

## **News Release**

**August 27, 2018**

---



*Photo Credit: Tony Porter Photography*

## **Tour the Working Waterfront and More at the 45th Harbor Days Maritime Festival**

### **Tugs-History-Arts-Crafts-Food-Fun for All Ages**

Vintage, working and retired tugboats return to the southernmost tip of Puget Sound for three days of fun at Harbor Days, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Experience it all at Percival Landing and Port Plaza on Olympia's downtown waterfront. The free festival is presented by the Olympia Kiwanis Club thanks to support from the Squaxin Island Tribe, event title sponsor.

The tugs leave shore on Sunday at noon for the annual Tugboat Races in Budd Inlet. Many of the tugs offer dockside tours on Saturday. Joining the tugs at the dock will be retired US Coast Guard Cutter, Tug Comanche, which is now a floating WWII museum, and Tordenskjold, a 100-year-old Bering Sea fishing vessel.

The festival includes new and updated activities including Sand Sculpting by Form Finders, live band performances and demonstrations on three stages. Be on the lookout for Captain Patch, the story-telling pirate, and the Sons of Oden, a band of Vikings doing forge demonstrations.

Thanks to support from Heritage Bank, Harbor Days will feature a Legos Harbor Build, with working display and bricks galore where kids can build their own boat, plane, train or pirate. Pools will be available to test the sea-worthiness of any boat. Nearby, kids can also learn about marine life through activities hosted by Puget Sound Estuarium experts. Saturday offers the award-winning Hands on Children's Museum, with a salmon hat and salmon robot make-race-and-take activity at the Port Plaza, and free book giveaways by the South Sound Reading Foundation at Percival Landing. Sea 3, a research vessel, will also offer marine and maritime activities on-board.

At the Port Plaza, find the Squaxin Island Salish Seaport, presenting tribal activities, arts, artists, and cultural history through stories and dance and a beer garden. Little Creek Casino will be cooking up a storm with a tribal salmon bake. Proceeds go to the Squaxin Island Tribe Museum.

On Sunday, kids will find Fin, a 25-foot salmon they can walk into to explore the salmon life cycle and more. Fin will be located on Columbia Street next to Percival Park.

The famous Tall Ships, Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain, return to Olympia and will be sharing the Port Plaza docks with the historic Mosquito Fleet Steam Ship Virginia V and US Navy retired admiral's barge, Old Man IV. The Ships of the Harbor feature, sponsored by Capital Heating & Cooling, will offer tour opportunities (donations appreciated) as well as cruises. Information on schedules, ticket pricing and purchasing is available at [www.HarborDays.com](http://www.HarborDays.com).

### **Free Port Tours on Saturday, Sept. 1**

Learn how Thurston County is connected with the global trade network, and how various modes of transportation move goods to their final destination. See the mobile harbor crane and other operational equipment, which are impressive by size alone. Hear maritime stories told by Olympia's longshoremen from ILWU Local #47, representatives from local forestry businesses, and Port of Olympia's international maritime terminal staff. Join them for a tour of your working waterfront!

Tour groups will depart hourly, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Port of Olympia Booth on the northwest corner of the Port Plaza. Port Plaza is located just north of Percival Landing on Budd Inlet in downtown Olympia.

The Port of Olympia hosts Harbor Days to celebrate the maritime heritage of our community. For more information: [www.HarborDays.com](http://www.HarborDays.com).

###

### **Media Contact:**

Jennie Foglia-Jones, Communications, Marketing & Outreach Manager  
360.528.8005 [JennieF@portolympia.com](mailto:JennieF@portolympia.com)

### **About the Port of Olympia**

The southernmost deep-water port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia owns and operates an international shipping terminal that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates Swantown Marina & Boatworks, a 733-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, a regional airport and a real estate division.

***Tel 360.528.8000 Fax 360.528.8090 [www.portolympia.com](http://www.portolympia.com)***