



**Early Childhood & School-Age
Community Conversation Notes:
June 12, 2024**

Out-Of-School-Care (OOSC) – Jody Anderson

- Note from Lisa (daycare): daycare hours extended 15 minutes earlier and later based on feedback from parents. Will see how this goes and re-assess if it needs to be changed further.
- Also from Lisa: daycare is offering spaces for September but they are finding people are turning down the spaces despite being on the waitlist for a while. Moving down the list.
- Jody and team gearing up for Summer Fun. Full for 4 of the weeks already (45 max kids). A few spots in the other weeks.
- Lots of new families in the program this summer.

Municipal Council – Councillor Waxer

- Hearing concerns of waitlist for childcare in the community – reporting hearing angst and worry from new parents around getting back to work when they don't know about getting into childcare.
- Spoke to council about her views on bus system including... it takes a while for people to change habits so numbers of bus users are unlikely to be high right off the bat, bus will reduce need for parking lot expansions, reduces congestion, supports most vulnerable and newcomers in community who might not have cars to get places.

Community Outreach Services – Maggie McDowell, Outreach Worker

- Doctor shortage reported in Hinton, specifically emergency and maternity areas. Creating financial/logistical challenges for families who are having to birth in Edmonton at weekends. Only mothers being transported to city in ambulance, and no way home.
- Concerns around vulnerable families struggling to access daycare spots due to extensive waitlist. Vulnerable/newcomer families often have not registered themselves on the waitlist as early as other families for a variety of reasons (eg: new to community, unplanned pregnancy etc).
- Busy preparing for upcoming summer programs: Park n Play Tuesdays 1-3, Art In The Park Wednesdays 1-3 (both at tent in Centennial). Baby & Me Thursdays 1-3 at library (very successful location for this program), and once a month at Cubz Café.

Community Outreach Services – Carla Gallop, Outreach Worker

- Prepping for summer KAOS calendar. Tues & Thurs programs 1-3pm free for 10-12 year olds.
- Summer launch of program calendars on June 26th (all COS age groups attending plus other community programmers such as library and possibly FitAqua & Habitat).
- Successful Go Girl in Edson, girls all had a great time
- FSCD info session very successful
- Saffron social media session organized for Grade 5&6 and parents. Very impactful and definitely worth bringing back to our community to present to whole range of age groups from new parents through to adults.
- Ongoing concern of no in-person mental health supports, long intake process and wait time for therapy.



Community Outreach Services – Tor Begg, Outreach Worker

- Summer program prep. Tuesday Rec Park 7-9pm drop-in. Wednesdays Teen Adventure Seekers late afternoon/evenings. All programs Free. Financial support from TD Bank, Rotary & Tourism Jasper.
- Successful speaker series just wrapped up including self-esteem workshop, youth employment, behavior consultant, anxiety/wildfire talk and talking to teens about sex/relationships.
- Full Spectrum neurodivergence program being offered by Christine at COS. Tor's clients attending have loved it. Program appears to be a huge success so far.

Settlement Services – Jorge Bagatella, Settlement Worker (SWIS)

- Summer programs – hiking and learn to camp for families with Friends of Jasper. Learn to mountain bike. Family picnic partnering with ACFA.
- Cultural Connections was great success in elementary school – Jorge is noticing children making many new friends and connections in the group compared to the start of school year.
- Jorge added to Maggie's comments about daycare... for newcomer families around daycare spaces, often they are not on the list because they have just moved to town or they do not understand the system for daycare here that there is a list.

Fitness and Aquatic Centre – JoAnn Sherlow

- Roller-skating is happening with family times and 15+ times.
- Tennis/pickleball courts open and ready for bookings
- Advanced leadership and Parent/tot – swim 6 planning
- Looking forward to pool opening and connecting to community again

Jasper Municipal Library – Traudi Golla

- Reminder that library hours are always Mon-Sat year-round and that their hours never change between winter and summer.
- Used book sale this Saturday plus sign-up for summer reading club (Mondays 130-3pm)
- Bird talk tonight with Brenda Shepperd

Jasper Food Bank – Cristin Murphy

- Food bank closing July & August
- They do not have the \$ from the Oilers 50/50 yet and it is an unknown amount so hard to plan around it.
- Food bank has communicated with users about closure including what resources they can access if they are in severe need.
- Reason for closure is that the service is not sustainable financially without taking this break.
- Confusion between food bank and food recovery (same building). Intake form now includes plain language, direct questions which has help some users distinguish whether they need food bank or not. Hoping this break will also provide a reset to ensure users are those in need.
- Grants are not stable or guaranteed so it is hard for food bank to stay open on insecure funding streams.
- Consultation with Banff food bank who closes July/Aug/Sept. Banff described volunteer burn out and hard to coordinate in the summer. Jasper recognizes these concerns too.
- Working on deep cleans and food drives to set up for success.

**What do you think?**

- ✓ [Engage Jasper – Jasper's online engagement portal. It's a place to share your ideas and provide feedback.](#)
- ✓ [Municipal public engagement opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Give feedback, contact council or report an issue.](#)
- ✓ [You can also contact council by emailing them.](#)

Promote your program or event:

- ✓ [Check the Community Calendar to find out what's going on in Jasper.](#)
- ✓ [Add your program or event to the calendar.](#)

Share your passion:

- ✓ [Fill out this form](#) and we will contact you to discuss your idea!

All things Community Conversations:

- ✓ [Community Conversations schedule and information](#)
- ✓ [Community Conversations most recent notes](#)
- ✓ [Register to join Community Conversations](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Community Conversations policy.](#)

Do you have neighbours or colleagues who are new to Jasper?

- ✓ The [New to Jasper page of the website](#) has helpful information for them.
- ✓ Welcome them to your neighbourhood using our [welcome bags](#).
- ✓ [Plan a neighbourhood gathering using our Neighbourhood Connections program.](#)

Contact:

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