

# Forum

(Continued from Page 1) the money would be better spent on creating jobs. Some voiced concerns about the lack of positive news reporting by the mainstream media outlets relating to West Las Vegas. Some were concerned about failed leadership over the last eight to 12 years by the area's former council representatives.

Responding to these questions and other issues posed, some of the candidates indicated that crime and the lack of jobs were two of the most important issues in this campaign. Additional comments indicated that the Westside has become a dumping ground for the homeless population, that this community did not generate any revenue from the relocation of the FBI building or the purchase of the Veteran's Administration building by Cox Communication, and the process of building a new hotel-casino in this community is marketable.

About youth education and activities:



Ward 5 candidate Gene Collins speaks.



Black Power Talk Show co-host Dianna Saffold-Cooks, right, takes a question from Beatrice Turner, a longtime community activist, during the Ward 5 candidates' meet-and-greet.

—Students need to be better prepared for the proficiency examinations, especially since the state plans on introducing social studies and science to the exam process.

—Many of area children have never visited Mount Charleston, the museums, or their local library.

On economics and community development:

—The Historic Westside needs an established entertainment district for the Jackson corridor area, near D Street.

—The area has too many not-for-profit organizations operating in our neighbor-

hoods that do not generate tax revenues.

—S.B. (Senate Bill) 208 prevents the building of new development for gaming in our community because of the proximity to residential neighborhoods, churches, and schools.

—The community needs to demand its fair share of tax dollars generated from the fuel tax, room tax from the casinos, and the Community Reinvestment Act.

A brief exchange among the candidates centered on the endorsement of Sheriff Gillespie and Metro for candidate Barlow. More than one of the candidates questioned the validity of receiving that endorsement and the violence committed against African-Americans in this community by the police.

Another heated discussion addressed the longstanding need to attract a viable, full-service grocery store to the area, a nemesis issue for the former councilman.

Some of the candidates indicated that the mayor, city council and the former councilman failed in its efforts to negotiate effectively for the construction of a new grocery store, leaving many in the community, especially the seniors, with the hardship of traveling by bus, outside the neighborhoods to shop for themselves and/or their families.

After the conclusion of the forum, four members of the audience were asked to share their thoughts about the event. Sarann Knight Preddy, a longtime resident and busi-

ness owner in the community stated, "I thought that a lot of information was shared tonight, along with a lot of exaggeration," Preddy said.

"No one person knows exactly what they are going to do when they get in office. They know what they like to do, but they still must work with the community, and it will take a lot of time, money and the support of the whole council to make a difference here and get things back to where it once used to be," she concluded. Minister Duke Muhammad, from the Nation of Islam said, "It's always a blessing that the community gets an opportunity to hear from the candidates, but I have to be honest and say that one of the most progressive comments made today was stated by Judge Karen Bennett.

"We didn't come here to hear what they are going to do for us, but who is going to address an agenda that comes from the community," Bennett said. "This is an elected official by the community, and the community should tell the official what they want them to do, and see if they will buy into the agenda of the community. We plan to be very progressive in the planning of that agenda for whichever candidate gets into office," she said.

Gary Gray said, Shondra Summers-Armstrong talks.

"It's fascinating for me to watch the depth of commitment to this community and the depth of caring from a lot of the individuals that came here tonight had. In looking to see which of these candidates can get the other council members to vote for matters important to the citizens of Ward 5, to make it better for them, is the goal of the people to elect the person that will do the right thing."

Minister Rose Winston said, "I truly was enhanced by the wonderful questions and the answers. It was fascinating to know that all of the candidates were candid and the only question I have is, who will be best candidate?"

Early voting began on March 17 and continues until March 30. The primary election will be held on April 3. For more information on the election or to locate your polling site, call the Voter Registrar's office at 702-455-VOTE or 455-8683, or access the website at [www.co.clark.nv.us](http://www.co.clark.nv.us).



# Expo

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is vitally important. "This weekend's event is entitled 'Health Food Moves with Soul EXPO' that is being sponsored by the Las Vegas Clark County Library District," she said. "During the month of March the library district was hosting what they called 'Find Your Fit at Your Library' offering a variety of fitness programs and better health workshops at different libraries throughout the county.

The event at the West Las Vegas Library is the last one reaching out to the community. We are going to sponsor a whole day of health, fitness, and wellness programming featuring an African dance Fit-U workshop on movement and fitness, how individuals can live a healthier life, and teaching individuals about better understanding the phrase 'You are what you eat.'

Suffering from a debilitating illness, Stanton says, prompted her to get more in tune with her body and how to care for it. Changing her diet and maintaining physical activity—Stanton has been a vegetarian and a dancer for more than 20 years—helped her deal with painful menstrual cramps. Learning to prepare African-American dishes without excessive salt, sugar, sodium and other additives convinced Stanton to try creative ways to prepare healthy and tasty dishes. She eventually perfected those skills, and transferred them into a business predicated on providing healthy recipes and foods for her clients.

The event is free and open to the public. However, registration is required to attend each of the workshops. To R.S.V.P. or obtain more information regarding this event, please call the West Las Vegas Library at 702-507-3989.

## Experience and Leadership for Ward 5

Ricki Barlow is a lifelong resident of Las Vegas, and has spent most of that time in Ward 5. He knows firsthand the challenges our community faces. As a liaison for Councilman Lawrence Weekly, he has worked hand-in-hand with residents and community leaders to make our city better. He'll continue that work as our City Councilman.

Elect

★★★★★ Ricki ★★★★★

**BARLOW**

★★★★★ City Council • Ward 5

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Paid for by Ricki Barlow for City Council