th- 12th from 2020-2021 school year

What's provided?
The Talent Show will provide a flat stage, electricity, and microphone for performance.

CASH PRIZES

1st Place- \$150

2nd Place- \$100

Annual Fireworks Show

Fireworks begin at dark (around 10 p.m.) at Freeman Field Recreational Center.

No admission charge.
Music set to music by Radio 96.3.



THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS



Seymour is pledging to take action to protect and save Monarch butterflies through The National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Mayor Matt Nicholson, the Seymour Department of Public Works and Seymour Parks and Recreation are working together to come up with ways to improve and create pollinator habitat within the city and promote conservation of Monarch butterflies. In recognition of National Pollinator Week June 21-27, DPW is sponsoring a community photo contest to encourage residents to observe and capture the beauty and importance of Monarchs, pollinators and native plants through photography. Prizes will be awarded and winning photos will be featured online and in The Tribune. Also, Mayor Nicholson will be issuing a proclamation declaring National Pollinator Week in Seymour.

