

HISTORY OF THE ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL

Courtesy of the Thomasville History Center.

Vegetables, not roses, can be given credit for our Rose Show. In the fall of 1920, Lilla Forrest of Boston, Georgia wanted to have a display at the State Fair in Macon. With the help of a few close friends, she created a vegetable exhibit and entered it into the fair. The exhibit won the first prize of \$25! The prize winnings were used as seed money to cover the expenses for what would become the first ever Rose Show.

Held in 1922 in Neel's Department Store in downtown Thomasville, the first Rose Show can be credited to Mrs. W.M. Harris. It was immediately popular. So popular in fact, that roses and flowers covered the counters, the halls, and the balcony.

As the show outgrew the department store, it was moved to larger locations like a Buick showroom, a basketball court, and even a tobacco warehouse. It is reported that in the late 1920s, reporters and photographers from all over would come to report the news of the Rose Show.

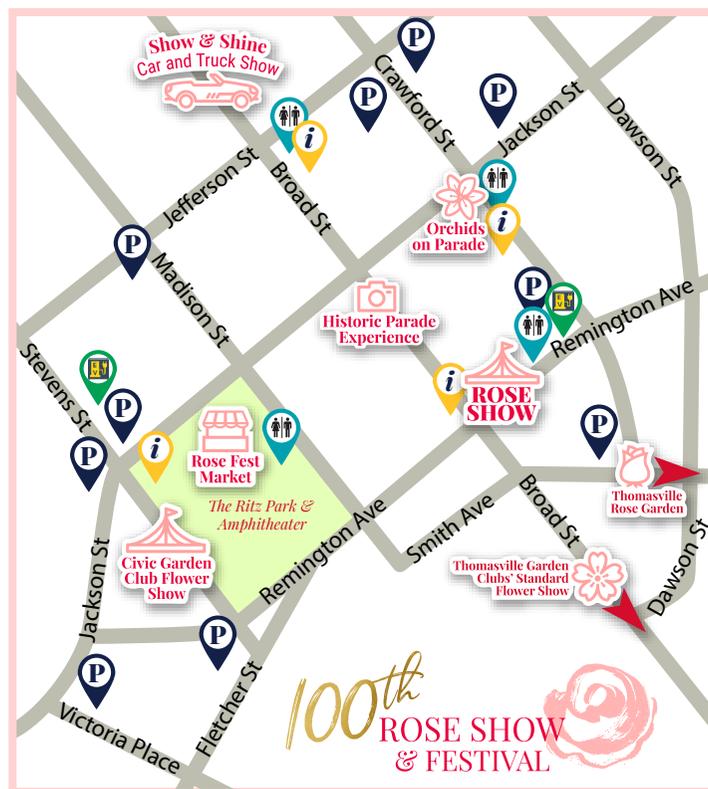
The Rose Show grew to include more and more of the local community, often enjoying exhibits and assistance from local businesses, schools, scout troops, clubs, and other organizations. These groups brought with them fun and one-of-a-kind ideas for entries like Mrs. Payne Whitney's entry of a life-sized horse made of flowers.

Throughout the war years, the Rose Show was dramatically scaled back. Exhibits were displayed at the American Legion Post as well as local businesses. The 1943 show charged a 25-cent admission fee and profits were used to purchase defense bonds.

The event saw a resurgence in the late 1940s and early 1950s with the addition of the Rose Parade and street dance, & in 1948, the term "Rose Festival" was used. In 1951, the Rose Show was dedicated for the very first time to Samuel Conrad Hjort. Mr. Hjort was one of the original founders of the event and began the rose test garden which allowed locals and visitors alike to learn more about roses and their growth.

The 1970s brought the addition of the children's Rose Bud parade. The Rose Show grew yet again and moved to the Exchange Club Fairgrounds in 1981. It was then that the show expanded to include a standard flower show and rose show. Since the 1990s, the footprint of the show has continued to grow to include the Civic Garden Club Show, the Show and Shine Car and Truck Show, and Orchids on Parade. The Rose Show itself is now located prominently in downtown.

After 100 years, the event continues to evolve and offers new experiences to its guests. For the centennial, you can enjoy the addition of the Rose Fest Market, Historic Parade Experience, and many other special events and attractions.



- 100th Annual Rose Show - Corner of Remington Ave. at S. Broad St.
- Civic Garden Club Flower Show - The Ritz Amphitheater & Park
- Standard Flower Show - Thomasville Garden Center
- Orchids on Parade - Municipal Building
- Historic Parade Experience - On Broad Street in Downtown Thomasville
- Rose Fest Market - The Ritz Amphitheater & Park

See inside for the full schedule of events and location details.



Stop by the Thomasville Visitors Center to learn about all the exciting events happening this year throughout the City of Thomasville and surrounding communities.

Thomasville Visitors Center - 144 East Jackson Street
Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, Saturday from 10am-4pm
thomasvillega.com • 229.228.7977 • 866.577.3600

100th ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL

APRIL 22-24, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THOMASVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION, Thursday at 6:30pm on North Broad Street in Downtown Thomasville.

An impressive review of the Thomasville Police Department. The inspection will also include a community meet-and-greet with the officers. Free admission and open to the public.

ORCHIDS ON PARADE, Friday and Saturday, 9am to 4pm inside the Municipal Building, 144 East Jackson Street.

Showcasing orchids grown in a natural habitat by members of the Thomasville Orchid Society. Members will be on hand to answer questions. Free admission. Donations appreciated.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday at 9am with local dignitaries and Thomasville's Rose Queen and Court.

THOMASVILLE GARDEN CLUBS' FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON, Friday from 12:30pm to 1:30pm at the Courtyard by Marriott

Thomasville Downtown, 207 South Dawson Street.

Don't miss this lovely opportunity to kick off the Rose Show and Festival in style with a delicious lunch and divine fashion! Tickets for the fashion show are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more information, call 229-228-7977.

100TH ANNUAL ROSE SHOW, Friday from 1pm to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 4pm under the big top tent at the corner of Remington Avenue at South Broad Street.

The Rose Show is celebrating 100 years of roses! Hundreds of heirloom and hybrid rose varieties and breathtaking specimens will be on exhibit from growers throughout the Southeast. Free admission.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday at 1pm with local dignitaries and Thomasville's Rose Queen and Court.

Interested in entering a rose into the show? Entries should be brought to the back of the Rose Tent on Friday between 7:00am-10:00am. Display items to showcase your entry will be provided. Simply cut your stem as long as possible and the rose specialists at the tent will assist you with the rest.

STANDARD FLOWER SHOW: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN BLOOM, Friday from 2pm to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 4pm at Thomasville Garden Center, 1102 South Broad Street.

The Standard Flower Show, sponsored by the Thomasville Garden Club, features beautiful horticulture displays and floral designs. On Saturday from 10am-12pm, enjoy a Drop-in Children's Pollinator Workshop for children ages 5-10 years old. Free admission. Donations appreciated.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday at 2pm with local dignitaries and Thomasville's Rose Queen and Court.

SIP AND SHOP, Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 9pm throughout Downtown Thomasville.

Grab a beer or wine from a participating downtown merchant and stroll the bricks for an evening of sipping, shopping, and fun! Live musical acts will be set up throughout downtown on Friday night with recorded music to enjoy on Saturday.

HISTORIC PARADE EXPERIENCE, Friday from 5pm to 9pm on Broad Street in Downtown Thomasville.

You're invited to step back in time and discover 100 years of festivities, flowers, and fun at the historic parade experience! Interact with larger than life historic photo installations that represent traditions of past parades and rose shows. This is the perfect opportunity to see the event's history in action. Free admission.

VIRTUAL ROSE CITY 5K WALK/RUN, Saturday from 8am to 11am at Scott Elementary School, 100 North Hansell Street.

Sponsored by the Thomasville YMCA, participants can complete the run or walk virtually between April 3-24 and then pick-up a t-shirt and awards during the drive-thru event at Scott Elementary School. For more information or to register, call 229.226.9878.

CIVIC GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW: THE GARDEN THERAPY, Saturday from 10am to 5pm under the big top tent at

The Ritz Amphitheater and Park, 131 South Stevens Street.

Enjoy beautiful roses, wild flowers, horticulture settings, potted plants, hanging baskets, table settings and more! Free admission. Donations appreciated.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 10am with local dignitaries and Thomasville's Rose Queen and Court.

ROSE FEST MARKET AT THE RITZ, Saturday from 11am to 5pm at The Ritz Amphitheater and Park, 131 South Stevens Street.

Join us for an outdoor artisan market celebrating all things ROSES! Handcrafted artisans and makers from across the Southeast will have their handmade goods for sale throughout the day. Kids can tap into their creative side with rose featured arts and crafts options hosted by You're Maker. Food trucks will also be available, so be sure to come hungry!

"SHOW & SHINE" CAR AND TRUCK SHOW, Saturday from 12pm to 4pm on North Broad Street.

Sponsored by the Thomasville Police Department, come see unique and award-winning cars and trucks of all kinds! Free admission.

Registration begins at 11am. Winners will be announced at the end of the show. For more information, call 229.227.7075.

ROSE CITY GOLF CLASSIC, Saturday and Sunday, times vary, at Country Oaks Golf Course, 6481 GA Highway 122 N.

You're invited to tee up for this two-person team event. Start times determined by your team's flight. Regular tee times and play will be limited both days. Registration required. For more information, call 229.225.4333.

Other events you won't want to miss...

ROSES IN RESTAURANTS

Participating downtown bars and restaurants have masterfully created unique dishes, drinks or desserts featuring the flavor of roses. Roses in Restaurants is only held during the Rose Show and Festival, so don't miss out. Participants include: *AJ Moonspin; Chop House on the Bricks; Empire Bagel & Delicatessen; Farmer's Daughter Vineyards Tasting Room; Frida's Mexican Restaurant; Grassroots Coffee Co.; Hubs and Hops; The Kickstand; Liam's Restaurant, Lounge & Cheese Shoppe; Q Café; The Sweet and Savory Sisters Restaurant; Sweet Cacao Chocolates; Sweet Grass Dairy*

THE THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER

Visit the Thomasville History Center for a step back in time and learn about the rich history of Thomasville. The grounds will be open for tours. Stop by to view the special Rose Show display and to learn more about this historic centennial celebration. For additional information, call 229.226.7664 or visit thomasvillehistory.org.

PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION

Pebble Hill Plantation will be open for self-guided grounds tours Friday-Sunday and guided Main House tours Friday-Saturday with a 20% admission discount. Reservations recommended. Make plans to attend a ribbon cutting and tour of a newly planted rose garden on Saturday at 11am, which includes a special Hanna family rose grafted from a 100 year old heirloom plant. For more information, visit pebblehill.com or call 229.226.2344.

TASTE OF THOMASVILLE FOOD TOUR

You will truly get all the flavors of Thomasville while on this trip! The Food Tour will be doing their regular day tours on Friday and Saturday and After Hours evening tour on Saturday night. Book your tour online at tasteofthomasvillefoodtour.com.

WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST

Participating downtown merchants have gone all out this year to celebrate 100 years of roses - be sure to check out their decorated windows!

LARGER THAN LIFE PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Rose themed photo ops will be spread throughout the event area. These are perfect for capturing memories!

COMMEMORATIVE HAND PAINTED CIRCLE SIGNS ON BROAD STREET'S HISTORIC LIGHT POLES

These specially commissioned art pieces, created by artist Trish Land, commemorate the 100th celebration. They can be viewed throughout the month of April. Festival t-shirts featuring a rose sign can be purchased at the Thomasville Visitors Center while supplies last.

THOMASVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS' UNVACANT LOT

Experience an art exhibit of painted roses by artist Trish Land. On Saturday from 10am to 2pm, kids can enjoy artistic activities, imagination playground blocks and Land of Roses exhibition activity book. Located at 217 West Jackson Street.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

We're celebrating 100 years of roses and downtown Thomasville is decorated to show it! Stroll the bricks and enjoy all the sights, sounds, and fragrances of roses throughout the event!

PLEIN AIR ARTISTS

Throughout the weekend, look for plein air artists, affiliated with Pines & Palms, painting beautiful rose-inspired scenery in different areas of downtown.