



Vancouver's Northbank Bar Closes its Doors

Southwest Washington's only gay bar, often referred to as the "gay Cheers," closed its doors for good on Sunday, June 12. Owners Darrell Spoon and Brent Bartling sent a letter informing the community of their decision Friday, June 10, citing decreasing revenue and increasing costs.

"During the past nine years we have had a lot of struggles, but we have also had the honor and privilege to meet some awesome people, and watch them grow into leaders of the LGBTQ community," read the letter. The neighborhood mainstay had been open for two decades.

Outside of its reputation as a welcoming, laid-back establishment, Northbank cultivated a community by hosting numerous fundraisers for Martha's Pantry and Vancouver's Pride celebration, Saturday in the Park. Patrons were invited to send the bar off in its final two weekend nights June 10 and 11 with karaoke, and the curtain call for the popular Lipz Cabaret.

Spoon and Bartling were taking a deserved break from all things involved with the bar and were unavailable for comment following its closure. Suffice it to say, the Portland metro and Southwest Washington LGBTQ community has lost a valued hub of good times.

"We will miss seeing everyone, but are overdue for some much needed rest," concluded Spoon and Bartling's letter. "We ask that you will continue ... your tremendous support of Martha's Pantry and Saturday in the Park Pride."

—RYAN J. PRADO

To view the rest of the photos from this night, visit www.justout.com



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