

RECOVER NW23

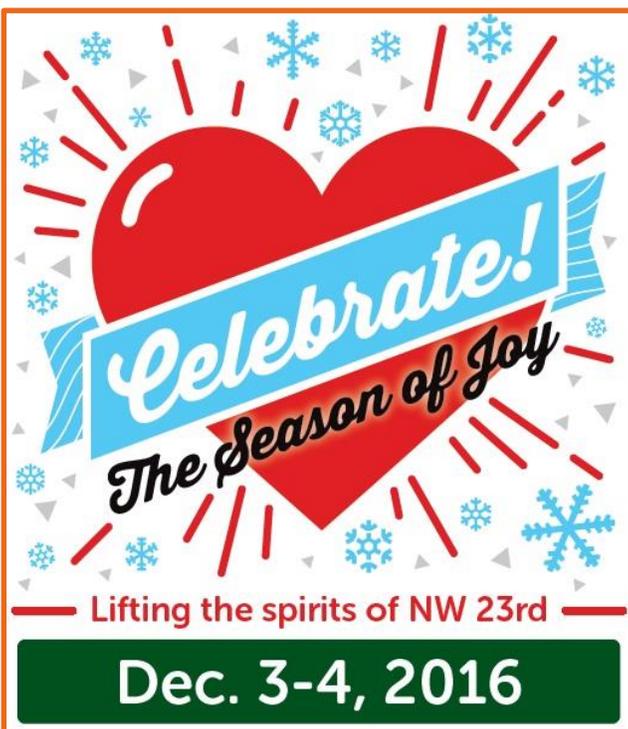
An update from the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management on the NW 23rd recovery project

December 2, 2016



A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Businesses and employees continue to recover from the Oct. 19 gas explosion and fire on NW 23rd & Glisan. Despite the difficult process of filing insurance claims, finding new storefronts and replenishing stocks, community ties shine through – business supporting business, neighbor helping neighbor. This week's newsletter includes updates on some of the businesses most affected by the blast and ways that we can keep showing our support over the holiday season.



CELEBRATE! THE SEASON OF JOY

It's sure to be a magical weekend on NW 23rd as performers on stilts with MarchFourth and singers from the popular Dickens Carolers take to the street to entertain and delight shoppers for a special event coordinated by Pat Fiedler and the Nob Hill Business Association.

"We felt the energy over the past couple weekends and we want to keep that alive," said Pat. "You're looking for a great experience when go to 23rd. It's not just the shops, it's the people and the atmosphere. With the performers and the music, the district will be full of joy."

- MarchFourth Acronauts Dancers, 1 to 3 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
- Dickens Carolers, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat.; 3 to 5 p.m. Sun.

Share your pics! [#RecoverNW23](#) and [#CelebrateNW23](#)

WAYS TO CONNECT to the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management

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- **Email:** Join the project mailing list by sending an email to RecoverNW23@portlandoregon.gov.
- **Website:** Updates posted at www.portlandoregon.gov/RecoverNW23
- **Twitter:** @RecoverNW23 and @PortlandBEM. #RecoverNW23
- **Phone:** 503-823-3809

BUSINESS UPDATES

Art Work Rebels

Jason Kundell admits finding a new home for his tattoo studio, Art Work Rebels, has been tough. Despite strong recommendations from business partners and a letter of support from Mayor Charlie Hales, Justin says some property owners just don't like the idea of having a tattoo studio in the mix and that made finding a new location harder. He warns other mom 'n' pop shops to be prepared – if something happens to your space, the insurance process is slower than you'd think. If it's manageable, he urges small businesses to build a solid emergency fund because access to cash flow will be needed as the insurance company processes the claim.

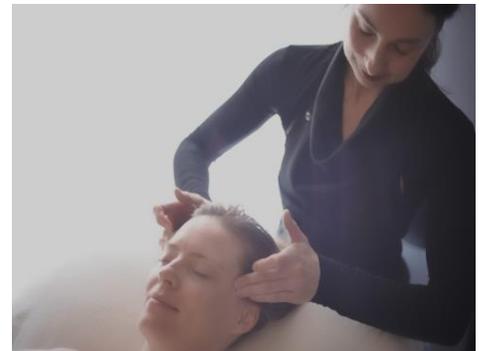


Here's some good news: it's looking very likely that that studio will reopen in coming months in Downtown Portland. After they sign the lease on the property on SW Third Ave between Washington and Alder (conveniently close to Killer Burger!), it will take some time to build out the shop. In the meantime, Jason and the other artists who work with Art Work Rebels; are available by appointment. Find their contact info, updates on the relocation and rebuild and pick up some cool merch at www.artworkrebels.com.

Rich Earth Organic Skin Care Studio

Rich Earth, which was housed right above Moonstruck Chocolate, will be reopening in a new location on Jan. 3rd. Marna Herrington says she's accepting appointments through www.richearthorganicspa.com. She's also selling her products through the website – a great way to continue supporting the business until the new space opens at 1942 NW Kearney.

Like other business owners, Marna says the effort to recover has been very trying, but her heart has been warmed by the demonstrations of support by community members and fellow business operators in the neighborhood.



"If there's a silver lining to this awful situation, it would be that," she said, noting the **Saturday of Giving** fundraiser for businesses and employee affected by the explosion as one of many kind acts over the last few weeks.

Pizzicato

A slice of puttanesca is in your future! Pizzicato will soon reopen in the same location on NW 23rd & Glisan, but with a fresh new look. The exact date hasn't been identified. They're waiting for some crucial supplies to arrive. In a quick email check-in with Pizzicato, CEO Felix Rippel wrote: "We have been a vital part of the NW 23rd community for over 20 years and we can't wait to get back to serving all of our friends and neighbors. There is light at the end of the tunnel and we are running headlong towards it."

William Temple House Thrift Store

To help improve visibility of William Temple Thrift Store, PBEM has been working with Loy Clark Pipeline and with city bureaus to provide some new signage. So far, a new A-frame sign has been ordered and placed near NW 23rd & Glisan. We're also working with Restoration Hardware to add a sign to their construction zone that points to the shop.

BUSINESS UPDATES continued

Ritual Adornments

When your shop is full of millions of tiny glass beads, hundreds of precious stones and metals and antique wooden display cases, the cleanup isn't easy. But owners Joel Mikkalson and CeCe Cummins are trudging on, working to clean and restore their goods as they consider next steps for the business. All materials are now out of the location which experienced severe water and smoke damage, and Joel says the property owner of the building expects the rebuild to take at least six to nine months.

Joel says he's confident he'll be back in business one way or another in coming months. If anyone knows of a small space in a high-traffic area available for temporary use, a "pop-up" location, he'd be interested in hearing more. Get updates and send inquiries to Ritual Adornments through their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RitualAdornmentsOfficial.

PROJECT UPDATES & MORE

Getting around:

- A crosswalk signal at NW 23rd & Glisan was malfunctioning. PBEM worked with PBOT to get it fixed.
- If you observe other ongoing traffic safety concerns, please report them at 503-823-SAFE (7233).

Parking: On Small Business Saturday, Deborah Haynes with Blush Beauty Bar contacted PBEM to let the City know that a few parking spots near her shop (very close to Tender Loving Empire, Lucky Brand Jeans and more) were forced vacant due to a permit held by contractors working on the incident site. The contractors don't work in the evenings or weekends but the permit was for all hours, all days through Dec. 1. While PBEM couldn't adjust the permit for the weekend, we talked with PBOT's permit office. Staff confirmed the permit was set to expire Dec. 1 and, at that time, there was no application to renew. PBOT said if they received a renewal request they would look at either refusing the re-issue for the spots in front of the businesses or prioritize business for the evenings and weekends, not allowing an "all hours, all days" permit.

Site cleanup: The demolition of the explosion site is expected to wrap up around Jan. 15. The frame of the Dosha building will remain in use. A redesigned building is slated for the corner of NW 23rd & Glisan. More info to come as plans develop.

Incident investigation: The Oregon Public Utility Commission investigation into the incident continues. Kevin Hennessy, head of natural gas safety for the PUC says he expects the investigation to be complete by the end of January, if not sooner.

That fence: The Nob Hill Business Association is working on dressing up the fencing around the explosion site at NW 23rd & Glisan. They have contacted impacted businesses to get their input on design for signs. Designers are still waiting on graphics from businesses most affected by the blast to finalize design.

Take care: Sometimes it takes a little while to realize how an event has impacted you. And the holidays can be a tough time for anyone. If you are feeling down, help is available. Multnomah County's mental health services, including counselling and referrals, can be accessed any time by calling 503-988-4888. You don't need to have insurance, and you don't need to be in crisis to ask for help.



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
November 26

Small Business Saturday received a lot of media attention. Mayor Hales, Portland Commissioner Nick Fish and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici took some time to shop on NW 23rd the Saturday after Thanksgiving, stopping to talk with business owners and staff about the holiday shopping season and life since the big blast. PBEM will continue to promote “shopping small” as the holiday season continues.

#SmallBusinessSaturday
#ShopSmall



Mayor Charlie and First Lady Nancy Hales shop 23rd on Small Business Saturday.



Le... during the “Celebrate!” event this weekend on NW 23rd Ave. Photo
co... **Hip Hound** led the **Saturday of Giving** fundraiser to assist businesses
and employee most affected by the explosion. Photos of Small Business Saturday courtesy of Brian Worley,
Mayor Hales’ Office.