

stuff,” Barghouti said. “There’s somehow this disconnect in people’s brains. There’s a difference between people who are poor or are having difficulties and people who are homeless. They don’t seem to understand that people are homeless because they’re poor or they are in difficult situations.”

QOL-Reno Director Paul White disagrees with that sentiment.

“It’s a self-destructive lifestyle for the vagrants—and, see, homeless is just not an accurate description,” he said. “There’s not one person in that park ... who is willing to go into the countless program openings that there are right today, right this morning, right then.”

According to White, QOL-Reno is interested in helping homeless people access existing resources in the community.

“With a woman, it’s effortless,” he said. “There’s all kinds of women’s programs where they can come right off of the street. ... We can get them working the next day. There are 20 employment agencies in town, and none of them can find enough clients. Twenty-five food pantries—each one of them can give you more food in a week than you can eat.”

White—who said he received more than 600 threatening calls, including death threats, within a 48-hour period of announcing the planned arrests—also said people don’t understand how such a thing would be carried out.

“Say you go down there—say the cops had not cleaned it up—and you’ve got somebody there illegally storing their stuff,” he said. “OK, well, call the cops or walk over to a cop, and

you’d say, ‘This is a violation of the municipal code. I want to file a citizen’s arrest complaint.’ Cop would go over and look at it, and say, ‘Yep.’ He’d write it out. We’d sign it. He’d give it to them, and we’d have a court date. ... Can you believe, for that, these people were getting hysterical? That flier didn’t say anything about grabbing them, handcuffing them ... anything. It’s just a lot of health, safety, quality-of-life violations down there that don’t help them and ruin that park and are against the law.”

Still, some homeless people who’ve been staying at the park expressed concern about the way potential citizens’ arrests by QOL-Reno would have played out. Danny, who preferred to be identified by his first name only, is a homeless man who said he’s been living in his car with his wife at Pickett Park the past four months.

“I told her, when I heard they were going to do citizens’ arrests, I said, ‘Well, if someone other than a police officer comes up and puts their hands on you, they’re probably going to get hurt,’” Danny said. “People get robbed and raped and stabbed ... in today’s world.”

He added that assertions of public health violations and crime from QOL-Reno members are unfounded.

“The park ranger here, he doesn’t mind us being here because we keep the park clean, the parking lot clean, the bathrooms cleaned up,” he said. “It makes his job easier.” □

## Bean and gone



On Thursday, Oct. 10, Bibb Coffee Company shut the doors to its 945 Record St. location for the final time. As part of the community farewell that accompanied the news, customers were encouraged to sign the now blank walls that were often used to display local art shows. Since opening in 2010, the Record Street Bibb has been a familiar gathering spot for University of Nevada, Reno, students and faculty, local artists, Reno firefighters and Union Pacific Railroad engineers alike. The building and surrounding residences will be demolished to make room for expanded UNR student housing projects.

PHOTO/MATT BIEKER

# EDGE

THEATER

## CREEPSHOW

### DOUBLE FEATURE

Hell here

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\$500 IN RANDOM CASH PRIZES GIVEN TO OUR FAVORITE COSTUMES OF THE NIGHT!

# EDGE

NIGHT CLUB

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