Westford Kiwanis

54th Apple Blossom Festival

May 10th – 14th 2023
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Westford Kiwanis Club.

We wish you a fun-filled
Apple Blossom Festival!

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Branch Relationship Manager, VP

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We are deeply grateful to the many advertisers whose cooperation has made our program book and event possible. We respectfully ask all our friends and neighbors to review the program and patronize our advertisers and supporters. We would like to also thank the town of Westford and the Abbot School for supporting the carnival and parade. The proceeds from this event are given back to our community in the form of scholarships, financial support to student programs, senior center summer cookouts, and as well as provide help to a neighbor in need.

Proceeds of the Apple Blossom Festival
• Scholarships to Westford Academy graduating seniors
  • Including 5 perpetual scholarships
• Support of the Westford Academy Band
• Support of the Westford Firefighters Pipes and Drums
• Support Cameron Senior Center programs and events
• Scholarship award to the Apple Blossom Queen Community Service recipient towards her future education
• Support of Scouts BSA Eagle project requests
• Support of Girl Scouts Award project requests
• Support of the Westford Historical Society and Museum

We also work with other community groups to provide them an outlet to promote awareness of their causes. While at the Festival please stop by and visit your neighbors and learn more about their causes.

Westford Kiwanis meets twice a month at 7:00PM

For more information, please visit https://westford.org/kiwanis
For more than half a century, Everett “Bill” Olsen has devoted himself to public education and to “his” many students. Bill started his public education career as a science and math teacher in 1970 in the Lowell, MA school system. In 1986 Bill became the Business Manager for the Westford public schools. He remained in this position through 1999 when he was appointed as the Interim Superintendent. Bill became the Assistant Superintendent in 2000. In 2006 he became the Superintendent of the Westford public school system. Under Bill’s leadership, the Westford public school system became one of the top districts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Bill brought integrity, honesty, empathy and collaboration to the Superintendent’s office. He had the ability to work collaboratively with other town departments to create new programs and to evaluate existing services. Bill created a safe and supportive culture that empowered the many stakeholders: students, parents, staff, and administrators to have a voice in the district. For example, Bill might ask a student, a staff member, a parent or a former student a question on curriculum and/or event effectiveness “How did you feel about this?” and used their responses to help drive forward or to make informed changes to programs like adding Mandarin and full day kindergarten.

It is not just his leadership that we recognize. The Children of Westford were always Bill’s number one focus. His decisions were based on the needs of the Children that he served. Bill had often been heard to say his highest priority was the Children of Westford. He could often be seen at elementary schools reading to young students or at middle and high school events participating in a theater performance or singing an occasional song with the jazz band. He saw and championed programs like the Bridge program at Westford Academy as a way to ensure the mental health and safety of students. At the end of the program’s first year Bill reached out to students that had participated in the program and asked if and how they had benefitted. He used the responses received to confirm the viability to the district and made it a priority. The Kiwanis Club of Westford thanks Everett “Bill” Olsen for the many years of service he has provided to the children of Westford and to our community as we honor him as the Westford Kiwanis Person of the Year 2023.
I would like to take you back to May 19, 1935, the birth of the first Apple Blossom Festival in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It was made possible through the efforts of a small group of apple growers here in Westford. The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, the State College and County Extension Services contributed to the support of their facilities. The then Governor of Massachusetts James M. Curley, was in attendance, addressed the crowd and crowned the Queen. The Queen being Miss Phyllis Wright, a student at Emerson College of Oratory, and daughter of William E. and Ruby Wright. After the ceremony, Governor Curley was invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prescott, which was the Old Colonial Tavern at the head of Westford Common.

The following year, 1936, the festival idea was expanded to include the thirty eight towns comprising the Nashoba Apple Belt. Ten towns actively cooperated in celebrating; each choosing a princess as their representative at the Royal Court. The Queen and her maids of honor were chosen from Westford where the festivities were held. The Governor again showed his interest by crowning Mary Elizabeth Perrins, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Arthur Perrins the second Nashoba Queen. Tours were outlined through the orchard districts and the idea took such a hold on the public that nearly 50,000 people passed through Westford on Apple Blossom Sunday.

The 1937 Festival had for its Queen Miss Portia Prescott the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prescott. At that time Portia was a junior at Rogers Hall in Lowell, Massachusetts. Queen Portia was crowned by Governor Bradford. Portia was one of the tenth generations of Prescott's, who settled in Nashoba district nearly 300 years ago. The following girls were chosen to be the maids of honor to the Queen. They were Barbara Chandler, Ellen Keizer, Ellen Dudevoir and Leslie Swanson. This was the last year that the town of Westford was active in the Apple Blossom Festival.

It was not until 1968 that the rebirth of the festival was realized. The festival was brought back by the efforts of the Westford Kiwanis and have been an annual event since that time. The main event of the 1968 festival was a fish fry. Hundreds of pounds of fish were served to the public under a forty by one hundred foot tent erected on the Abbot School athletic field.

Each festival starts off with a lengthy parade consisting of two or more bands, floats, any town group who wish to participate, and most colorful of all is the Apple Blossom Queen and her maids of honor who ride in open convertibles furnished by town residents. There are rides for the children food and soda and other town clubs and organizations are invited to participate.

Research provided by Leo J. Connell (Past Historian Westford Kiwanis)
Choosing the Apple Blossom Queen Community Service Award Scholarship Recipient

Apple Blossom Queen nominees are selected by the staff of Westford Academy. The Westford Kiwanis provides the Westford Academy staff with guidelines to help them in the nomination process. The guidelines are as follows:

1. A nominee must be a senior girl
2. She should demonstrate a commitment of service to others
3. She should be a good citizen
4. She should be a positive influence on others.

There is no fixed number of nominees.

The Apple Blossom Queen Committee personally interviews each Queen nominee. The Committee chooses the Apple Blossom Queen Community Service Award Scholarship recipient based on the nominee who most exemplifies the spirit of the Westford Kiwanis through their service to others and being a leader in our community.

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Ticket from the first Apple Blossom Festival

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
SPONSORED BY WESTFORD KIWANIS CLUB
SATURDAY MAY 25, 1968
Rain or Shine
Westford Academy School Grounds
From 12 p.m. on Fish Fry All You Can Eat
Special Drill by Chelmsford Minutemen
Crowning of the Apple Blossom Queen
Band Music Special Celebrities
Special Drawing for a Handmade 8 x 10 Afghan
Dancing in the Big Tent in the Evening
ADULTS $1.25
Proud to Support the Westford Kiwanis Apple Blossom Festival

James Arciero
State Representative 2nd Middlesex District
WESTFORD APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
Wednesday, May 10 - Sunday, May 14
Abbot School, 25 Depot St., Westford, MA

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Open Saturday at 11:30am
Open Sunday at 12pm
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Memorial Wall
Lots of fun activities

FREE EVENT
SATURDAY MAY 27, 2023
NOON – 4PM

Proceeds benefit Friends Never Forget, a non profit that supports gold star families. All proceeds will go to the Operation Camp program. Operation Camp sends the children of our fallen military (gold star) children to summer camps.

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A special thank you to our 2023 Apple Blossom Festival Host
Abbot School
2023 Apple Blossom Schedule of Events*

WEDNESDAY MAY 10
5:00 – 10:00PM Kiwanis Carnival Abbot School parking lot

THURSDAY MAY 11
5:00 – 10:00PM Kiwanis Carnival Abbot School parking lot

FRIDAY MAY 12
5:00 – 10:00PM Kiwanis Carnival Abbot School parking lot
9:30PM Fireworks Display Abbot School Upper Field
*(Rain date for Sat. night, 5/13. Weather dependent)

SATURDAY MAY 13
8:00 – 11:00AM First Parish Pancake Breakfast Main St.
10:00AM 2023 Apple Blossom Parade from Main St. at Graniteville Rd to the Abbot School
11:00AM Abbot School Pre-Ceremony Activity
   Westford Academy Band
11:30AM Abbot School Ceremony
   - Westford Academy Band and Raising of the American Flag
   - Invocation
   - Dignitaries Introductions
   - 2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominees Introductions
   - Kiwanis Person of the Year Everett “Bill” Olsen Recognition
   - Awarding of the Coveted Roudenbowl for Best Float
   - Crowning of the 2023 Apple Blossom Queen
     Community Service Award Scholarship Recipient
11:30AM–10:30PM Kiwanis Carnival Abbot School parking lot
3:00PM Jumbo Lobsters Raffle Drawing
9:30PM Fireworks Display Abbot School Upper Field*

SUNDAY MAY 14
12:00 – 5:00PM Kiwanis Carnival Abbot School parking lot

*(certain events are weather dependent and subject to change from printing date)
2023 Apple Blossom Parade **

Westford Police Department and Honor Guard 1F
Kiwanis Clubs of Westford & Lowell 2F
Keller Williams Merrimack Valley 3F
Westford Academy & Middle School Band 4F
Dignitaries 5F
2023 Kiwanis Person of the Year Bill Olson 6F
Westford Minutemen 7F
Westford Museum & Historical Society 8F
2022 Apple Blossom Queen Ragini Hassan 9G
Middlesex County Sheriff’s Department 10F
Enterprise Bank 11F
Westford Kiwanis Fireworks Float 12F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 13G
Westford Scouting 14R
Westford Sportsmen's Club 15F
Cub Scouts (Pack 95) 16F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 17G
Walking Uncle Sam 18F
J. V. Fletcher Library 19F
Suburban-Ettes 20F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 21G
Westford Education Association 22F
Westford Community Access Television, Inc. 23F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 24G

** Subject to change from printing date

F = Main St. from Graniteville to Flagg Rd. R = Randolph Circle G = Graniteville Rd
2023 Apple Blossom Parade

Westford Fire Department and Color Guard 25F
Westford Fire Department Honor Guard 26F
Jeanne D’Arc Credit Union 27F
Westford & District Pipes and Drums 28F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 29G
Dream Ballet School 30F
Westford Youth Soccer 31R
Team Forever Young 32F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 33G
Flowers2Empower 34F
Friends Never Forget 35F
StormGears -- Middlesex County Robotics Club, Inc. 36F
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 37G
Spotlight Dance Academy 38F
Kessler Karate Academy 39F
Westford Youth Lacrosse 40R
2023 Apple Blossom Queen Scholarship Nominee 41G
Gummy Bears FIRST Robotics 42F
Nashoba Youth Hockey Association 43R
Fiesta Shows 44F
Westford Youth Baseball/Softball League 45R
World Class Martial Arts 46F
Knights Football & Cheer 47R
United Methodist Church of Westford 48F
Westford Highway Department 49F
Westford Fire Department 50F

** Subject to change from printing date

F = Main St. from Graniteville to Flagg Rd. R = Randolph Circle G = Graniteville Rd
A special thank you to our 2023 Apple Blossom Parade Westford Academy Band

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<th>Mon-Fri</th>
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<td>Hours</td>
<td>8am-4pm</td>
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