

# Trusty Service for 19 Years



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Thomas Martin, owner and operator of 'Martin Cleaning Service – Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning'; since 1999.

When Thomas Martin retired from the federal government he found a way to start his own business. Today, the owner and operator of "Martin Cleaning Service – Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning" can look back at the benefits of being his own boss and the success he had in developing a business without a lot of competition and

start up costs. He said he was surprised that there were not many brothers in carpet cleaning at the time. Martin is now on a path to retire again after 19 years in the business, serving the Portland and Vancouver areas. He has been an advertiser with the Portland Observer for years.

On retiring and putting away the trusty carpet cleaning tools and equipment for good, he said, "The time has finally come." His advice for those who want to grow a business is to work hard and apply yourself. Martin thanks all of his customers past and present. For more information, call 503-281-3949.

# Pay Dirt for Colas

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

providing jobs for those who were displaced. Now 30 years later, Colas Construction will not only serve as the chief contractor for the project but has pledged to subcontract from a cross-section of other businesses that are from communities of color to work on the project. Hoffman Construction and Walsh Community Builders were runner-ups for the contracting

work from Metro, companies Colas says he's "looked to and respected" his whole life. The procurement process added weight to firms like his that partnered with woman-owned or minority-owned businesses, a move that Andrew Colas praised. "Metro created one of the most fair procurement processes for a public agency that I've ever been a part of. And in that process, the best company won. And we were just proud to be selected as that company," he said.

The Oregon Convention Center remodel will begin next summer and is scheduled to be complete by May 2019. Plans call for renovating the interior and exterior facade of the building. "It's going to be a complete refresher," Colas said. "There'll be work on the exterior, landscaping, hardscape, and then interior, upgrading finishes, upgrading features. It's going to look brand new," Colas said. Colas added that some of the iconic visual mainstays of the facility, like "those two beautiful glass towers," would remain unaltered.

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