



**New Prices Effective May 1, 2010**

# Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services**  
**Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00**

A small distance/travel charge may be applied

**CARPET CLEANING**  
**2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area**  
**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)**

**1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00**  
 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

**Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00**

**Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum**  
**Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool): \$40.00 Minimum**

**Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)**

**UPHOLSTERY CLEANING**  
 Sofa: \$69.00  
 Loveseat: \$49.00  
 Sectional: \$109 - \$139  
 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49  
 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**SEE CURRENT FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL PRICES & SERVICES**  
 Call for Appointment  
**(503) 281-3949**

# OPINION

## No Support for Slicing Off Water Utilities

Be careful what you wish for

BY AMANDA FRITZ

As the member of the Portland City Council who voted against the Portland Water Bureau rate increases the past three years, and who opposed the Bureau of Environmental Services budget this year, some Portlanders may assume I'd favor the proposed utility district. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I do not support the creation of a new experimental body which would take control of our precious Bull Run watershed, and of our water and environmental management systems that are the envy of the nation.

A utility district would disconnect vital public services from other interconnected functions of the city, such as parks management, urban forestry, assistance to struggling



residents, regulatory compliance, and making sure taxes and fees for businesses and homeowners are apportioned appropriately.

Commissioner Fish is the first member of the council for many years to be assigned to be in charge of both utilities. He deserves a fair opportunity to improve transparency and accountability, and stabilize rates. As the commissioner-in-charge of parks and also of development services, I will be working with him on issues such as the ongoing protection of the Bull Run watershed, and of the historic reservoirs.

We will work with Portland residents and ratepayers to discuss the future of programs such as Friends of Trees plantings, Community Watershed Stewardship Projects, and management of natural areas protected for stormwater storage and fish/wildlife habitat, such as Forest Park. He and I have already discussed system improvements such as hiring utility experts assigned to the city budget office to monitor the water bureau and envi-

ronmental services year-round, and also a potential charter referral enshrining the adopted binding city policy that the Bull Run system never be privatized.

Collaboration is necessary and possible in our commission form of government, established by the City Charter. Neighborhood involvement and equity are core responsibilities of the City Council, along with provision of safe drinking water and management of environmental protection.

A stand-alone utility district would sever those connections, separating ratepayers from improvements in community engagement and empowerment of underserved neighborhoods that the city has made over the past four years.

Portland's residents and businesses already battle the challenges of being under multiple different local jurisdictions—the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro, five different school districts, two Soil and Water Conservation Districts, dozens of political precincts, and more.

Slicing off the utilities to be ruled by yet another independent government is unlikely to improve efficiency, or the long term public good. Adding another bureaucracy would be costly and inefficient.

Portland's water supply, rivers, and waste management systems have been entrusted to elected officials on the City Council for over 100 years. While many of us sometimes disagreed with choices made by the council over the past decade, there is a new commissioner-in-charge of water and environmental services.

Now is the time to discuss new directions under new leadership, rather than hoping for different decisions to be made by unknown, untested future utility district politicians promoting their own particular agendas.

Be careful what you wish for: Creation of a Public Utility District could very well be more costly, less equitable, and less responsive to Portland's needs.

*City Commissioner Amanda Fritz is a member of the Portland City Council.*

## Let's Not Shut the Door on Our Neighbors

Stop the massive militarization of our southern border

BY MARI CASTELLANOS

"Seal the Border!" is a mantra often repeated by those concerned by unlawful immigration. They are willing to spend some \$47 billion in addition to what we have already spent in what seem to be pretty substantial barriers across our southern border.

This massive militarization of the border includes: 20,000 additional border patrol agents for a total of 41,000 agents; 700 additional miles of triple walls; 85 fixed



watch towers; 488 remote video surveillance systems; 232 mobile surveillance systems; 4,425 ground sensors; 820 thermal and night vision goggles; 6 radar systems; 17 UH-1N helicopters; 8 AS-350 light enforcement helicopters; 15 Blackhawk helicopters; 30 marine vessels and 18 drones.

This new wall will all be built by outside contractors overseen by the Army Corp of Engineers. No cost estimate for this wall is readily available, but it is suggested that

it may be around \$25 billion.

What used to be a region of shared climate and bi-national cultures and commerce has become a no one's corridor and a completely isolated, alien environment. While trade with our southern neighbors has soared, the opportunity to walk across to each other's neighborhoods has been practically eliminated.

Those who clamor for more border security have probably not been there recently. Americans cannot just walk across like we used to for a good plate of enchiladas. Border crossings are limited to certain areas and take several hours now.

The construction of endless miles of fencing keeps people from neighbors, relatives and friends, and animals from necessary wildlife corridors. Mexico is not only our close neighbor but also our second biggest trade partner next to Canada. We share not only the rivers in our border but a growing number of our citizens who are entirely bilingual and bicultural. This is a great asset in a global economy.

The southern border of the United States is frequently presented as a turbulent, violent and

dangerous area. In fact two border cities, El Paso, Texas and San Diego, Calif. were respectively the first and second safest cities in the U. S. in 2012.

The seven million people who live in the border -- Americans, Mexicans and Native Americans alike -- are being sacrificed for the sake of an illusion of safety to be found in building yet another wall. Also being sacrificed are the other dwellers of the border: the many animals that migrate freely from one nation to another to find food and to breed, including endangered species like mountain lions, ocelots and jaguarondis.

Human dwellers of the borderlands can be negatively impacted by the wall also. A few years ago, the border wall in Nogales caused severe flooding that buried downtown homes and businesses underneath six feet of water, drowning two people and costing millions of dollars in damages.

Let's not shut the door on our neighbors' faces. Our southern border is sufficiently secure. We need those enormous financial resources for more important needs like education and healthcare.

*Mari Castellanos is a policy advocate for domestic issues in Justice Ministries for the United Church of Christ.*

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