

# ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2024

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### Election 2024: Important Dates

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 5**. Other important dates include:

- **September 20: First day of in-person early voting** at registrar's office
- **October 15: Deadline to register to vote (or update a registration)**. Note, anyone who registers after this date can vote through Election Day using a provisional ballot.
- **October 25: Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed** to you.
- **October 26: Voter registration offices open on Saturdays** for early voting.
- **November 2: Last-day of in-person early voting.**



*Pictured above: a road sign that says "Elections Ahead" with clouds in the background*

### New Law for Curbside Voting

As of July 1, Virginia updated the law surrounding curbside voting. If you are a person with a disability or 65 years of age or older, you can curbside vote.

For more information on voting rights, accessibility for people with disabilities, and links to register or update your voter registration and see who is on your ballot, visit our website.

### Congratulations, Y.E.A. Graduates!



*Pictured above: a group of teenagers and two adults stand next to a board with a collage on an easel.*

Participants of this summer's Youth Endependent Advocates (Y.E.A.) program celebrated their graduation from the program on August 1. Participants learned independent living skills like nutrition, healthcare, budgeting, obtaining housing, resumes, job interviews, and healthy relationships. The group spent time learning about self-advocacy and their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and participated in community outings.

ECI extends our gratitude to Y.E.A. participants for their hard work, dedication, and sharing their experiences with us over four weeks.

# SEPTEMBER 2024

## Independence Center, Inc. Events

Held at ECI, 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd, Norfolk

- 18<sup>th</sup> WED** \*DATE CHANGE\* **Board of Directors Meeting 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
Board of Director meetings are open to the public.
- 21<sup>st</sup> SAT** **Youth Independent Living Skills Training 1:30pm – 3:00pm**  
Public Speaking: How to Speak so People Will Listen
- 24<sup>th</sup> TUE** **Independent Living Skills Training on Podcasts 3:00pm – 4:30pm**  
This month, we will begin recording our second episode.
- 25<sup>th</sup> WED** **Advocacy Group 2:00pm – 3:30pm**  
The Advocacy Group will be discussing Paratransit this month.

## Community Events & News

*Transportation tickets are NOT provided to attend community events.*

- 6<sup>th</sup> FRI** **Silent Dinner 5:30pm – 8:00pm**  
**Lynnhaven Mall (701 Lynnhaven Parkway, Virginia Beach)**  
Southside Silent Dinner is a silent, social, family-friendly event for the deaf community, CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), ASL beginners and students, and others interested in ASL.
- 14<sup>th</sup> SAT** **ASL Hangout 6:00pm – 9:00pm**  
**Back Bay's Farmhouse (1805 Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach)**  
The ASL Hangout goal is to bring deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing people together to socialize and expand the ASL/deaf community. All users of sign language, any level, are welcome!
- 17<sup>th</sup> TUE** **Participant-Led Event 12noon – 2:30pm**  
**Norfolk Botanical Gardens (6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk)**  
This event is organized by participants.
- 21<sup>st</sup> TUE** **TOUCH Group 11:00am – 1:00pm**  
**ECI (6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk)**  
September is our two-year anniversary! Come celebrate with a great discussion on building our confidence in the community and building up your peers.

# September 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <b>ECI CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY</b>	3	4	5	6 Silent Dinner* @ Lynnhaven Mall 5:30pm – 8:00pm	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 ASL Hangout* @ Back Bay's Farmhouse 6:00pm -9:00pm
15	16	17 Participant-Led Event* @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens 12noon – 2:30pm	18 *DATE CHANGE* Board Meeting @ ECI 1:00pm – 3:00pm	19	20 First Day of In-Person Early Voting	21 TOUCH Group* @ ECI 11:00am – 1:00pm  Youth ILS @ ECI 1:30pm – 3:00pm
22	23	24 ILS Training: "What's Bugging You?" @ ECI 3:00pm – 4:30pm	25 ECI Closed 10:00am – 12noon (Staff Meeting)  Advocacy Group @ ECI 2:00pm – 3:30pm	26	27	28
29	30	<p><b>*These events are not organized by ECI. Bus and paratransit tickets will not be provided by ECI.</b></p>				



Disability Advocacy & Services

Endeppendence Center, Inc.  
6300 East Virginia Beach Blvd  
Norfolk, VA 23502

**Phone:**

(757) 461-8007 Voice  
(757) 461-7527 TDD

**E-Mail:**

[ecinorf@endeppendence.org](mailto:ecinorf@endeppendence.org)

**Website:**

[www.endeppendence.org](http://www.endeppendence.org)

**Newsletter alternate format:**

contact (757) 351-1598 or  
[ehoapili@endeppendence.org](mailto:ehoapili@endeppendence.org)

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## Schedule Changes

Check the ECI website:  
[www.endeppendence.org](http://www.endeppendence.org)  
or call  
(757) 461-8007, option 4

## Accommodations

To request accommodations  
for ECI activities:  
(757) 351-1586 voice  
(757) 461-7527 TDD  
[tmano@endeppendence.org](mailto:tmano@endeppendence.org)

## Social Media

**Facebook:** Endeppendence  
Center, Inc.-Norfolk, Virginia