

# RECOVER NW23

An update from the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management on the NW 23<sup>rd</sup> recovery project

November 22, 2016



**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**  
November 26

*The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management is working with the office of Mayor Charlie Hales to widely promote patronage of Portland's small businesses this holiday season with a focus on NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The mayor will shop on 23<sup>rd</sup> on Saturday and read a proclamation to encourage ongoing support during the holiday season.*

**#SmallBusinessSaturday**  
**#ShopSmall**

## A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

It's been just over a month since the gas explosion that rocked NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. In that time, the community has come together to rebuild and revive. The community has rallied around those affected by the Oct. 19 explosion and fire.

Together, you have managed to raise thousands of dollars to support each other. It's a remarkable thing – evidence that people rise to the occasion when bad things happen. We thank you for your strength and hard work.



## HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL

The **Portland Bureau of Emergency Management** remains committed to recovery. Needs may be different for each person and businesses. Don't hesitate to call or email to let us know how it's going with you, your ideas for how we could help, or problems you don't yet know how to solve. If you live/work/shop in the neighborhood and you see something great going on, we'd love to know and share that information too.



## WAYS TO CONNECT

**Email:** PBEM sends out regular email updates. Add your name to the list by emailing [RecoverNW23@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:RecoverNW23@portlandoregon.gov).

**Website:** We will continue to post information about resources, fundraisers and various types of assistance on the Recover NW23 website: [www.portlandoregon.gov/RecoverNW23](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/RecoverNW23)

**Twitter:** Two accounts will be used to push out new information or updates to projects: @RecoverNW23 and @PortlandBEM. Use the hashtag #RecoverNW23 to join the conversation.

**Phone:** Call 503-823-3809 if email and internet resources don't work for you.



*Brooklyn Industries was one of many stores that participated in Saturday of Giving, encouraging shoppers to purchase raffle tickets to support businesses and employees affected by the explosion. Photo by Felicia Heaton, PBEM*

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## RECOVER NW23 · PROJECT UPDATES

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**Traffic is still a bear!** Residents of NW Glisan and anyone trying to shop at the William Temple House Thrift Shop know what we mean. Deconstruction of the explosion site is expected to take at least a couple more weeks and we're stuck with the coned-off walkways for a bit longer. If you observe other ongoing traffic safety concerns, please report them at 503-823-SAFE (7233).

**That fence:** The Nob Hill Business Association is looking to dress up the fencing around the explosion site at NW 23<sup>rd</sup> and Glisan. They have contacted impacted businesses to get their input on design for signs. Please email [RecoverNW23@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:RecoverNW23@portlandoregon.gov) if you'd like to be included in the process.

**Fundraisers! Wow!** The Nov. 12 Saturday of Giving was a success, raising nearly \$10,000 for those affected. Special credit is due to Jennifer Heckman and Ari Ambrutis at Hip Hound, who lead this effort, along with Jared Mees at Tender Loving Empire, and all the businesses that donated.

Here are a few other ongoing fundraisers:

[Portland Bagelworks](#)

[Art Work Rebels](#)

[Ritual Adornments Fund](#)



*Hip Hound's Jennifer Heckman and Blush Beauty Bar's Deborah Haynes do a media interview to preview Saturday of Giving. Photo by John Cardenas, Portland Development Commission*

**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.

**Incident investigation:** Oregon Public Utility Commission investigation into the incident continues. Kevin Hennessy, head of natural gas safety for the PUC says, as of Nov. 21, he expects the investigation to be complete by the end of January, if not sooner.



**NW Natural**<sup>®</sup>  
*We grew up here.*

**A word from NW Natural:** NW Natural has appreciated the opportunity to provide assistance to the NW 23 community following the incident. Our employees turned out for the Shopping Day on the 12 and will do so again the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Our shareholders donated to the Red Cross, William Temple House and affected businesses' employee fund. We were also able to offer hotel rooms and Employee Assistance Counselling to those impacted. Last, we were glad to participate in the Nob Hill Business Association meeting and visit with Congresswoman Bonamici, to learn and share as much as we can about the situation. We remain committed to helping however we can.



**Loy Clark Pipeline Co.** has set up a website to provide more information about the explosion and their response: [www.loyclark.com/RecoverNW23](http://www.loyclark.com/RecoverNW23). You can sign up for updates from them as well.

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