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What's on your list today?®



Portland Development Commission Project Manager Kim Moreland and Alex Colas of Colas Construction oversee the construction of Alberta Commons, the future site for a Natural Grocers store and a strip of small, minority-owned businesses at Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Lease Alberta Commons

Small, minority-owned businesses still have the opportunity to participate in the retail mix at Alberta Commons, now under construction at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Alberta Street.

The Portland Development Commission PDC sent out word Friday that it still has leasing opportunities for commercial retail space at Alberta Commons and

priority will be given to existing local businesses, particularly those owned by people of color.

Alberta Commons is the second half of a long term plan for retail development geared toward the heart of Portland's historic black community. It follows the construction of Vanport Square more than a decade ago, the retail complex immediately to the north.

PDC officials say they are com-

mitted to the success of Alberta Commons to provide needed goods and services to the neighborhood and create lasting, beneficial relationships with the community. The project will contain a Natural Grocers as the anchor tenant.

For more information about the lease opportunities for Alberta Commons, contact Tory Campbell at the PDC.

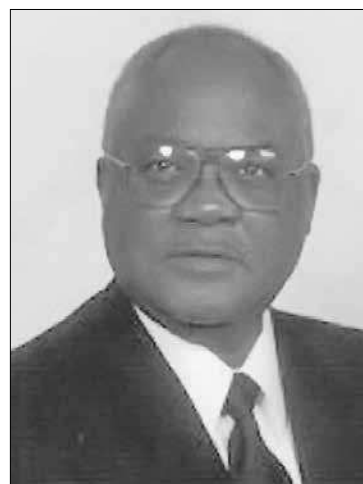
Assembly for Black Affairs Turns 40

The official state advocacy group for Oregon's black population turns 40 years old this week. The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs will celebrate with a ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at the State Capitol in Salem on Friday, April 7 at 10 a.m.

Calvin O.L. Henry, the OABA president, invites friends and supporters of the organization to join them.

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1977 to improve conditions for blacks in Oregon. At the time, the political and economical voices for people of color were nearly non-existent in Salem.

"In many ways, we were afraid to speak up for each other or do



Calvin O. L. Henry

business with each other," Henry said. "Our community often left young black children to fend for themselves in school settings. The percentage of blacks in the

Oregon prison population was and still is greater than the percentage of blacks in the Oregon population, and businesses in Oregon's black community had decreased."

Since its establishment, the OABA has been working to lessen these strong disconnects while encouraging more people of color to run for partisan and nonpartisan offices and to get involved with Oregon political parties.

"The OABA knows that black Oregonians must become informed and committed voters who will use their citizenship power to improve conditions in Oregon, Henry said. "Thus, the mission of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs is to improve the political, educational, social, legal, and economic status of blacks in Oregon."