



# SAFETY TIPS FOR THE SHENANDOAH APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

## Festival Fun & Safety

The City of Winchester wants everyone to have a fun time, but more importantly, a safe time. With a little pre-Festival planning, you and your family can enjoy all of the parades and events. Police and Medical Aid Stations will have a presence throughout the Festival to assist you. We urge you to follow the laws and act responsibly to avoid unintended consequences.

## Detour Routes & Street Closures

The streets designated as Parade Routes will be closed and the Detour Routes (reference map) will become effective as listed below. As soon as the Parades have cleared, the City will open the streets to traffic.

**Friday, May 5:** *Firefighters' Parade* route will close at 4:00 pm until approximately 8:30 pm. Cameron Street from Gerrard Street to Wyck Street will close at Noon for parade line-up.

**Special note: at 1:30 pm Handley Boulevard will close** for the *Kids Bloomin' Mile*. The race route closes at 3:15 pm. The race begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 5:30 pm. The course begins and ends on Handley Boulevard in front of the Grandstand.

**Saturday, May 6:** The *10K Race* and *Grand Feature Parade* routes will close to all traffic at 8:00 am and will remain in effect until the end of the parade at approximately 7:00 pm. There are no exceptions.

## Downtown Parking

With all of the street closings and parking restrictions, the parking garages are the best alternative to avoid headaches. All four downtown garages are an easy walk to the Parades or the Midway. Call 722-7575 to reserve parking spaces prior to the Festival.

- **Friday, May 5:** Garages will be open until Midnight. Fee for the day is \$15.
- **Saturday, May 6:** Garages will open at 8:00 am and will not have a set closing time. The fee is \$15.

## Handicap Parking

Handicap parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis at various locations around the event areas marked with handicap signage. Do not park on streets that are closed to parking. There are a limited number of paid fee spaces at each autopark.

## Towed Vehicles

Do not park on streets marked "Closed to Parking." Pay close attention to parking restriction signs or your car will be towed. If your vehicle is towed, contact the Winchester Police Department's non-emergency assistance line at 540-662-4131 to get the location.

## Drink Responsibly

Persons attending any Festival event on public streets or grounds are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages, or being in the possession of an open container which contains alcoholic beverages. This includes the Parade routes and designated seating areas, the Old Town Midway and the Carnival. Local ordinance offences are punishable by fines or arrests.

Consumption by persons age 21 years or older is allowed at Festival events within approved areas and restaurants where state licenses have been obtained. Be responsible and designate a driver.

## Personal Safety Tips

- Plan a designated meeting place and emergency plan in the event that family members are separated. If you have lost a child or parent, call 540-662-4131.
- Hydrate with water often.
- Be aware of what is going on around you.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately.
- Keep your belongings with you at all times.

## Animals/Pets

Animals are prohibited in festival areas during specific events.



## Seating on the Parade Route

Parade goers have many options to find seating convenient to parking and concessions. The Festival and various community organizations rent chairs on the Parade route. Many people bring their own chair to watch the Parades. For safety reasons, chairs must stay on the sidewalks. You may sit in the cross streets once the parade routes are closed to traffic. However, you may need to move for emergency vehicles to pass.

## Bag Checks/Prohibited Items

We strongly recommend that guests do not bring bags, backpacks, handbags, or purses to events unless it is absolutely necessary. If an item is left unattended it is subject to search and disposal. Diaper bags that have necessary items for small children are acceptable; however they will be subject to searches. The following items will be prohibited at the Bloomin' Wine Fest, Weekend in the Park, all tent events, and the Coronation:

- Backpacks/large bags 14 X 9 (Exception: diaper bags)
- Alcohol and Illegal drugs
- Weapons, including knives of any kind
- Food, snacks, beverages or coolers
- Animals (except for service)
- Aerosol/spray cans
- Noisemakers

	<b>IMPORTANT NUMBERS</b>
	<b>Winchester Police (non-emergency)</b> Lost children, towed vehicles, etc. (540) 662-4131
	<b>Downtown Parking Garages</b> To reserve parking in garages (while supplies last) (540) 722-7575
	<b>Information Resource Center</b> Street closings, detour routes, etc. Hotline staffed by Volunteers in Policing (VIP's) <b>May 4 and May 5</b> <b>May 6</b> 8:00 am - 5:00 pm                      8:00 am - Noon (540) 545-4737 or (540) 545-4738
	<b>Call 911 for Emergencies</b>