

Olds & District Special Family Voices Newsletter

Issue 3 – September 2024

What's New:

So many creative, exciting, expressive, interesting, and informative events and initiatives have taken place since our last update in May aimed at providing inclusive opportunities and supporting individuals with disabilities, their families and care givers.

For example, over a dozen people enjoyed our first drumming event in collaboration with **Roads to Rhythm (R2R) Building Community through Rhythmic Connections** on May 23rd at Olds Community Connection Centre.



Roads to Rhythm, Drumming Session led by Shannon Powell.

On May 30th, Olds & District Special Family Voices (SFV) members and guests had the opportunity to learn about **The Disability Tax Credit** from SFV Council member, owner of Grammie's Nook's and Cranny's, and Town Councilor James Cummings. On June 27th, Dan Harder from MHR Law spoke to over a dozen people on the specifics of **Guardianship and Trusteeship**, with a lively Q&A session following his informative presentation. SFV plans to continue the discussion later this month with a presentation from a representative of the **Office of the Public Guardian**.

On July 4th, SFV kicked off our **Free Summer Swimming** for Families in Mountain View County with a Free BBQ, offering free hotdogs and refreshments to over 30 attendees, many of whom stayed for the evening swim. Free family swimming was offered every Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. at the Olds Aquatic Centre throughout July and August. Several families enjoyed this on a regular basis.



INCLUSION. CONNECTIONS. FUN!

Our Mission: To create an inclusive community built on respect, dignity and kindness where people of diverse abilities can connect, be socially engaged and have fun together!

Follow-us:

Send an email to SFVoldsinfo@gmail.com to become a member and receive our e-news bulletins directly to your inbox and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Contact us:

Forward your questions to SFVoldsinfo@gmail.com or call Cindy at 403-556-5559 for more information.

Thank you to our Supporters:

Olds Family and Community Support Services (FCSS Olds) and FCSS Mountain View County Individual Members

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Another free summer activity “**Inspire Your Heart with Art**” was offered in partnership with the Mountain View Museum and Archives, Saturday afternoons through July and August. Seven sessions were held in total. All were well attended and feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Sessions included instruction on photography, painting, and tie-dye, among others. Participants explored subjects of interest and made memorable keepsakes. Participants ranged in age from 5 to 65+. Thank you to Mountain View Museum and our volunteer facilitators for inspiring creativity and community connections. **Our next session of arts programming runs from Sept 21 to Nov 23.** Pre-registration \$40 at the Museum. Drop-in fee is \$5 if space permits.



Inspire Your Heart with Art participant showcases her work with pride.

Social Events:

Games Night at Pandora’s Boox are held every second Wednesday of the month from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Events are free and snacks and drinks are available for purchase. Mark your calendars for *September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, and December 11th.*

Information Sessions:

Guardianship and Trusteeship: This session is presented by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT). The OPGT provides services, tools and support for personal and financial matters to vulnerable Albertans and their families. *Wednesday, September 25th, 7 p.m., Hope Pointe Church, 5402 43rd Street, Olds.*

Membership:

Your \$10 annual membership fee contributes to costs associated with bringing inclusive events to the community and ensures news and notices arrive directly to your email. Please contact SFVOldsinfo@gmail.com.

Did You Know:

1. The Olds Aquatic Centre is offering a new **SwimAbilities Learn to Swim Program** for Children with Special Needs starting this month. You can learn more on their website [here](#).
2. The Centre for Newcomers’ [WrapCap Program](#) is holding a **free virtual Health Forum** September 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Register [here](#) to learn about supporting newcomer youth with disabilities.
3. [Inclusion Alberta](#) has a representative in Olds and is here to help you with your inclusion issues.

We want to hear from you!

Help us build an inclusive community in Olds and area where everyone is included and welcome. Join us at our events, follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or email us at SFVOldsinfo@gmail.com. All ideas are welcome and valued.

*Olds & District Special Family Voices (SFV)
Become a [Member](#) and [Follow us on Facebook!](#)*