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## Press Release

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### **PORT OF OLYMPIA CANCELS 2008 SWANTOWN BOATSWAP & CHOWDER CHALLENGE**

The Port of Olympia will **not** be able to host the 2008 Swantown BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge event scheduled for May 17 due to lack of adequate parking locations on the Port Peninsula.

With the redevelopment of the East Bay District, the expansion and full occupancy of the Swantown Boatworks, and a contractual obligation for other parking in the area, there is not enough safe and adequate parking available to support the event this year.

“It is regretful that this year’s parking situation requires cancellation of this popular waterfront event,” said Port Executive Director Ed Galligan. “We very much appreciate the on-going support and understanding of our sponsors, vendors, restaurants and the public this year. We plan on holding the event in 2009.”

Vendors who have already sent in a payment towards the event will receive a refund next week.

The annual BoatSwap & Chowder Challenge has become a popular community festival, drawing visitors from miles around for a full day of boats, chowder, fun and entertainment at Swantown Marina on Olympia’s East Bay. Since 1997, it has provided an opportunity for people to buy and sell boats and marine gear, taste award-winning chowder and enjoy the Puget Sound waterfront. Last year, the event drew over 2,000 people.

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

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County’s partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.