



-  Parking
-  Handicap Parking
-  Electric Vehicle Charging Station
-  Restrooms
-  Information Station

-  Trolley Stops
-  Trolley Route

FREE trolley rides available Saturday from 11am-4pm.

104<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Show - Corner of Remington Ave. & S. Broad St.

Standard Flower Show - Thomasville Garden Center, 1102 S. Broad St.

Civic Garden Club Flower Show - Near The Ritz Amphitheater & Park, 202 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way

Orchids on Parade - Municipal Building, 144 E. Jackson St.

Rose Fest Market - The Ritz Amphitheater & Park, 131 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way

Thomasville Rose Garden - Next to Cherokee Park, 420 Covington Ave.

See inside for the full schedule of events or **SCAN HERE!**



## 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 areas of the store.

As the show outgrew the department store, it was moved to larger locations like a Buick showroom, 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 the street dance, and 1948 is the year that the Rose Festival began. 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 two types of shows: a Rose Show and a Standard Flower 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 under a big top tent in Downtown Thomasville.

After 100 years, the event continues to be a beloved community celebration for Southwest Georgia.



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 8:30am-4:30pm, Saturday from 10am-4pm  
downtownthomasville.com • 229.228.7977 • 866.577.3600

# ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL

## April 25-26, 2025



DOWNTOWN  
*Thomasville*  
GEORGIA

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# ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

**ORCHIDS ON PARADE** Friday & Saturday | 9am-4pm | Municipal Building, 144 E. Jackson Street  
*Showcasing orchids grown in a natural habitat by members of the Thomasville Orchid Society. Members will be on hand to answer questions. Donations appreciated.*

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

**104<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROSE SHOW** Friday, 1-5pm | Saturday, 10am-4pm | Under the Big Top Tent, Corner of Remington Avenue and S. Broad Street  
*Hundreds of heirloom and hybrid rose varieties and breathtaking specimens will be on exhibit from growers throughout the Southeast as we celebrate over 100 years of roses.*

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday at 1pm with Thomasville's Rose Queen and her Court and local dignitaries.**  
*Interested in entering a rose into the show? Entries should be brought to the back of the Rose Tent on Friday between 7am-10am. 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** Friday, 2-5pm | Saturday, 10am-4pm | Thomasville Garden Center, 1102 S. Broad Street  
*The Standard Flower Show, sponsored by the Thomasville Garden Club, features beautiful horticulture displays and floral designs. Donations appreciated.*

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

**ROSE PARADE** Friday | 7pm | Downtown Thomasville, Broad Street  
*Watch as Thomasville comes to life with colorful floats, marching bands, and much more during our theme of "Where Roses Reign...Heritage Blooms."*

**STREET DANCE** Friday | 8:30pm (following the Rose Parade) -10pm | Downtown Thomasville, Intersection of N. Broad Street and Jefferson Street  
*Enjoy a live concert by R&B, Inc. Bring your family and dance the night away.*

**CIVIC GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW** Saturday | 10am-4pm | Under the Big Top Tent, 202 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way  
*Sponsored by the Civic Garden Club, enjoy beautiful roses, wild flowers, horticulture settings, potted plants, hanging baskets, table displays, and more! Donations appreciated.*

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday at 10am with Thomasville's Rose Queen and her Court, and local dignitaries.**  
**Rose City Symphonic Band performance from 9:40-10:40am (Lisa M. Foltz, Music Director and Conductor).**

**ROSE FEST MARKET AT THE RITZ** Saturday | 10am-4pm | The Ritz Amphitheater & Park, 131 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way  
*Join us for an outdoor artisan market celebrating all things floral. Handcrafted artisans and makers from across the Southeast will have their handmade goods for sale. Enjoy food trucks, children's activities, music by Red Clay Serenade, and more throughout the afternoon.*

**"SHOW & SHINE" CAR AND TRUCK SHOW** Saturday | 10am-2pm | Downtown Thomasville, N. Broad Street  
*Sponsored by the Thomasville Police Department, come see unique and award-winning cars and trucks of all kinds! Concert featuring Baby Gray.*  
**On-site registration from 8-10am.**

**SIP AND SHOP** Saturday | 12-10pm | Throughout Downtown Thomasville  
*Grab a beer or wine from a participating downtown business and stroll the bricks for a day of sipping, shopping, and fun!*

**ROSE FEST FINALE** Saturday | 6-9pm | The Ritz Amphitheater & Park, 131 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way  
*Free live concert by Blue Burden, and enjoy dancing and fun for the whole family. Food trucks will also be on site.*



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

**PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION** | 1251 US Highway 319 S.  
*Enjoy a guided Grounds and Gardens Tour showcasing the history of Pebble Hill's beautiful landscape. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the scenic grounds. Tour times are Friday, April 25 from 10:30am-12pm and 1-2:30pm for \$15 per person. 20% off all other admission from April 25-27. For more information, call 229.227.5378 or visit [pebble-hill-plantation.ticketleap.com](http://pebble-hill-plantation.ticketleap.com).*

**THE THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER** | 725 N. Dawson Street  
**LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE** | 626 N. Dawson Street  
*Explore, play, learn, and shop as you journey into Thomasville's past. Save time and money with a Journey Pass to receive discounted admission at both locations. Visit [thomasvillehistory.org](http://thomasvillehistory.org) for tour hours and to pre-purchase.*

**TASTE OF THOMASVILLE FOOD TOUR**  
*Indulge in the history and flavors of Thomasville as you stroll about downtown, stopping at multiple restaurants to sample savory bites of food. Register online at [tasteofthomasvillefoodtour.com](http://tasteofthomasvillefoodtour.com).*

**JACK HADLEY BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM** | 214 Alexander Street  
*Take a self-guided tour to view over 7,000 artifacts that share the history of black achievers. Open Friday, 10am-4pm and Saturday, 11am-4pm. For more information, call 229.226.5029.*

**ROSE CITY WALK AND RUN**  
*Sponsored by the Thomasville YMCA. Visit [ymca-thomasville.org](http://ymca-thomasville.org) for registration information.*

**LARGER THAN LIFE PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES & DECORATED STOREFRONTS**  
*Rose themed photo ops and decorated storefronts can be found throughout the event area. These are perfect for capturing memories!*

**ROSES IN RESTAURANTS**  
*Participating downtown bars, restaurants, and eateries have masterfully created unique dishes, drinks, or desserts featuring the flavor of roses. This is your chance to savor something delicious and distinctive throughout the weekend!*

**HAND PAINTED COMMISSIONED ROSE SIGNS**  
*These specially commissioned art pieces can be found lining Broad Street. Created by artist Trish Land, these commemorative signs were made for our centennial celebration and can be viewed throughout the month of April.*

**ROSE CITY GOLF CLASSIC** | 6481 Georgia Highway 122  
*Join the fun April 26-27 for a two person, 36-hole golf tournament. Pre-register by visiting [countryoaksgolfcourse.org](http://countryoaksgolfcourse.org) or call 229.225.4333.*

**DUE SOUTH: STOP & SMELL THE ROSES!** | Downtown Thomasville  
*This public art exhibition, sponsored by Thomasville Center for the Arts, is designed to complement the Center's Due South 2025 Music, Food, & Art Festival. Throughout the month of April, public art will focus on the sights & sounds of Thomasville as we celebrate roses, the symbol of our city.*

*Save These Dates!*

Scan the QR code for a full list of Thomasville events.

