



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

October 6, 2026 | Issue 52



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - 791 TALBOT STREET - GRANT

Another downtown property is looking its best thanks to improvements supported through the City's Community Improvement Program (CIP). Façade improvements at 791 Talbot Street, home to Antiques on the Side, are now complete. The approximate amount of \$6,858 was spent on this project. Council directed that a grant agreement be prepared for \$6,858 in eligible funding, supporting continued investment in the character and vitality of the downtown area. More details and information about the Community Improvement Program can be found on the City's new website.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1.** Housing Accelerator Fund Housing Target 2027 Incentive - Building Permits for Apartments
- 2.** Noise Control By-law
- 3.** 2026 Municipal Election - Voting Information
- 4.** Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS)
- 5.** 2026 Group Benefits Program Marketing Report Results



HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND HOUSING TARGET 2027 INCENTIVE - BUILDING PERMITS FOR APARTMENTS

Council supported a new incentive to help encourage construction of larger apartment buildings and advance the City's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) targets. In 2027, building permit applications for apartment buildings five storeys or higher will receive at least a 50% reduction in application fees. The City has already exceeded its affordable and missing-middle housing targets; however, only 15% of the target for apartments five storeys or higher has been achieved. Encouraging these developments will help create more housing choices while supporting the City's overall target of 1,204 new homes and helping secure approximately \$2.02 million in federal HAF funding for 2028.



NOISE CONTROL BY-LAW



Council received report CC-20-26 outlining a proposed new Noise Control By-law.

Key proposed changes include:

- clearer permitted times for construction, domestic tools and waste collection;
- stronger enforcement measures and updated fines;
- a simplified approach that eliminates specialized noise-measuring equipment;
- greater flexibility for special events and exemptions; and
- allowing construction to begin one hour earlier during heat warnings to support worker safety.

The new by-law will replace the City's existing 2020 Noise By-law. The new by-law will provide clearer, more practical and consistent regulations while balancing neighbourhood well-being with community and economic activity.



ADMINISTRATIVE MONETARY PENALTY SYSTEM (AMPS)

Council approved the development of an Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) for designated municipal by-law violations. AMPS is not currently in effect in the City of St. Thomas.

If implemented, AMPS would provide residents with a simpler, faster and more accessible process for resolving minor by-law matters without going through Provincial Offences Court. Residents would still have opportunities to dispute penalties through a fair review and hearing process.

Potential benefits include:

- faster resolutions
- more consistent and proportionate enforcement
- improved compliance
- reduced administrative costs
- more efficient use of enforcement resources

As directed, staff will develop a proposed AMPS framework, by-law, policies and procedures, which will return to Council for consideration and approval before any system is implemented.

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION - VOTING INFORMATION

The 2026 Municipal Election is approaching, and residents are encouraged to get ready to vote. Eligible electors should confirm they are on the Voters' List and watch for their Voter Information Letter, arriving by October 7th. Voting will be available online or by telephone 24/7 from October 13th at 10 a.m. until Voting Day, October 26th, at 8 p.m. Residents who need technology or assistance can visit one of the four Voter Assistance Centres throughout the voting period. Electors must be Canadian citizens, at least 18 years old and meet residency or property eligibility requirements. Election information is available through the City and on the website.





2026 GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM MARKETING REPORT RESULTS

Following a competitive market review, Council approved Manulife Financial and AIG Insurance to provide the City's employee group benefits beginning January 1, 2027. Employees and retirees will continue to receive a comprehensive benefits program, with comparable coverage maintained for employees under the new arrangement. The changes primarily affect how the City funds and administers benefits, rather than reducing employee coverage. The new arrangement is expected to reduce overall costs by 10.4%, saving approximately \$747,648 annually and supporting responsible management of public funds.

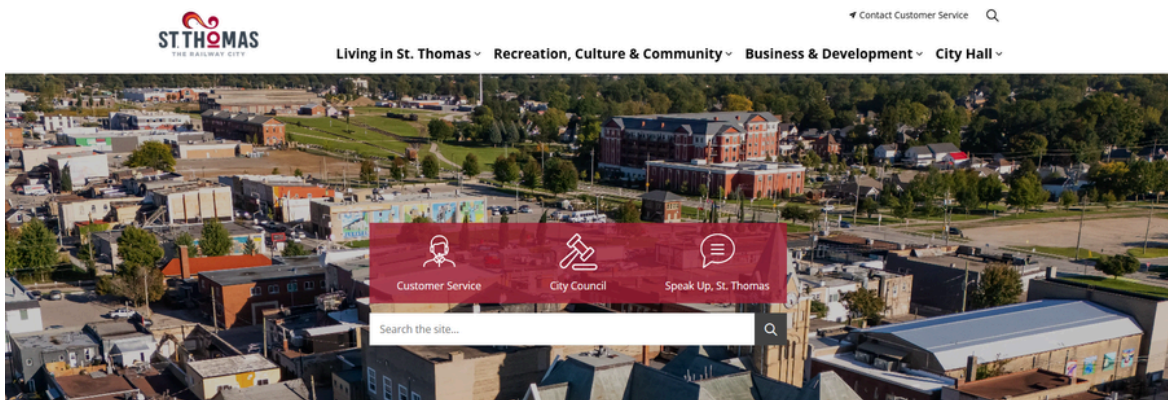


CITY LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The City of St. Thomas is growing, and staying connected just got easier. The City launched a new and improved website on October 1st, designed around the needs of our community. The new website makes it easier to:

- Find City programs, services and contact information
- Stay informed about City news, road closures and community events
- Access recreation programs and online services
- Make payments and submit customer service requests
- Connect anywhere with a mobile-friendly design and improved navigation

Whether you're looking for information or accessing a City service, it's now easier to find what you need. Explore the new [Stthomas.ca](https://stthomas.ca) today!





UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

OCTOBER

7

Community Health & Wellbeing Month
🕒 11:30 am

16

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
🕒 11:00 am

19

Foster Family Appreciation Week
🕒 10:00 am

20

Ontario Public Library Week
🕒 11:00 am

NOVEMBER

20

Eczema Awareness

30

International Gastric Cancer Awareness Day

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

October 15
Light it Up! For NDEAM



Purple

November 20
Eczema Awareness



Blue

November 30
International Gastric Cancer Awareness Day



Periwinkle



Make your mark in the community with a proclamation, flag-raising, or by lighting up the iconic Jumbo monument! The Proclamation, Flag-Raising, and Jumbo Lighting Request Form can be found on the City's website or is available at the City Clerk's office in City Hall. Requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible to ensure they can be placed on a Council agenda. Request forms can be submitted in electronic or hard copy format.



FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, October 19, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, November 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.

To view the council meetings live, visit:
www.stthomas.ca/watch

PAST MEETINGS

Watch archived council meetings:

www.stthomas.ca/archived

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