



Keeping Track

City of St. Thomas Council Highlights

May 20, 2026 | Issue 43



VACANT BUILDING REGISTRY

Following significant fires in 2025, including incidents at the former Weatherhead building and two heritage properties on Talbot Street, City Fire Administration is recommending the creation of a proactive Vacant Building Registry By-Law. The proposed registry would help Fire Prevention personnel monitor vacant properties, ensure buildings remain secure and compliant, and reduce risks to public safety. The registry would require building owners to provide contact information, maintain safety measures, and allow inspections where necessary. It would also support proactive enforcement efforts aimed at discouraging long-term vacancy, reducing fire risks, and encouraging redevelopment. The program would integrate with existing fire prevention efforts while creating minimal additional administrative burden.

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1. Vacant Building Registry
2. Old Courthouse Neighbourhood Street Party - Road Closure Report
3. St. Thomas Chamber Block Party - Request for Road Closure
4. Ice Resurfacers Replacement Award
5. 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Delegation Requests



2026 ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) DELEGATION REQUESTS

Members from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will gather in Ottawa from August 16-19, 2026, for the annual AMO Conference. The City's representatives will include the Mayor, two Councillors, and the City Manager. They will participate in educational sessions, keynote presentations, and meetings with provincial ministers to advocate for local priorities and strengthen provincial partnerships. Proposed delegation requests focus on expanding supports for seniors through long-term care and community programming, increasing childcare funding and staffing capacity, and securing infrastructure funding for the Dalewood Water Reclamation Facility project. City representatives will also highlight progress on the strategic plan priorities, municipal successes, and community growth initiatives. The approved delegation requests will be submitted by May 21st. City staff will prepare briefing materials for meetings with provincial stakeholders.



CIP PROJECT: WALNUT PARK INC. - 65 WALNUT STREET



Council has approved Community Improvement Program grants for Walnut Park Inc.'s proposed five-storey, 46-unit rental apartment building at 65 Walnut Street. The \$13 million development is eligible for Residential, Development Charge, Tax Increment, and Planning and Building Fees grants to support construction. The project was reviewed and approved by the Community Improvement Program Evaluation Committee and is expected to be completed within 18 months. Grant funding will be released following the successful completion of the development.



OLD COURTHOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET PARTY ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST

The Old Courthouse Neighbourhood is planning their annual street party on June 27th. The organizers have requested through the special events committee road closures for safety to accommodate the event. The Roads and Transportation staff will provide and deliver barricades and road closure signs for this event. The closure will include Prince Albert Street between Metcalfe Street and Isabel Street from 4pm -11:59pm. As part of the City's Strategic Plan - Excellence in All We Do - Priority #1 Public Safety and Community Well-being, residents are reminded to avoid the area so all participants can have a safe space to enjoy their annual event.

ST. THOMAS CHAMBER COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY - REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE

Council received a request from the St. Thomas & District Chamber of Commerce to allow road closures for the upcoming St. Thomas Chamber Community Block Party. The road closure will consist of Curtis Street between Mondamin Street and St. Catharine Street. Roads and Transportation staff will set up and take the barricades and road closure signs. The Block Party will take place on June 19th from 5pm-10pm. The Chamber has secured several musical acts, food vendors and much more. This event will be a free event and open to all ages.





ICE RESURFACERS REPLACEMENT AWARD

Council reviewed and accepted the tender submitted by Resurface Corp for two new ice resurfacers. The Request for Tender was posted on the City's bid portal. The Resurface Corp was the only bid for this equipment replacement. The cost for the two ice resurfacers are \$264,950 plus HST. The 2025 Capital Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Funding Allocation was \$340,000.



UPCOMING FLAG RAISINGS & PROCLAMATIONS

1
JUN

National AccessAbility Week and Red Shirt Day
⌚ 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

2
JUN

National Deafblind Awareness Month
⌚ 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

20
JUL

Drowning Prevention Month
⌚ 10:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

20
JUL

Elgin County Pride Week 2026
⌚ 11:00AM 📍 CITY HALL

JUMBO MONUMENT LIGHTING

June 1-7
National Deafblind Awareness Month
💡 Blue

June 8-15
Universal Pride Month
💡 Pink

July 19-25
Drowning Prevention Week
💡 Blue



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

- Monday, June 1, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.
- Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5 p.m.

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www.stthomas.ca



info@stthomas.ca



519.631.1680 'O'



545 Talbot Street, St.
Thomas



@cityofstthomasontario



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomas



@cityofstthomasontario

