REV-UP the VOTE!

This year is a very important year to vote, as we will elect a new president who will spend the next four years making decisions that will affect every American citizen, including those with disabilities. This year VAIL is participating in an initiative called REV UP! (Register, Educate, Vote, Use your Power). REV UP! is an initiative to help the disability community realize and recognize its voice, its power through voting, and the importance of being educated about the issues. There are many issues being decided on by our government—issues that directly affect individuals with disabilities. Many people with disabilities don’t vote because they don’t realize the impact they can have on the decision-making process. Others don’t vote because they don’t realize that there is the option of voting by mail or receiving curbside service at the polls on Election Day.

So please REV UP! Register and vote on November 8th! You have the power to make a difference, but only if you register and vote!

If you need more information about registering to vote, or would like assistance registering, please contact Gina Carderelli by email at gina@govail.org, or by phone at 540-830-1557. See you at the polls on November 8th!

2016 Voting Dates to Remember

Sept. 23: Early voting begins (ends Nov. 5, 2016 at 5pm)
Oct. 17: LAST DAY to register to vote in the general election.
Nov. 1: Last day to apply for ballot by mail.
Nov. 8, at 7pm: Last day to submit ballot by mail
Nov. 8, 2016: ELECTION DAY!

Schedule of Events

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**Happy Anniversary, Holly!**

2016 marks Holly Prochaska’s 20th anniversary with VAIL! Twenty years with the same organization used to be a much more common occurrence, but today, it’s quite exceptional, as is Holly! Since her internship just before graduating from Bridgewater College, she has dedicated herself to both VAIL and the disability community. She is the office go-to person—the most knowledgeable about, well, **everything**! We can’t even imagine getting along without her!

Here are Holly’s thoughts on 20 years with VAIL…

**How did you come to VAIL?** I was in my last semester at Bridgewater College and needed an internship. Dr. Echols asked what I was interested in finding out more about before beginning my career. I told her I had always been interested in working with people with intellectual disabilities, so she said, "I have the perfect place for you." I started my internship with VAIL in Feb. 1996.

**What positions have you held at VAIL?** Initially, I was a part-time Administrative Assistant. But I went full-time within a month. My titles have changed over the years. I got promoted to Finance & Operations Director 3 years ago.

**Have you had a favorite position?** There are portions of the job I have always done and continue to do, so it’s hard to say. I love finding ways to make our work go more smoothly, which requires understanding the ins and outs of every program we participate in.

**Did you think your first VAIL position would turn into a 20-year career?** I’d never thought about it. But since I really don't like change, I hoped that I would get a job where I interned!

**How have you seen the disability community change (regarding accessibility, rights, the ADA, etc.) during your tenure?** With all of the new technologies available, the world has really opened up for people with disabilities. But, with progress come moments of regression. Progress in the world of disability services and legislation is measured by decades, not years.

**What has been the best part of working for VAIL?** I love knowing we are making a difference in the lives of others and our community, as well as the relationships I get to develop. There is nothing better than being able to give information to someone that gives them piece of mind or improves their situation.

We work with lots of interesting, inspiring people; is there one person who stands out for you, who has affected you more than anyone else? I have worked with some strong, intelligent women, who are tireless in their desire to make our world and community better. I learned a long time ago that people with disabilities don't wish to be viewed as inspirational. They don't feel any different than anyone else, they just want to live life.

**If you could sum up your experience at VAIL in a few words, what would they be?** Don't be afraid to put yourself in another person’s shoes and try to understand their perspective, because you could easily be in their shoes tomorrow.
Changes are Coming

Note: There is still no date for the redesign finalization.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) is redesigning the Medicaid ID, DD, and Day Support Waivers for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The reasoning behind this redesign is that the current waivers do not fully support the variety of needs of the individuals who rely on these services. The goal of the redesign is to add choice and flexibility in services in the areas of community living, integrated day services, and employment.

- The current **ID Waiver** will become the **Community Living Waiver**. It provides up to and including 24/7 services and supports for adults and some children with exceptional medical and/or behavioral support needs through licensed services. This includes residential supports and a full array of medical, behavioral, and non-medical supports.
- The Current **DD Waiver** will become the **Family and Individual Supports Waiver**. It provides supports for children and adults living with their families, friends, or in their own homes, including supports for those with some medical or behavioral needs.
- The current **Day Support Waiver** will become the **Building Independence Waiver**. It provides supports for adults able to live independently in the community with housing subsidies and/or other types of support. The supports available in this waiver will be periodic or provided on a regular basis as needed.

More information about these changes can be found at: [http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/developmental-disabilities](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/developmental-disabilities)

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**Farewell, Joan!** On June 30, we bid a bittersweet farewell to long-time VAIL employee, Joan Manley, who retired after an extensive and successful career in advocacy. Our farewell was bitter because we'll miss her terribly but sweet because Joan has many plans for the coming years, including travel and remaining busy with the many organizations she’s involved with. During her career, she functioned much like our very own Energizer Bunny, tireless in her efforts to do all she could for those in the disability community. She sits on many boards and committees, adding valuable insight to issues impacting those with disabilities. Well-respected in her community, many, many people were present at Joan’s retirement party in Lexington, despite heavy rain. And if you’ve ever met Joan, you understand why rotten weather wouldn’t deter people from coming to wish her well!
Upcoming Events!

We are so excited to announce the **Rocktown Chili Throwdown**

~ Chef Challenge ~

to benefit VAIL!

Join us on

Sunday, August 21st, Noon to 6pm

At Three Notch’d, Harrisonburg

Music by Shenandoah Alley

Kids’ Activities, Cornhole

Hot Pepper Eating Contest

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**VAIL Presents the 23rd Annual Concert**

by the legendary

**DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER**

Saturday, November 19, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

JMU’s Memorial Hall Auditorium

395 S. High Street, Harrisonburg

Call (540) 433-6513 or 1-888-242-VAIL or email lelia@govail.org for additional information

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**DESIGNER HANDBAG & THIRTY-ONE BINGO**

October 15

Doors open at 5:30 · Games start at 6:30

Weyers Cave Community Center

Cards are 4 for $25 or $10 each

Reserve your cards in advance!

Call 540-433-6513 / email diane@govail.org

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VAIL will hold our annual **Community Leaders’ Luncheon**

On September 22

From 11:45 to 1:00pm

At First Presbyterian Church on Court Square

This is one of our favorite annual events, when we get to say *Thank You* to the hard-working people at the local and state levels who help us provide valuable supports to our community, and tell them about the needs of people with disabilities in our community.

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**Mark your calendars!**

It’s icy fun for a good cause at the **3rd Annual VAIL Arctic Dip!**

**Saturday, February 18th**

Shenandoah Acres Family Campground in Stuarts Draft

Proudly sponsored by LD&B Insurance and Financial Services

Plan to come out to...

Do the Dip!
As is true with all non-profit agencies, VAIL has a wish list of items that would be very useful in making our work more efficient and professional.

- Forever Stamps
- Manilla Folders
- Legal Pads
- Spiral Notebooks
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Fasteners

We are extremely grateful for any support we receive in helping us acquire these items.

Virginia’s Elected Officials, Including the Senators and Delegates who Serve our Area

Governor Terry McAuliffe—804.786.2211
Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam—804.786.2078
Atty. Gen. Mark Herring—804.786.2071
Senator Creigh Deeds—434.296.5491
Senator Emmett Hanger—540.885.6898
Senator Mark Obenshain—540.437.1451
Delegate Dickie Bell—540.448.3999
Delegate Ben Cline—434.946.9908
Delegate Todd Gilbert—540.459.7550
Delegate Steve Landes—540.255.5335
Delegate Tony Wilt—540.208.0735

We thank them for their service and continued support!
Special Thanks to our Donors:

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