

Council adopts new False Alarm Bylaw

At their Oct. 6 meeting, City Council adopted the new 2026 False Alarm Bylaw, which outlines the fees property owners and occupiers must pay for excessive false alarms.

The bylaw defines a false alarm as “the activation of a security alarm system on or in a premises where there is no evidence of criminal activity or unauthorized entry on or into the premises.” This does not include when alarms are tripped by severe storm conditions or utility company activity.

False alarm calls require a police response and can affect the availability of officers to respond to emergencies. To help reduce repeat false alarms and encourage accountability, property owners and occupiers will be charged a fee beginning with the fourth false alarm within a 12-month period.

The fine is \$100 for the fourth false alarm, \$150 for the fifth, and \$300 for the sixth and each additional false alarm within 12 months.

Council approves changes to Good Neighbour Bylaw

At their Oct. 6 meeting, City Council approved amendments to the City’s Good Neighbour Bylaw to provide clearer direction to property owners for property standards and boulevard maintenance.

These amendments include:

- clarifying that property owners are responsible for boulevard and sidewalk maintenance for areas adjacent to their property, including both frontages for corner properties
- confirming that pesticide use on boulevards and sidewalks must comply with applicable legislation
- clarifying that property owners must not maintain City-owned trees, as the City is responsible for the maintenance and removal of City-owned trees.

Council approves affordable housing run by Elizabeth Fry Society

At their Oct. 6 meeting, City Council approved a zoning bylaw amendment to allow for the construction of a below-market rental apartment for women and women-led households.

The building will be operated by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, which also runs Abbotsford’s Legacy Manor, and will offer connections to services that support women and children, including referrals, advocacy and inter-agency service linking.

The development also includes multi purpose indoor and outdoor amenity spaces suitable for gatherings, programming and recreation intended to enhance resident wellbeing and foster a sense of community.

Council announces 2026 Civic Recognition Award winners

At their Oct. 20 meeting, City Council announced that Dr. Marion Keys is the recipient of this year's Order of Abbotsford, while the Abbotsford Hospice and Grief Support Society has earned the Community Champion Achievement Award.

Dr. Keys has long been a driving force for positive change in the City of Abbotsford. Over the years she has held significant roles in local organizations including the Abbotsford Hospice and Grief Support Society, Maplewood Care Society and Foundation, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Abbotsford-Sumas Rotary Club and the Abbotsford First Electors Society. Her dedication to service and civic participation has shaped a more inclusive, engaged and connected community, and that legacy of service will continue to benefit our community for generations to come.

For more than 40 years the Abbotsford Hospice and Grief Support Society's dedicated staff, board members and volunteers have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional care and support to seniors at the end of their lives and their families. Through one-to-one support, grief support groups and events, educational initiatives, advocacy, youth scholarships and community outreach, they have become a trusted source of comfort and guidance for individuals and families during times of profound transition and loss.

For more information about these awards and the winners visit: abbotsford.ca/2026civicawards



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