



**INSIDE: SPARTANS
DEFEAT KINGSTON, B1**



BI council election heats up at debates



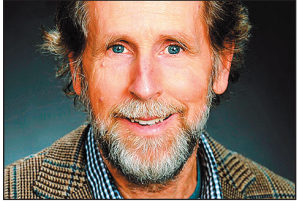
Rasham Nassar



Clarence Moriwaki



Joe Deets



Ron Peltier



Brenda Fantroy-Johnson



Chris Smith

Hiding pro-growth? Misrepresenting each others' views?

BY STEVEN POWELL
Bainbridge Island Review

A couple of the Bainbridge Island City Council races became downright nasty at the online debate hosted by the Bainbridge Island Review Monday night.

In particular, Mayor Rasham Nassar claimed challenger

Clarence Moriwaki is trying to hide that he is pro-growth. And both Councilmember Joe Deets and former councilmember Ron Peltier said they were misrepresenting each other's stances and votes on various issues.

The election is Nov. 2. Voters should start getting their ballots in the mail Oct. 15.

Nassar vs. Moriwaki

Their debate really got heated when Moriwaki said he tried to contact Nassar the weekend before. He said he left all kinds of messages, and she never returned them. "Is this how you treat

TURN TO **PRO-GROWTH** | A7

Biggest division on the police station-courthouse issue

BY STEVEN POWELL
Bainbridge Island Review

Comments about the police station-court facility at the old Harrison medical building showed some of the biggest differences between Bainbridge Island City Council candidates at a forum last Friday.

The in-person forum scheduled to be attended by about 40 people was at the BI Senior Community Center.

Clarence Moriwaki, who is facing Mayor Rasham Nassar, said he supports the Harrison site, adding it's been selected and paid for. "Maybe we spent too much" but it's time to move on. It's not time for more studies, which he called, "analysis paralysis."

Nassar said millions of dollars were wasted, and there needs to be an investigation. The fact that some

want to just let that injustice slide is an embarrassment, she said. She said a new jail-court facility could be built on another site for what it would cost to remodel Harrison, which could be turned into senior housing instead. "We'd get two for the price of one."

Councilmember Joe Deets agreed more with Moriwaki, while ex-councilmember Ron Peltier sided more with Nassar.

Peltier said he doesn't want to defund police, but he doesn't want to spend too much either. He said he opposed Harrison because the city paid too much. He said an independent look at it must take place that sets aside politics. It all points to "dysfunction in government. They can't work together," he said of council.

Deets said he voted against Harrison, not

because it wasn't a good site, but because "they were desperate to sell," and the cost was too high.

Kent Scott, who is taking on former Planning Commissioner Jon Quitslund for an open seat, said he agreed more with Nassar. "We don't know what our policing needs are," he said.

Quitslund blamed some of the problem on new city manager Blair King. He said the council tasked King with doing an investigation to determine the best site, but he hasn't done that.

Here's what candidates had to say regarding other topics.

Sustainable transportation

Deets and Peltier showed major disagreement on this issue.

TURN TO **DIVISION** | A15

SEARCH FOR THE GREAT PUMPKIN



Glorious gourds

Lots of great pumpkins can be found at grocery stores on Bainbridge Island now that fall and October are here and Halloween is not far away. Workers at Town and Country and Safeway on BI obviously enjoy setting up displays with future jack-o-lanterns as the stars.

Steve Powell/Bainbridge Island Review photos

Two newcomers face off for South Ward council seat

BY TYLER SHUEY
Bainbridge Island Review

As the Nov. 2, general election inches closer and with folks receiving their ballots Oct. 15, two newcomers will face off for the Bainbridge Island City Council South Ward seat.

Former planning commissioner Jon Quitslund and longtime island resident Kent Scott are the candidates for the council seat left vacant by Christy Carr, who is not seeking reelection. The position is a four-year term.

Both candidates answered questions from the Bainbridge Island Review.

Jon Quitslund

What is your education, work and political experience that qualifies you for the position?

Bainbridge school system, 1945-57; B.A. Reed College, 1961; Ph. D. Princeton, 1967. Academic training

and experience has equipped me for analytical thinking and expository writing. I've had no experience in elective office, but since 2000, I have participated in several volunteer task forces with planning staff and other citizens, and I served for nine years as a planning commissioner.

What are your top 3-5 concerns?

1) Complete a broad and deep revision of the Winslow Master Plan, and a Housing Action Plan that includes extensive community engagement.

2) Conduct a thorough review of BIMC Title 18 (Zoning) and complete revisions in several chapters in order to implement the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan — especially the Land Use and Housing elements.

3) Develop an array of policies



Jon Quitslund



Kent Scott

their eminent decision-making powers; they might then make better decisions. Being more effectively connected with other components of COBI and the community would help.

Why vote for you rather than your opponent?

In Italy years ago, I saw a political poster that showed a young couple embracing, and the message was "Kiss with your eyes closed, vote with your eyes open." Some people may vote for my opponent because they think I'm too ambitious, or not realistic in my expectation of positive change. I see a need to address issues that have been recognized but left unresolved for years; I possess a combination of patience and stubborn resolve, and I enjoy working with others toward well-defined goals.

Kent Scott

What is your education, work and political experience that qualifies you for the position?

My 40 plus year career in planning/design/construction has included urban design for small communities, mixed-use/multi-family projects, affordable housing, public spaces, and large education/interpretive facilities throughout the U.S. and Asia. That included extensive public process, large consultant teams and a bottom line of cost management, timely completion and broad coordination. I have been on the city's Design Review Board, Open Space Commission and Public Arts Commission, as well as a board member of Squeaky Wheels, consultant and volunteer with BI Land Trust and participation on numerous city task forces — Winslow Tomorrow, Civic Square and now the Sustainable Transportation Plan.

TURN TO **SOUTH WARD** | A15

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COVID-19 rates declining in Kitsap

BY REVIEW STAFF

On Wednesday, the Kitsap Public Health District confirmed 43 new COVID cases in the previous 24 hours, bringing the countywide total to 15,946 since the pandemic began in March of 2020.

Of the new cases, North Kitsap had six and Bainbridge Island three; 13 were in South Kitsap, 11 in Bremerton; and 10 in Central Kitsap.

The health district noted an active outbreak of 29 cases at the assisted-living facility Madrona House on Bainbridge Island and an outbreak of 28 cases at Poulsbo's Liberty Shores senior center. Outbreaks are listed as "active" if an associated case has been identified in the previous 28 days.

Over the last week, the county's case rate per 100,000 residents has dropped to 162.9. A total of 531 cases are

in their recommended "isolation period" (10 days after first symptoms.) To date, the number of Kitsap County residents ages 12 and older who have initiated vaccination is 73.5%.

Of the 15,946 total cases, 579 have been reported on Bainbridge Island, 4,296 in Bremerton, 3,564 in Central Kitsap, 2,438 in North Kitsap and 5,058 in South Kitsap. 11 cases have come from unknown areas of the county.

There have been 205 COVID-related deaths since the pandemic began and 159 since the start of the new year. Details of the three most-recent deaths have not yet been provided by the health district. Of the previous 202 deaths, 88 were ages 80 and older, 49 ages 70-79, 35 ages 60-69, 20 ages 50-59, six ages 40-49 and four ages 30-39.

Youth still slammed by COVID

BY STEVEN POWELL

Bainbridge Island Review

Youth continue to be slammed by the COVID-19 epidemic.

While the case rate overall per 100,000 people is declining at 188, it's 306 for those ages 5-18 in Kitsap County.

The seven-day incidence rate is 60% higher for youth. There were 15 school outbreaks as of late last week. The COVID rate overall during that same time period was 9.2 times higher among people not vaccinated.

The Kitsap Public Health District reported its 200th COVID death recently. It took about a year to reach 100, but only six months to reach 200. The highest number of any month was reported in September at 52.

For the week ending Oct. 2, there were 30 new COVID hospitalizations, com-

pared with 31 the week before.

About 517 cases were reported from Sept. 27-Oct. 3 with 26 on Bainbridge Island, 150 in Bremerton, 90 in Central Kitsap, 85 in North Kitsap, 164 in South Kitsap and two undetermined.

A person who had a rare blood-clotting syndrome in King County after getting the Johnson and Johnson vaccine was the fourth nationwide out of 14.9 million doses. About 47 people recovered from the same syndrome. Two cases of it have been reported out of 376 million doses of Moderna.

About 67% of those ages 12 and older are fully vaccinated, compared with 71% statewide.

Testing sites are still available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bainbridge Island on Mondays and Poulsbo on Tuesdays.

Mexican-style bakery no longer just online sales

BY TYLER SHUEY

Bainbridge Island Review

When Luis Montes and his family moved to Poulsbo a few years ago, they began selling custom cakes and pastries on social media but the demand was so high they now have a bakery on Viking Avenue.

Montes, 40, and his daughter Angela, 20, co-own Cake Studio Panaderia Mexicana, which opened in late June in the space that used to be 2 Brothers Deli. The new Mexican-style bakery has been a success as many community members have been recommending it to other people, Montes said.

Cake Studio offers seasonal and custom cakes, orejas (cinnamon sugar puff pastry), concha (Mexican sweet bread), bolillo (savory bread), Tres leches (sponge cake), and empanadas, among other baked goods. They also offer options for events such as birthday parties or weddings.

"We pride ourselves in our Mexican culture and our ability to replicate its most authentic flavors," the bakery's website states. "Our dream is to make others happy, and this is our way to achieve it."

For now, Cake Studio is a family business of nine employees. In the future, once the COVID-19 pandemic has somewhat subsided, Montes wants to expand the bakery to other locations across Kitsap County, such as Bainbridge Island, Kingston and Bremerton. "This is a project," he said.



Photos by Tyler Shuey | Bainbridge Island Review

Above: Co-owner Luis Montes with his wife Liliana who also works at the bakery. Below right: Various pastries are offered at Cake Studio Panaderia Mexicana.

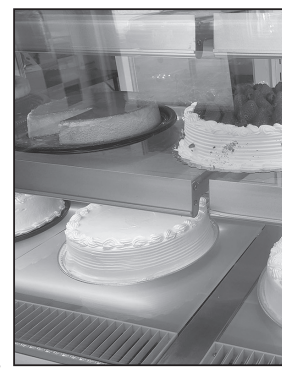
While this is the first bakery Montes has opened, he's been baking for about 27 years but said he has more experience with cakes than bread. Montes lived in Wyoming for several years, but upon arriving in Poulsbo, he and his family sold bakery items online while also working multiple other jobs each day.

"But as we got to know more and more people, our schedules were no longer sufficient, and



we had to quit our day jobs," the bakery's website reads. "Today, we are blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful people. Our friends, family, and neighbors encourage and inspire us to keep moving forward towards our family dream."

Pan de Muerto is a sweet bread that is made for Day of the Dead.



PRO-GROWTH

CONTINUED FROM A1

all of your constituents?" he asked. Nassar said she didn't get any message, but they have consistently communicated by email so he could have contacted her that way. He chimed in that she must have erased it. "You attack my numbers and my communications style," she said, adding that was inappropriate.

She then questioned his promise to bring transparency to city government when he won't even admit he is supported by developers. She asked him if he would join her in banning upzoning. He didn't answer. Some people want him to take a position, and if they don't like it, "It's my way or the highway." He said he doesn't think it's right to have a pre-determined agenda. He wants to be open on issues, listen to information and come up with objective decisions. Nassar said that question deserved a real answer because planning at Island Center and Rolling Bay is on pause now, but could come back if someone pro-growth is elected to council.

The two also were at odds over a question about the former Harrison Medical Center building becoming a police station-courthouse. Moriwaki said he supports it because the city has studied this for 20 years, the building has been purchased, plans have been made, and a new courthouse and police station are badly needed.

Nassar said a police needs assessment needs to be done, which hasn't been done before. She said there is a growing trend to spend more on health and human services and having them help police. She also said there needs to be an investigation into why so much money was spent on Harrison. She'd rather see a new building put up where the existing station is. When given a chance for rebuttal, she questioned Moriwaki's ability to do the research needed to be a good councilmember. She said watching out for taxpayer money is a key obligation of the job.

On another question, Moriwaki said one of the main reasons he decided to run for office was to bring trust back to the City Council. "Public service is in my DNA," he said, adding there has been too much infighting on the council. He said members need to be compatible and collaborative. "We are held to higher standards." Nassar

said her problem with the council is members focus too much on personalities and not enough on policy. She said she has been personally attacked ever since she got on council in 2017, and, "It hasn't stopped; it's only increased." In rebuttal, Moriwaki said personal attacks are "something I don't do."

As for climate change, Nassar said the "environment has to come first" otherwise the planet won't be inhabitable. She's always stood for preservation, but it's a problem when people think it has to be human needs vs. conservation. She said businesses can work within climate goals and be successful. Moriwaki said the Climate Action Plan is a good start, and he supports alternative transportation. He said carbon load can be reduced if people live in more urban areas with amenities close by. In rebuttal, Nassar said the Climate Action Plan ignores the near term. She said tertiary treatment at the sewage plant would bring the "most bang for the buck."

In concluding remarks, Moriwaki said islanders are frustrated and tired of the drama on City Council. He said he wants to move the city forward in a positive way and make it a "place we can be proud of." Nassar said her voting record shows she stands up to special interests. "I'm not pro-growth. I cannot be bought. I represent all islanders."

Deets vs. Peltier

Peltier came out swinging from the start, saying of Deets, "My opponent does not get a lot done."

And it continued until the end when Deets said, "I have the temperament to work with everyone - not just those I agree with." He added that six former councilmembers are endorsing him. He encouraged everyone to look at the Progressive's Voters Guide. Peltier responded saying that guide has a ridiculously flattering review of Deets and an absurdly negative review of him.

"He would like to take credit for everything he votes on," Peltier said, adding much of what Deets says in his campaign is not true - it's talk but he doesn't do the actual work. Deets said that comment is a perfect example of Peltier's behavior of "belittling whoever is in his way" and "bringing up things I didn't do."

The pair also disagreed on affordable housing. Deets said too many people who work on BI can't afford to live here. "These people are our friends. They should be our neigh-

bors." He said only the rich could afford to live here if Peltier gets back on the council. Peltier said it's not true that he doesn't support affordable housing. He said he supports the Wintergreen project, which Deets does not, because it's in a more urban setting. But he did not favor a previous project that would have built 100 units in a rural area.

They also disagreed on the environment. Deets said climate change is happening now so the council is already trying to reduce carbon emissions and foodservice waste, plus he wants the city to buy a biodigester. Peltier said he doesn't think the city can reduce its carbon footprint much, but it can manage its forests better and upgrade wastewater treatment to preserve Puget Sound.

No surprise they also disagreed on the police station-courthouse, but they also had some agreements, such as they both voted against buying Harrison.

Deets did because "Harrison wanted to sell very badly," and the price was too high. Deets said the city needs to evaluate the three sites it owns, decide which one is best, and move on. He does not favor a probe because even though he feels buying Harrison at that price was a mistake there is no proof of wrongdoing. Peltier said even though he would like to know what happened he doesn't want that to get in the way of moving forward. But he voted against Harrison because he favored a different site "that my opponent didn't support." In rebuttal, Deets said the city already owned three sites, and Peltier favored another that would have just created more delays.

As for improving the workings of city government, Peltier said councilmembers need to be better educated about things like growth management, public records, open meetings, managing the work plan, etc. He said they try to do too much and overestimate what city staff can do, so they don't get much done.

Deets said the council already has improved how it works together. He said while everyone is entitled to their opinion they are not entitled to their own facts. He said while perfect behavior is unattainable there needs to be a code of conduct and respect.

Earlier, Peltier said he learned a lot from his previous term as a councilmember, when he was often criticized. "It's not enough to be honest and ethical, you have to be disciplined," he

said, adding the weight of things said is amplified when on council.

Brenda Fantroy-Johnson vs. Chris Smith

In comparison, the other two council debate debates were cordial.

Regarding the environment, Fantroy-Johnson noted the Madison Diner, a longtime staple of BI, was closing. "We have to take care of people who run businesses downtown," she said, adding the council must make sure businesses do not hurt waterways, but that conserving natural resources should not be at the expense of businesses.

Smith said the environment is a priority for him. He would like to see people working more online to keep them off the roads to reduce greenhouse gases. He wants to make sure BI manages water better so it doesn't run out of it like other islands have. And he wants to reduce our pollution in Puget Sound. To rebut, Fantroy-Johnson said recent studies have shown BI does have enough water, and that the council is looking at a water reuse system so it would have even more.

Regarding problems with the council and city government, Smith said everyone is well-intended they just need to do the right thing and show each other respect. Fantroy-Johnson said she's already helped the council with this, just being there and adding a diverse perspective. She said she doesn't like when someone knocks down what was just said by another councilmember. "They need to get over that. It's not about you; it's about the city." In his rebuttal, Smith said he'd like to see less colloquialism on the council. He said he can help with that because he's not homegrown.

The two agreed that Harrison may not be best for a police station-courthouse.

Smith said the city needs to figure out what to do with that building - possibly repurpose it for homeless people. He said the city needs to debrief that entire process and figure out its mistakes, otherwise, "We can't learn from them."

Fantroy-Johnson said a new building is needed, but an outside person needs to find out what happened. She does not want another study. "We have so many reports on the shelves it's ridiculous." She does not want to point fingers at who made mistakes, but there has to be accountability on the money taxpayers entrust us to

spend wisely. Looking at the bigger picture, she talked of the trend to spend more police funds on human services. But that also takes away duties of police, such as responding to a suicide threat, she said.

To close, Smith said he supports high-speed communications that all people on the island can benefit from. Fantroy-Johnson said she wants to continue to work for affordable housing so, "Our kids can come back here to live."

Jon Quitslund vs. Kent Scott

To open this debate, Scott said the Shoreline Master Plan is too long, and Quitslund said as a former Planning Commission member he felt the council didn't listen to them, and he would fix that.

As for the environment, Scott said there are many ordinances in place, but some are not specific enough so more needs to be done. Quitslund said preservation is important, but every development is not a threat to natural resources. In his rebuttal, Scott said 907 BI homes are threatened by sea-level rise, and wildlife habitat also has been compromised.

As for council relations, Quitslund said he is civil, amiable and serious. He will not be part of any factions. He said councilmembers should connect more with other parts of government. "We're the only people that matter here," is how they act, he said. "That's a recipe for disaster." Scott said the council has done better with the help of new city manager Blair King. He did say council sometimes gets involved in things staff should be doing. He said he wouldn't mind seeing council get professional help so it can be more effective.

Regarding the police station-courthouse, Quitslund said Harrison may be the best place, and there's nothing to be gained by digging deeper into it. Scott said there needs to be a needs assessment done as he recalls, before BI incorporation, the sheriff coming to BI just twice a week for half a day.

In closing, Quitslund said he has the advantage in the race because of his Planning Commission experience and his involvement with the comprehensive plan and municipal code. "A lot of governance is on paper," he said. "I have a head for that." Scott said 75% of homes in the past six years have been built in rural areas, and he will fight that and put growth in Winslow where it belongs. He argued his professional experience qualifies him more for the job.