

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Democratic Primary: Decision Time

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What's Next for Seahawk Graduates?

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Officially announced graduates, the South Lakes High School Class of 2021 throws their caps in the air, symbolically ending a chapter in the graduates' lives.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
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BRAIN IT ON

JUNE 24, 12 PM PDT / 3 PM EDT



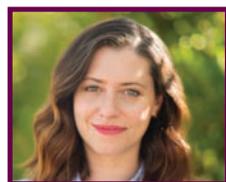
Brain It On

Virtually on Thurs, June 24, 2021
3:00pm-4:30pm EDT

Hosted by Maria Shriver of WAM & Lauren Miller Rogen of HFC



Maria Shriver, WAM



Lauren Miller Rogen, HFC

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NEWS

'Our Overall Concern is Protecting Western Fairfax'

Kathy Smith's State of Sully meeting proves contentious.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) gave her annual, State of Sully message, May 26, to the Sully District Council (SDC). Joining the online meeting was the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) and local residents.

It began innocuously enough, with Smith giving updates on various projects. But things got testy when attendees contended that she wasn't doing enough to protect Western Fairfax County.

Upset about the county's massive, zoning-ordinance overhaul, ZMOD, Jay Johnston told her, "When you approve a bunch of by-right activities, no one has any control over them, and the neighbors are disturbed."

At the outset, Smith said work on the new Sully District Community Center is now 47 percent complete and should be finished in 2022. "It'll have solar on it, a health clinic and two, gym-court spaces," she said. "It'll be an exciting resource for our community."

IN CONJUNCTION with the I-66 widening project, said Smith, all the traffic lights have been removed from Route 28 in Centreville. And she said the county's project to widen Route 28 from Route 29 to the Prince William County line should be done in March 2022. She also gave a vaccination update and said Rocky Run Middle is one of the schools that'll have a vaccine clinic for students.

Then came the questions and comments, with SDC's Jeff Parnes saying the Fairfax County Democratic Committee voted to ask the Board of Supervisors to dismiss new county police chief, Kevin Davis, for his past misconduct.

But, said Smith, "When the Board interviewed him, we believed he was the right person to lead us forward. He's done work sending both police and mental-health professionals to respond to a scene, and that will help us. We interviewed the man he is today; and with his experience, we believed he was the right man to do the job."

Centreville's Jim Hart asked if she supports having party venues for weddings and corporate events on non-arterial roads – not designed for high traffic capacity or high speeds – such as Bull Run Post Office Road [BRPO]. "The General Assembly chose not to go forward with it," he said.

Smith said she has no plans to add anything on that road and, if someone did, the proposal would have to go through the county's approval process. But, said Hart, "Bull Run Post Office has been protected for 39 years from nonresidential uses with parking lots, and this is a major policy shift, if it's a by-right use [which the Supervisors are considering]."

The SDC requested Smith ask the Planning and Development department for infor-

mation about how many weddings it had approved on agricultural land, including wineries and breweries, in the past five years, but she declined.

"And what about bed and breakfasts?" asked

Hart. "Why would we open up Bull Run Post Office, abolish public hearings and not allow neighbors notice and an opportunity to be heard about a new, nonresidential use in an area forbidden [for nearly four decades]?" Smith said she doesn't see more parking lots happening there.

Sheila Dunheimer asked if ZMOD would change the requirements for wineries, breweries, etc., to go through the county's special-exception permit process. "Are there existing reports for currently operating wineries/breweries tracking their events per year to monitor their compliance?" she asked.

"We don't track them," replied Smith. "If you get complaints, you follow up. These aren't new things happening in the county. The state just enabled us to add some regulations."

Meanwhile, Johnston wondered why Smith originally proposed another party/hotel-like venue on BRPO for a commercial establishment, "when the brewery at Bull Run Winery received broad, negative response from local citizens. And how would the county establish traffic controls and pedestrian safety for these types of venues?"

CAROL HAWN – whose Centreville home could be affected – made a statement that "Fairfax County communities will definitely be impacted by Prince William County's Route 28 bypass project, and it's important to us, even if it's not important to the Board of Supervisors." Fairfax County has never held a public hearing on this project and is basically deferring to Prince William's wishes.

Jim Neighbors asked if the Park Authority is "still evaluating making the northwest corner of Pleasant Valley and Braddock roads into a regional or countywide, athletic tourism center, rather than locally serving athletic fields?" Smith said she thinks there are plans to put ballfields there.

Dunheimer noted that Smith usually ignores the resolutions that the two, local, land-use committees submit to her re various land-use cases. "Are we wasting our time communicating our views to you, if you feel our questions are so ridiculous or disrespectful?" asked Hart. "Why is communication with you so polarized any time citizens disagree with you?"



BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION
Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith

NEWS



(From left) Asjah Snead and Susan Rahimyar give the Farewell Address.



Guest Speaker Yasmin Petras, Social Studies teacher, tells graduates to enjoy every moment life offers and enjoy anticipating the unknown.

Saying Good-bye at Herndon High

Cheers loud and proud honor HHS grads.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School held its “Class of Two Thousand Twenty-One Commencement” on June 2 at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va. The school serves the Town of Herndon and the northern part of the unincorporated community of Reston. Local County school board representatives and elected officials, the school’s administrators and staff, family, friends, and supporters of the graduate candidates attended the program.

The Senior Class Council narrated the program. McKay Beasley recalled how seniors adapted and made it out of the pandemic with “newfound grit and resilience.” Genaro Mejia brought to focus that graduates could “rise by lifting others” and that “Herndon Hornets don’t hate.”

Principal Noto recognized the school’s academic scholars. She noted the Class of 2021 received over \$3M in local and national college scholarships. “We wish them well as they extend their influence on new arenas,” Noto said.

Aamirah (Molly) Malik said the Class of 2021’s gift to the school was a “functional and practical” spirit vending machine. Students could spirit items and school supplies. According to Lucille (Lucy) Brown, the gift would be a fundraising opportunity for the school.

Dr. Liz Noto, Principal, presented the Faculty Award to Harol Jimenez, “a one-of-a-kind student...a leader and mentor. “[This] is just the beginning for him,” she said.

Asjah Snead addressed fellow grads, saying, “All the long nights, tears shed, and breakthroughs have brought us here today... beautiful things take time. The pandemic tested our ability to be adaptive, and our patience grew.” Susan Rahimyar cautioned that life would put obstacles in their paths.



Dr. Liz Noto, Principal, places the ribbon of the Faculty Award medal around the neck of Harol Jimenez, recognizing him as the most outstanding senior in the Class of 2021.

[But], we don’t grow when things are easy. We grow when we face those challenges,” she said.

Guest speaker Yasmin Petras, Social Studies teacher at Herndon High, recalled escaping her home country and standing on a mountaintop between Afghanistan and Pakistan. “I was crying because I didn’t want to leave home, my friends, my family, and I really didn’t want to become a refugee.” She said if she could have foreseen her future, to be in the presence of such wonderful, incredible young people at Herndon High, she would have “plummeted down” that mountain with joy.

“Because not only have you changed my life, my process of thinking, but you are also brave enough to walk towards your own unknown future with grace, humility, and hopes to make this world a better place for all of us,” Petras said.

Herndon High School Graduation on Livestream is available for viewing.



South Lakes High School Principal Kim Retzer presents Class of 2021 graduation candidate Ayesha Abdullahi the Bruce Butler Leadership Award, recognizing her as the senior who best exemplifies scholarship, leadership, and service.

‘We Shine Like Stars’

South Lakes Class of 2021 prevails over pandemic.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High School (SLHS) walked a reported 565 graduation candidates at its Commencement Ceremony, moderated by Senior Class Officers and held at W.T. Woodson High School on June 4. Following the seniors’ procession onto the football field, the SLHS Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, with seniors Patricia Sanchez and Joseth Moreno, presented the Colors.

Vikram Velayudhan introduced the South Lakes chorus. Under the direction of Rita Gigliotti, they sang the Senior Class Song, “Shine Like Stars,” words and music by Pinkzebra.

Bethany Burke recalled in her Welcoming Remarks how, since freshman year, seniors counted down the 1,366 days to graduation. “We’ve laughed, cried, sang, danced, and made strides of maturity and growth alongside one another...Our generation will be defined by the pandemic. Our presence here today, surrounded by those who love us, is proof we not only survived but prevailed,” Burke said.

Lily Buro introduced the distinguished guests, among them, Melanie, K. Meren, Hunter Mill District School Board Member and Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill).

In the Assistant Principal’s Address, Greg Luongo said he tried to find a way to give a speech about the Class of 2021 without mentioning the pandemic but could not. “The period from March 13, 2020, until today will always be associated with and, in many ways, define this graduating class,” Luongo said.

SEE SOUTH LAKES, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) South Lakes High School Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremony speakers, Student Speaker Jordan Burnett, and Senior Class Officers Bethany Burke- Welcome Remarks, Vikram Velayudhan-Pledge of Allegiance, Molly Shapiro-Introduction of Student Speaker, and Lily Buro-Introduction of Distinguished Guests gather on stage before the ceremony. (Missing) Mathew Castillo-Introduction of Principal Kim Retzer

Don't Texas Virginia

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



This column is being written before the results of Tuesday's Democratic primary elections are known. With a crowded field of candidates running for several offices, there are bound to be some surprises: Democrats are looking for electable candidates that can help them keep their hold on statewide offices and the General Assembly, and Republicans are hoping that the candidates they recently chose through a modified convention process can give them an opening that will allow them to stop and/or reverse Democratic reforms. Regardless of the primary outcomes, there are certain to be hotly contested, well-financed general elections on Nov. 2.

The issues in the fall elections can be anticipated. We have heard them throughout the spring leading up to the candidate selection processes. Democrats who now control the statewide offices of governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general and majorities

in both the House of Delegates and Senate have been speaking with pride and some would say gloating over the reforms that occurred during the transformative 2020 and 2021 sessions and special sessions. Broadly these issues are ending discrimination in all forms including repeal of leftover Jim Crow laws, passing the most progressive election laws in the country, ratifying the Equal Rights

Amendment, repealing laws that created barriers for women's reproductive health, repealing the death penalty, and enhancing public safety with common sense gun legislation and a redefinition of the role of police.

I have been honored to be a part of the legislative work that brought about these changes as I know other members of the majority party have been. I am aware, however, that these issues will be defined differently by the opposition. Anti-discrimination laws will be opposed by some who do not want the laws to apply to immigrants or persons who love someone other than someone they would approve of. The new election laws will be said to be open to fraud

and to stolen elections. The ERA will be termed unneeded and counter to our culture as a nation. Reproductive health laws will be called baby killing and worse. Repealing the death penalty will be used as an example of the state getting soft on crime. Redefining police work to strengthen public safety will be called defunding police of which I am not aware of anyone in Virginia proposing. The gun safety laws will be called the first step to gun confiscation, again something I am not aware of anyone in Virginia proposing.

Fortunately, voters have become aware over the years that these arguments have been used for a party to regain power or to stay in power. The repeated social media and television ads will try to drive home the point, but I believe that the voters have been more sophisticated than falling for fear tactics. Democrats will be running grassroots campaigns to counter the misinformation and paranoia.

Why do I write with such certainty as to what will be happening this election year? I only need to look at what is happening in Georgia and Texas to see the playbook of the opposition. My message from what I am seeing there is to ask voters that we don't Texas Virginia!

VIEWPOINTS

South Lakes High Graduates Reflect on Graduating in Pandemic Time and Their Next Challenges

— MERCIA HOBSON

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



Bethany Burke of Reston:

"Although the school year has been quite difficult, we have been able to have more senior events in the fourth quarter. We are starting to see the end of the tunnel, and I'm happy to have in-person graduation. [In the immediate future,] I will be going to Penn State. [Five years from now,] I see myself as a registered nurse serving in the United States Army."

Molly Shapiro:

"I'm disappointed about the high school experiences I've missed, but I'm thankful that they have been able to give us a real graduation this year. [I am going] to The University of Tampa and playing lacrosse. [Five years from now] I hope to have graduated from Tampa and to be finding a job in nursing somewhere."



Nick Abuagla:

"Graduating during the pandemic has been especially sad, although we've actually been given the opportunity [to graduate in person] this year. In five years, with the life-long tools acquired from this wonderful school, on top of the experiences I had, I see myself working at one of the many huge office buildings here."



Alex Gifford:

"It'll definitely be something I never forget. I'm just happy I get to celebrate face-to-face. Graduating this year reflects not only the accomplishments of the past 12 to 13 years but also our resilience during the most challenging times. Next year I will be attending the University of Georgia to double major in business and music performance. In five years, I hope to either procure a Master's in Business Administration or be settled with my first job."

Kyle Nobles:

"It's very different from past years, but I am glad we are able to have in-person graduation. I'm going to James Madison University next year. I would like to travel after college and see new places in the world."



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State of Sully Debated

FROM PAGE 2

"I don't mind if people disagree with me or have different opinions," replied Smith. "The confusion about what agritourism is, is just not true." She also noted that she's aware of the resolutions but doesn't refer to them – which was not the case under the previous supervisor.

"Our overall concern is protecting western Fairfax," said Ted Trosciancki. "We don't feel your urgency on that."

"We're the last frontier in Fairfax County, and that's why we moved here, because it was rural," said Johnston. "But we're losing at every step by building Accessory Living Units and Workforce Dwelling Units."

"We need to provide housing for people," answered Smith. "And getting them closer to their jobs will help

with the traffic. The county is growing, and the Board is working through it."

Still, said Hart, "You seem dismissive of the objections to the changes to environmental policy in the Residential-Conservation District, such as ZMOD, expanding agritourism, streamlining and abolishing public hearings, Loudoun County's impacts on our neighborhoods, airport noise, the jughandle in the floodplain, whatever. And you seem so hostile any time SDC or WFCCA object."

"We're just adding regulations," said Smith.

"But at the expense of decades of protection," said Trosciancki. "We want you to be our advocate. There are decades of work by many to protect the Occoquan Watershed. The perception is that the current Board of Supervisors is ignoring it – and we'll continue to vocally oppose the direction it's taking the county."

ROUNDUPS

Stringfellow Road Closures this Week

Northbound and southbound Stringfellow Road approaching I-66 in Chantilly will close nightly, this Thursday-Friday, June 10-11, for continued installation of bridge beams for a new I-66 East bridge over Stringfellow Road. Drivers traveling on Stringfellow will be directed to a detour route and should allow extra time to reach their destinations. The Stringfellow ramps to I-66 East from I-66 West

will also be closed during this time.

The work is part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. The I-66 bridges over Stringfellow are being widened to accommodate the new I-66 Express Lanes and provide room for any future mass transit along I-66. All work is weather dependent and will be rescheduled if inclement conditions occur.



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Environmental investigation has detected volatile organic compounds and total petroleum hydrocarbons in soil and groundwater, at levels that could pose risk to human health or the environment. The contamination is likely the result of historical commercial dry cleaning and automotive repair operations at the Site. Vapor modeling was conducted to determine if a vapor intrusion concern was present at the site. To address the potential risk, Aslin Beer Company applied to and was deemed eligible to participate in the Voluntary Remediation Program. Prior to building occupation, an epoxy style vapor barrier was installed to mitigate potential risk to human health. After the vapor barrier was installed, ambient air samples were collected from the building interior to confirm the systems effectiveness. Sampling indicated the vapor barrier is effective in mitigating potential risk to human health. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been reviewed and accepted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The RAP includes 1) restriction of groundwater use, 2) installation and maintenance of a vapor mitigation system in new construction and existing structures, and 3) development of a health and safety plan prior to redevelopment.

Persons wishing to comment on the voluntary remedial action or request additional information should contact the following person who is familiar with the Site:

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg



Under the direction of Rita Gigliotti, Director, the South Lakes chorus, composed of members from the Class of 2021, sings the Senior Class Song, "Shine Like Stars," words and music by Pinkzebra.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High Graduation

FROM PAGE 3

Instead of focusing on the negative, he spotlighted the positive. Seniors became proficient in online learning, preparing them for success in a virtual work environment. They strengthened relationships and learned new hobbies. "The tenacity, grit, and determination to get through the pandemic will continue to help you through the future," Luongo said.

Molly Shapiro introduced Student Speaker, Jordan Burnett who recalled their years at South Lakes, saying no one did it alone. Burnett thanked many and said, "Remember your time at South Lakes as you disperse into the real world because once a Seahawk, always a Seahawk."

Matthew Castillo introduced Principal Kim Retzer. "I am proud of you for how you have been there not only for each other but for the grace you showed your teachers who faced a huge challenge in learning to teach virtually...In a world where understanding and empathy are not always at the forefront, you have demonstrated these traits do exist," Retzer said.

Retzer recognized the 150 Honor Graduates, "the most South Lakes has ever had," and the graduates who committed "to serve our country."

Before naming the Bruce Butler Leadership Award recipient, Retzer announced the four faculty-chosen nominees, those seniors who best exemplified scholarship, leadership, and service. None knew the fac-

ulty nominated them. Retzer said, "Please stand...Ayesha Abdullahi, Carter Berg, Olivia Bond, Zea Nims. I am proud to announce the winner of the 2021 Bruce Butler Leadership Award is Ayesha Abdullahi."

According to Retzer, Ayesha was an active member of many organizations and programs. She tutored younger students and spearheaded a mental health awareness campaign for families and youth. "Ms. Silton, AVID teacher, said it best, 'Clearly this is a young woman prepared for life beyond high school and continues to seek ways to make a difference in her community,'" Retzer said.

Heather Thomas, Director of Student Services addressed Principal Retzer and certified the Class of 2021 met the graduation requirements and declared them eligible for graduation from South Lakes High School. Counselors called out names for the dissemination of diplomas.

Afterward, Retzer said, "By virtue of the authority vested in me as Principal of South Lakes High School, by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the governing regulations and policies of the Virginia State Department of Education and the Fairfax County School Board, I hereby confirm that the Seniors of the Class of 2021, whose names have been presented to me are now, graduates."

View the South Lakes High School Class of 2021 Commencement video online at <http://boxcast.tv/view/south-lakes-updated-998522>.

Driver Charged in Fatal Bicyclist Crash in Centreville

A 64-year-old cyclist has died following a crash that occurred May 21 just after 10 a.m. at the intersection of Hidden Canyon Road and Blueridge View Drive in Centreville. Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Raymond Buza, of Centreville, was on his bicycle traveling east on Hidden Canyon Road. The driver of a 2017 Hyundai Sonata turned left onto Blueridge View Drive in front of Buza which resulted in the crash. Buza was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the Sonata remained at the scene. Preliminarily, alcohol does not appear to be a factor of the crash for the driver. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of

the Commonwealth's Attorney for review - FCPD Public Affairs Bureau reports. The

driver, Teresa Young, 55, of Centreville, was charged with infliction of injury on a vulnerable road user on June 3.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text - Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web - Click HERE. Download our Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers". Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest. Please leave contact information if you wish for a detective to contact you.

This is the first fatality involving a bicyclist in the county to date in 2021.

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The Masks are Off ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... and I suppose life is back on, especially for those of us who have been vaccinated. No more hiding your emotions and expressions behind your face-covering as you once again start interacting with the general public. They can see you and of course, you can see them - and you can hear/understand them, too. Conversations will flow more evenly now that they won't be interrupted by an "Excuse me, I can't understand you," or a "Could you please repeat that?" Conversations that were previously affected by fits and starts will revert back to questions and answers and what abouts. For me, the mask was an impediment to normal conversation. Necessary and prudent during a once-in-a-lifetime, public health emergency, but apparently, the time has come. Previous directives: masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining and vaccinations were all most of us ever talked about. Now with vaccinations getting into more arms, our lives are expanding. From our living room to just plain living.

Though there are still mask-on requirements: in schools, on public conveyances, and in airports, train stations and the like and while obtaining healthcare services, we are now, especially those of us vaccinated, free to return to our previous life, mostly. Soon capacity restrictions will be lifted as our lives, so far as the activities which involve large crowds, both inside and out, can open back up in their entirety. Moreover, social distancing will likewise become a thing of the past. Now, all those round stickers marking six feet of distance as well as the plexiglas dividers will disappear as well. However, individual businesses retain the right to require visitors to mask up. As Bobby Brown used to sing: "That is my prerogative," and so too will businesses have their own prerogative to require patrons - or not, to abide by their mask-wearing requirements.

All of that being said and understood, even though I'm fully vaccinated, I still feel like I should mask-up. From the national vaccination statistics, there are plenty of people who have not yet been vaccinated and/or are unwilling/unconvinced they need to comply. I can't quite understand the "vaccine hesitancy" or the disinterest in following these most recent public health advisories. It seems like such a small, relatively risk-free/preventing risk step to take. I mean, whatever temporary side effects/discomfort one might experience a day or two after the injection pales in comparison to the effect on your body and/or life expectancy contacting the virus might have. I'll take a definite over a maybe anytime.

Besides, I don't want to be responsible for my own demise, or any others for that matter. In this situation, I'm happy/proud to conform to the public health directives. The virus is bigger - and badder, than any one of us; so to be bigger and badder than the virus, literally and figuratively, the more of us who receive the vaccine, the more of us will be able to survive this pandemic and safely embrace our former lives while not fearing the consequences of our inactions.

The other day at my local Giant, I happened to walk by the customer service desk where I heard a customer bragging to an employee about not planning on getting a vaccination, like he was proud of it. What a disconnect! I'm proud to have gotten my vaccination, and I'm equally proud to have participated in a national effort to try and combat the greatest health crisis this country has suffered since the Spanish Flu first infected Americans over 100 years ago.

I just wish more people would put the country ahead of themselves. For all that we're given here, it really doesn't seem too much to ask. In this circumstance, paybacks are not hell, they're heaven.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Decision Time for Virginia Democrats

**Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8:
Initial voter turnout low but enthusiasm high.**

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Voters across Fairfax County headed to the polls Tuesday, June 8, to cast their votes in person at the Democratic Party Primary.

Initial voter turnout appeared low. Shortly after the polls opened at 6 a.m., Rebecca Burton stood outside Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2, located at the Herndon Community Center. With no voters in sight, she said, "I'm going to be catching up on a lot of reading." At Precinct 222 Reston No. 3, located at the Lake Anne Community Center, only a handful of voters had cast their ballots one hour into the election.

Precinct 304 McLean witnessed a similarly low turnout at Cooper Middle School. "This morning, as of 8:21, a very enthusiastic ten voters," said Stew Lingley, Chief Election Officer. He attributed the apparent decrease in primary voters to increased absentee/early voting and no excuse needed for eligible voters to cast an absentee/mail-in ballot.

Anne Whipple at Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library said election officials were all trying to figure out "how much early voting was the right amount." Greg Stolp, Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center said early voting turnout there was "a little lighter." "It's understandable since there is only one party."

Voters who cast ballots on June 8 voiced various reasons for doing so. Teacher Jeannine Everett of Great Falls said she voted that day because it was important to show her students everyone needed to participate in government. "We've been cooped up too long and we're forgetting we are neighbors," she said.

Elena Lowe of Great Falls said she preferred voting in person. "This seems easier."



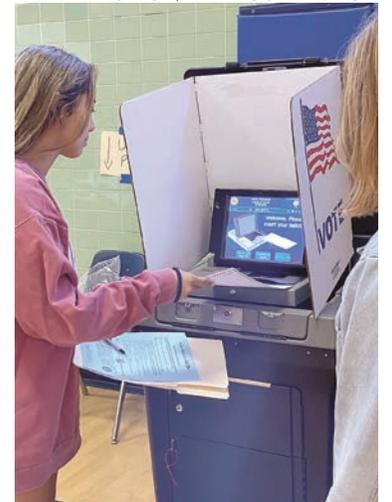
Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2- Election Official volunteer Ashley Yea says, "I think it is important to be part of the democratic process."



Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2- Rebecca Burton says she has not voted yet but would be there all day volunteering. "Optimistically, I'm supporting Jennifer McClellan-super qualified; Sam Rasoul - a uniter, Mark Herring, and Irene Shinn."



Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-Parents of Irene Shinn, Candidate for VA HD86 install her political signs outside the polling place. Asked why voters should cast their ballot for Shinn, Jenin Shinn said, "Because Irene will stand up for what is right."



Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean-Caitlin Nguyen of McLean votes in her first Democratic Party Primary Election.

For Carol Rieger of Great Falls, learning about the candidates proved vital and waiting for the June 8 primary gave her time to research them.

Caitlyn Nguyen of McLean said she was voting on June 8 because she had just learned about the primary, and it was her first time voting in one.

Whipple said she was glad the Democratic Party held a primary even though they "can be messy, confusing, and tempers short." "But after tonight, we'll all be united behind our candidates. We believe in a multitude of voices deciding who will represent us in the General Election [on November 2]," she said.

As reported by Election officials, the total number of votes cast June 8 at the polling places:

- ❖ Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-110 at 11:20 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct 222 Reston No. 3-88 voters at 11:02 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - 74 voters at 11:36 a.m.
- ❖ Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean-40 voters as of 11:36 a.m.
- ❖ No reply from Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center



Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library -- Great Falls voters (from left) Elena Lowe and Carol Rieger of Great Falls, prepare to cast their ballots at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8



Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - Jeannine Everette of Great Falls votes to show her students it is important to participate in the democratic process.



Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean - a voter shows her license before receiving her ballot.



Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center-The polling place is empty 3.5 hours into the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8



Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - No lines early Tuesday morning at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8