

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance Announces New Location for Holiday Village: Ancich Waterfront Park

**Gig Harbor, Wash.** — The Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance, in partnership with the City of Gig Harbor and Visit Gig Harbor, is excited to announce that this year's **Holiday Village** is moving to a brand-new location: **Ancich Waterfront Park**. The picturesque waterfront setting—featuring a dock, historic netshed, public restrooms, and an accessible ramp—offers a festive and functional home for one of Gig Harbor's most beloved holiday traditions.

#### Why the Move?

For the past two years, Holiday Village has been held at Donkey Creek Park. While the location has been cherished, the event's significant foot traffic took a toll on the natural landscape. Each winter, it took nearly six months for the grass to regrow, and ongoing mole activity created uneven surfaces and tripping hazards. Additionally, the entirely outdoor setting meant rain, mud, and weather-related challenges for visitors—and unfortunately, some instances of vandalism to the lighted photo displays.

After careful consideration, community input, and collaboration with City staff, the Waterfront Alliance and Visit Gig Harbor made the decision to relocate to Ancich Waterfront Park for 2025. The move allows Holiday Village to remain festive, safe, and accessible.

#### A Magical Waterfront Experience

The exterior of Ancich Waterfront Park will be illuminated with holiday lights and maritime-themed displays, including a **small skiff**, a **30-foot-tall lighted tree**, and additional waterfront décor. These outdoor displays are free and available to the public from **dawn to dusk daily**, offering picture-perfect opportunities with the harbor as your backdrop.

During select dates, the **Ancich Netshed** will be open to the public to enjoy a *very maritime* indoor photo village with **five beautifully lit holiday-themed photo displays**, giving families, friends, and visitors a chance to stay dry while capturing seasonal memories.

#### Free Photos with Santa

Holiday Village is thrilled to continue the tradition of offering **free photos with Santa**, thanks to the generous support of BBQ2U. And yes—**well-behaved dogs are welcome**, too!

## **Ancich Netshed Holiday Village Hours (Free to Public)**

The indoor displays will be open to the public on the following dates:

- **Dec 6–7:** 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- **Dec 11–14:** 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- **Dec 18–21:** 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

## **Santa Photo Hours (Free to Public)**

- **Dec 13 & 14:** 12:00–2:30 PM
- **Dec 20 & 21:** 12:00–2:30 PM

## **Parking Information**

Community members often ask about winter parking availability along Harborview Drive—so we'll just answer it now: **there's usually plenty of street parking during this time of year.** From Millville Pizza to Murphy's Landing, visitors can typically find parking within a short 0.25-mile walk to the park. For more information about public parking visit:

<https://gigharbor.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=4feb81499d4047c49a247763afa4680d>

## **Join Us for the Holiday Magic**

The Waterfront Alliance invites everyone to stop by, explore the decorated park, and capture the perfect holiday selfie or greeting card photo. Whether you're visiting for Santa photos, enjoying a stroll along the illuminated waterfront, or simply soaking in the maritime charm, Holiday Village at Ancich Waterfront Park is ready to welcome you.

## **Thank You to Our Sponsors**

Holiday Village is made possible through the support of our community partners.

- **Premier Sponsor: MultiCare**
- Santa Photo Sponsor: BBQ2U
- Creative Displays In-Kind Sponsor: TLB Events

“We are incredibly grateful for our sponsors and thrilled to offer this unique and very *Gig Harbor* Holiday Village experience,” said Carrienne Ekberg, Executive Director for the Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance. “Ancich Waterfront Park provides a beautiful, accessible space for families and visitors to create cherished memories this season.”

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