

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

PEBBLE HILL PLANTATION | 1251 US Highway 319 S. 7 miles from Downtown Thomasville

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 24 from 10:30am-12pm and 1-2:30pm for \$15 per person. 20% off all other admission from April 24-26. For more information, call 229.227.5378.

THE THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER | 725 N. Dawson Street **LAPHAM-PATTERSON HOUSE** | 626 N. Dawson Street

Journey into Thomasville's past and visit a special Rose Show pop-up exhibit at the Lapham-Patterson House, April 23-25, featuring historic dresses and artifacts. Visit thomasvillehistory.org for more details.

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.

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 for registration information.

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!

MY SIDE OF THE STORY! | Downtown Thomasville

This public art experience sponsored by Thomasville Center for the Arts aims to highlight the Southern tradition of narrative quilting while supporting artists from across the South. View public art installations of quilts in all shapes and forms inside Grassroots Coffee and along Jackson Street throughout Downtown Thomasville.

HISTORIC PARADE EXPERIENCE | 233 W. Jackson Street

Step back in time as you stroll through an outdoor display highlighting decades of Rose Show & Festival parade memories and celebrations.



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 event has continued to grow to include the Civic Garden Club Show, 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.

For over 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

229.228.7977 • 866.577.3600

The 105th Rose Show & Festival is proudly sponsored by



105th ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL



April 24-25, 2026

PARADE • ROSE & FLOWER SHOWS

ARTISAN MARKET • CAR & TRUCK SHOW

LIVE CONCERTS • DRONE SHOW



For a full list of Rose Show & Festival events, SCAN HERE!



City of
Thomasville

thomasville.org • 229-227-4136

ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL ROSE SHOW & FESTIVAL EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

FRIDAY'S FESTIVITIES

ORCHIDS ON PARADE 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. Orchids available for purchase.

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

105TH ANNUAL ROSE SHOW 1-5pm | 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. Rose bushes available for purchase by Nelson's Southern Roses.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 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 2-5pm | 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 at 2pm with Thomasville's Rose Queen and her Court and local dignitaries.

ROSE PARADE 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...Honoring our History, Inspiring our Future."

STREET DANCE 8:30pm-10pm (following the Rose Parade)
Downtown Thomasville, Intersection of N. Broad Street and Jefferson Street

Enjoy a live concert by The Ray Howard Band. Bring your family and dance the night away.



SATURDAY'S FESTIVITIES

ORCHIDS ON PARADE 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. Orchids available for purchase.

105TH ANNUAL ROSE SHOW 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. Rose bushes available for purchase by Nelson's Southern Roses.

STANDARD FLOWER SHOW 10am-4pm | Thomasville Garden Center, 1102 S. Broad Street (1.1 miles from the Rose Show tent)

The Standard Flower Show, sponsored by the Thomasville Garden Club, features beautiful horticulture displays and floral designs. Donations appreciated.

84TH ANNUAL CIVIC GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW 10am-4pm
Under the Big Top Tent, 202 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way

Sponsored by the Civic Garden Club. During the theme "Where Roses Reign... Gardening of Tomorrow" enjoy beautiful roses, wild flowers, horticulture settings, potted plants, hanging baskets, table displays, and more! Donations appreciated. Music provided by the Thomas University Jazz Band from 12-2pm.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony 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 10am-4pm | The Ritz Amphitheater, 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, and performances by local dance groups: 11am-Rose City Ballet; 11:30am-Southern Dance Collective/The FIRM; 12pm-Charla's School of Dance; 12:30pm-Rose City Performing Arts; 1pm-South Georgia Ballet.

"SHOW & SHINE" CAR AND TRUCK SHOW 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 from 10am-1pm.

On-site registration from 8-10am.

ROSE FEST FINALE CONCERT & DRONE SHOW 6-9pm
The Ritz Amphitheater, 131 GEN Lloyd J. Austin III Way

Celebrate the grand finale of the Rose Show & Festival with a free live concert by Dana King. Look to the sky at 8:45pm for a dazzling 15 minute synchronized drone show that will light up the night sky in vibrant colors. Enjoy dancing and fun for the whole family. Food trucks will be on site.



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



105th Annual Rose Show - Corner of Remington Ave. & S. Broad St.



Standard Flower Show - Thomasville Garden Center, 1102 S. Broad St. - 1.1 miles from the Rose Show Tent



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



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



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



Show & Shine Car and Truck Show - Downtown Thomasville, N. Broad St.



Thomasville Rose Garden - Next to Cherokee Park, 420 Covington Ave. - 1.7 miles from the Rose Show Tent