

# Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden

"America's Best Rose Garden"

Issue 42

December 2018

## Rose Pruning Seminar & Volunteer Day January 5th, 8:30am



It's that time of the year again for the annual Rose Pruning Volunteer Day! For the past 12 years, volunteers have pruned the roses in the Garden, saving the City of San Jose thousands of dollars and bringing in community spirit. This year's event will be on Saturday, January 5th, with registration opening at 8:30am, and the event starts at 9:00am.

Last year, we had over 450 volunteers, but we only had 300 garden clippers! So unless you want to weed or rake, **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN GARDEN CLIPPERS AND GLOVES, we have a limited supply for volunteers!!**

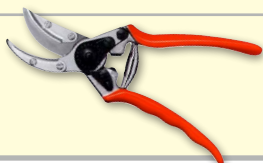


In keeping with tradition, the first 300 volunteers will receive a FREE BARE ROOT ROSE courtesy of Star Roses, and a 20% off coupon from PARK STATION HASHERY, located right down the street! So come on out, bring your clippers, learn how to prune roses, get a free rose bush and 20% Park Station Hashery. Oh, did I mention you should bring your own clippers and gloves as our supply is limited?



## FREE ROSES!

Learn from the Pros!



[www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheSanJoseRoseGarden](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheSanJoseRoseGarden)

**Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer group dedicated to preserving the Historic San Jose Municipal Rose Garden

# 2019 Test Roses

As you know, the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is one of a few Rose Gardens throughout the USA that are "Test Gardens". Meaning, we get roses that are being tested by the hybridizers, the folks that create new rose varieties. The two big rose companies in the USA that introduce new varieties each year are Star Roses and Weeks Roses.

We grow the test roses for two years, and provide judging on how well they do, usually looking at 10-12 characteristics: disease resistance, growth habit, bud stage, color, flower, how well it ages, fragrance just to name a few. With this information from our Garden, and a few others in different climates, the rose hybridizers decide what they will introduce to the general public. This year, we will get about 15 new test roses from each group. Historically, only about 3-5 actually make the cut and are introduced to the public.

Sometimes, we have a great test variety that does well here, and I ask for a pre-release, only to be told the rose will be destroyed and not introduced because it only did well in San Jose, and nowhere else. Check out our website, and at the lower left of the page has a nice article and videos on how new roses are created.



## Our Winter Pruning Method

For the first 10 years, we have had a winter pruning program that worked seamlessly. We typically would get about 400 - 600 volunteers to participate and we focused on pruning the roses. Each year, we were able to "break" the previous year's record, pruning the 4,000 roses in about 60 minutes. The technique consists of five steps:

1. Find Paint Mark,
2. Cut 1/2" above "Bud" eye,
3. Strip Leaves,
4. Pull Weeds,
5. Rake and Clean Beds.

This year, I don't expect to break our record. Why? there are A LOT of weeds! I know it's not so glamorous, and is hard work, but we hope this year's volunteers will see the severe need of "Complete Care" and make sure the beds are pruned, leaves stripped, and weed free.





# The Rose Garden Resurrection - A look back

## *Frm. Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio*

Shortly after I was first elected in 2007, I held my first and only press conference to bring attention to the plight of our once beloved San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. This park holds a special place for many of our friends and family. It is where countless SJUSD students participated in graduation ceremonies (including myself), where couples fell in love and eventually were married, and where visitors took time to smell the roses.

However, the park was in abysmal shape in 2007, with rose bed, after rose bed, filled with dead roses and weeds taller than me. The City of San Jose was spending significant money for park maintenance, however the results were a failure and resulted in the park being placed on probation by the All American Rose Selections (AARS).



My goal was to restore the park to its prior grandeur by utilizing a private landscaping company and allowing residents to volunteer in a robust manner. Both these concepts were not allowed at the time due to union rules. However with community support and persistence, both rules were changed over time. While the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden is maintained by the city, private landscapers handle smaller parks. These changes saved the taxpayers money with a 3 to 1 cost savings provided by the private landscaper while simultaneously improving park maintenance.

However, the most profound change was allowing people to volunteer in parks. This simple change of allowing volunteers to augment city staff was immense. In three years, our San Jose Municipal Rose Garden went from "worst to first" being voted America's Best Rose Garden. Volunteers from all ages and backgrounds came out to help on scheduled volunteer days alongside a core group of dedicated green vested Master Volunteers who can be seen at the park seven days a week. The green vested Master Volunteers are inspiring individuals who have collectively spread joy in the park for everyone to witness.

Embracing volunteerism also allowed employees of corporations the choice of spending their community service days in our San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. Employees of companies such as Google, Microsoft, Deloitte and others have contributed greatly to the restoration of the park and also have contributed funds towards keeping the fountain clean and running. Volunteerism also spread to our libraries in 2014 with the City of San Jose finally allowing volunteers to re-shelve books after two years of negotiations with the union. In 2016 the City Auditor conducted an audit of volunteers in the libraries and found the efforts of the volunteers allowed the libraries to expand library hours by 19%.

Whether it is expanded library hours or a San Jose Municipal Rose Garden that is blessed with a sea of color, allowing residents to actively participate builds community and leads to positive results that we may all enjoy. Happy New Year Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden.

# Editorial: City's Best Gift of 2008

(A look back on the Christmas Morning Editorial by the Mercury News - 2008)

Mercury News Editorial - 12/25/08

The rose, eternal symbol of love and peace, is at the heart of the best civic gift to San Jose in 2008: the stunning revival of the Municipal Rose Garden.

Thank-you notes will be a challenge because they should go to hundreds of people around the Bay, from Fremont to Los Gatos to Palo Alto, who've responded to calls for help. They have pruned, deadheaded and otherwise nurtured the garden along Naglee Avenue in the neighborhood that bears its name. But the real credit goes to Terry Reilly and Beverly Rose (really) Hopper, who organized not only the volunteers but also a wholesale renewal of the garden. Along the way, they helped rebuild the city's relationship with volunteers.

Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio shone a spotlight on the badly deteriorated rose garden in 2007, suggesting that its maintenance be outsourced. The resulting controversy energized Reilly and Hopper, who realized that volunteers were the way to help city staff bring the garden back and regain certification by All-America Rose Selections, which had placed it on probation.

That sanction was lifted this fall — an early Christmas present. But folks who visit the garden didn't need a national board to tell them things had changed. The place looks fabulous.

Reilly and Hopper convinced the city that volunteers could work with the professional staff to maintain and restore the garden. They set up a training program for master volunteers who work without supervision — more than 100 of them now, together contributing around 50 hours a week. That's not counting the special workdays that draw hundreds of volunteers for pruning and such. They convinced the city to use cloth and mulch for weed control instead of poison. New pruning guidelines have led to lusher blooms. Reilly set up an amazing Friends of the Rose Garden web site — [friendssjrosegarden.org/](http://friendssjrosegarden.org/) — to help organize workers and document every step. (Check out the fun interactive maps and garden diagrams.)

And as a down payment on next year's gift, they've launched a plan to plant 600 new bushes, some as replacements and others to fill out beds that have been sparse for years. The city will do the heavy lifting with grading and such, but Friends will provide the roses, most if not all donated by suppliers — a gift to the public worth more than \$10,000. The national certification group has done a case study of the Friends as a guide for other rose gardens. But can this model be applied here in Silicon Valley to other public spaces that lack the magic of roses? Reilly thinks it can. And thanks to the success of the Friends, San Jose has policies in place to help. The key is finding the right connection.

"If a park isn't used, it's going to go downhill," Reilly says. "If people are complaining about that — they're the ones you can tap into. It can be done."

*Proving that may have been the best civic gift of all.*

Editorials

## City's best gift of 2008: revival of rose garden

The rose, eternal symbol of love and peace, is at the heart of the best civic gift to San Jose in 2008: the stunning revival of the Municipal Rose Garden.

Thank-you notes will be a challenge because they should go to hundreds of people around the Bay, from Fremont to Los Gatos to Palo Alto, who've responded to calls for help. They have pruned, deadheaded and otherwise nurtured the garden along Naglee Avenue in the neighborhood that bears its name. But the real credit goes to Terry Reilly and Beverly Rose (really) Hopper, who organized not only the volunteers but also a wholesale renewal of the garden. Along the way, they helped rebuild the city's relationship with volunteers.

Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio shone a spotlight on the badly deteriorated rose garden in 2007, suggesting that its maintenance be outsourced. The resulting controversy energized Reilly and Hopper, who realized that volunteers were the way to help city staff bring the garden back and regain certification by All-America Rose Selections, which had placed it on probation.

That sanction was lifted this fall — an early Christmas present. But folks who visit the garden didn't need a national board to tell them things had changed. The place looks fabulous.

Reilly and Hopper convinced the city that volunteers could work with the professional staff to maintain and restore the garden. They set up a training program for master volunteers who work without supervision

— more than 100 of them now, together contributing around 50 hours a week. That's not counting the special workdays that draw hundreds of volunteers for pruning and such.

They convinced the city to use cloth and mulch for weed control instead of poison. New pruning guidelines have led to lusher blooms.

Reilly set up an amazing Friends of the Rose Garden web site — <http://friendssjrosegarden.org/> — to help organize workers and document every step. (Check out the fun interactive maps and garden diagrams.)

And as a down payment on next year's gift, they've launched a plan to plant 600 new bushes, some as replacements and others to fill out beds that have been sparse for years. The city will do the heavy lifting with grading and such, but Friends will provide the roses, most if not all donated by suppliers — a gift to the public worth more than \$10,000.

The national certification group has done a case study of the Friends as a guide for other rose gardens. But can this model be applied here in Silicon Valley to other public spaces that lack the magic of roses?

Reilly thinks it can. And thanks to the success of the Friends, San Jose has policies in place to help. The key is finding the right connection.

"If a park isn't used, it's going to go downhill," Reilly says. "If people are complaining about that — they're the ones you can tap into. It can be done."

Proving that may have been the best civic gift of all.



# What's in, What's Out? 2019

## Rip and replace - and add drip!

Every year, we identify rose beds that are tired and just need to be replaced. This year we have a few beds that are “ripped and replace” - what that means is the city will “rip” out about 2-3 feet of soil (which contains lots of weed seed, and Bermuda grass rhizomes, and replace it with good, clean soil. Then we will plant better varieties and start a weed abatement program on the bed. And this year, the city has proposed experimenting with a new drip irrigation system.

11 years ago, when the Garden was resurrected, there was a discussion on drip systems. But at that time, we felt with volunteers going through the beds, the tubes would get moved, clogged and other issues with drip. Mind you, a drip irrigation system in your own yard solves many problems, but there are challenges with 4,000 roses.

But in the past 11 years, drip systems have evolved, and we are accepting the city's proposal to “try it out” on the replacement beds. Look for future articles on how the experiment goes!

As for what is being replaced?

**Medallion** - It's just tired. It hasn't produced new basal canes or new growth. Time for a change. What's going in? All Dressed Up, a new 2019 introduction from Weeks Roses, hybridized by Christian Bédard. We grew this in the test area and it performed excellent.

**Honor** - we have two beds of Honor, and while this was a great clear white rose when it was introduced, it is a disease magnet. There are better clear whites out there. It will be replaced by a cool new variety - a “pre-release” of Life of the Party. This rose will be planted in 2019, and will be available to the general public in 2020! A wonderful rose whose parentage includes Julia Child.

**Remember Me** - This rose at one point was very good, but it has slowed down and gotten old, with some bushes dying. It's no longer in commerce, which means we can't get replacement roses. It will be replaced with a very special rose, but we will reveal this later!!!!

**Givenchy** - Introduced in 1986, when Ronald Regan was President, this rose named after the famed designer has (looking for a pun here - ) is old and no longer in style. Some plants had died over the years, and this rose is no longer being sold - much like bell-bottoms - wait, they are coming back! But this rose is not. We are replacing it with a “fan favorite” - Mr. Lincoln! 25-30 plants! Mr. Lincoln is a much loved rose, but also has some health issues. But because of demand, people want to see this wonderfully fragrant rose, named after the Republican President who accomplished so much. But know this President Lincoln - you have 3 years to perform, otherwise you may get impeached for a better variety!

We have a couple more varieties that may go in which will be revealed later!



**All Dressed Up**



**Life of the Party**



**Mr. Lincoln**

# Sign and Sign Post Replacement

It's been a long time since the signs for the rose beds were installed as part of an Eagle Scout project. The years have taken their toll. We replaced them here and there, but there really needed to have a concerted effort of cataloging which signs needed to be replaced, contact the engraver, send the order, get delivery and install them. Brian, a Master Volunteer for many years, took this task to keep up with the changing rose beds and replacements, and did a great job.

Brian moved on to greener pastures after retirement, we did not have anyone to fill the void.

At our Master Volunteer Pizza Work Parties, I usually download the various projects we have, what we are doing with the city, and the needs we have. We really need help having the signs catalogued, find out which were missing, and which needed replacing. We had a Master Volunteer offer to help, and we got a big order of what needed to be replaced.

Unscrewing 4 old brass screws on each sign, and replacing it with a new sign, with stainless screws was a daunting task. A Master Volunteer workday was scheduled, asking folks to bring cordless drills. About six showed up, and the project was explained. Replacing over 200 signs is a big job, and we got it started.

But one volunteer had a great time with the drill and found this to be just as therapeutic as deadheading! Master Volunteer Cheryl asked if she could dive in even deeper, to audit all signs and stakes to see what was needed. What a Godsend. She took on the project with gusto, and soon had a spreadsheet showing how many more new signs we needed, and which beds were needing a new sign post. These sign posts were designed and manufactured by a Boy

Scout who has moved on to greater things as an adult, so Cheryl offered to "recreate the design" including securing the materials, etc.

She ordered a bunch of material from Lowes just a few weeks before they announced they were re-organizing and shutting down stores! At first, Lowes lost the order, said it was shipped, but couldn't find the material. Then they said it actually wasn't shipped, so they shipped it - to the wrong store. And then it couldn't be located. Once located, it was picked up and they refused to cut a 12' piece to fit in Cheryl's car. Being a swell negotiator,

Cheryl got them to acquiesce, and we now have the material, two months after ordering!

While the project is about 80% complete, the rest will need to be completed when Cheryl comes back from the well deserved holidays! It's great to have volunteers with skill-sets step up to take on these types of projects! Thanks Cheryl!



## Weed Abatement 2018

There is no doubt, weeds have been the bane of the garden for sometimes now. Over the past 2 years, we did not think there was a solution in sight. But we are now turning the corner, and have begun to get them under control.

The City of San Jose has tried some aggressive tactics, first experimenting to make sure the roses are not harmed. Along with our Master Volunteer "Weed Wackers" and The City of San Jose's Volunteer Department setting up big corporate weeding days, we are seeing some progress.

Thanks to all that have helped with this project!



# ROSE GARDEN

## Rose Pruning Seminar & Volunteer Day

Sat., January 5th - 8:30 a.m.!



Friends of the  
San Jose



Rose Garden



The first 300 Volunteers will receive a 20% off coupon from Park Station Hashery and a FREE BARE ROOT ROSE courtesy of Star Roses!!!!



Please, please, please bring your own garden clippers, wear long sleeve & gloves!



Sat. January 5th 8:30 a.m., Naglee and Dana Ave., SJ

Sponsored by the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden and the City of San Jose's PRNS

# What's Happening with the Trees?

You may have noticed that the flowering Aristocrat Pear trees have been removed from the perimeter of the Garden. These trees were planted in March 1996, though a partnership between the city and the residents. The previous Hawthorn trees around the Garden were deemed unsuitable by the city. This article cannot do justice on the project to plant the new trees in 1996, but I will point out that the trees, and labor to plant them were organized as a DONATION to the city by Gary Cook, a Rose Garden resident and longtime friend. The company that donated all this at the time was B & B Concrete Construction, which is now (I believe) Robert A. Bothman Construction. This company has done wonderful philanthropic donations/construction in the region.

But after 22+ years, these trees have become diseased and are a safety hazard. They have blight, which is contagious and are dying, with large branches falling. This is not uncommon. Could this have been avoided? Certainly, with a very organized, aggressive, and expensive city tree maintenance program. But remember why the FSJRG was created in 2007? Because the city could not keep up with the roses, and 10 years after planting, they couldn't keep up with tree maintenance. These tree are now being "ripped and replaced"

Councilmember Dev Davis has put forth funding from the D6 Parks Budget to replace these trees.

Fun Fact: With the city's outsourcing program, they put the project out to bid to private companies and the city staff could also bid. Seems, the city's bid came in lower than private companies so they will handle the work!

The trees are being removed in stages. Two blocks have been removed, and some stumps ground. The next two blocks will be removed January 12th and 19th, depending on weather and other factors.

The replacement trees were outlined in a public meeting and presentation in October by Councilmember Dev Davis, and consist of a few varieties of Quercus Frainetto, Chionanthus Retusus, And Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold' (a male "fruitless variety" which means less droppings).

The project is scheduled to be COMPLETED by Mother's Day. 2019!



**A volunteer and (my son) Terry L. Reilly II planting the new trees - March 30, 1996**



# Master Volunteers Get Pruning Training

2018 proved to be a banner year for increasing our Master Volunteer program. We had over 30 volunteers get “vested” and become official “Master Volunteers”

Recently, we held a tutorial on how we winter prune the roses. Many of the Master Volunteers had not attended our big pruning event and were unfamiliar with how we winter prune the roses.

Some were, quite frankly, taken aback at the techniques we use. Many thought that rose pruning was complex, and many important decisions needed to be made on where to cut, what angle, and cutting out crossing canes. This is not the case!

These Master Volunteers have seen how well the Garden looked through the growing season, so it PROVES our pruning technique works!



## How to Plant a Bare Root Rose



Want to know how to plant a bare root rose? They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, a video is worth even more than that. Watch the bare root rose planting video at [www.tinyurl.com/bareroot](http://www.tinyurl.com/bareroot)



# Spotted in the Rose Garden N'Hood!



THE OPPOSITE OF LOST!!

Do not try to find me!!

I HAVE ESCAPED THE ROSE GARDEN AND MY "MASTER'S"  
WICKED CLUTCHES

TO THE OTHERS I SAY "JOIN ME!"

BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS YOU!

VIVE LA LIBERTE' - PIERRE :-)



# Rose Hip Jelly

Rose Hips are a natural part of the rose bush's life cycle. They form when the bloom is not cut and when it becomes pollinated. It signals the plant to shut down, and store energy for the winter. You should not see rose hips on roses in July. This means they have not been "deadheaded" and new blooms will not form.

According to WikiPedia, rose hips have many interesting uses. "Rose hips have recently become popular as a healthy treat for pet chinchillas and guinea pigs. These small rodents are unable to manufacture their own vitamin C and are unable to digest many vitamin-c rich foods. Rose hips provide a sugarless way to increase vitamin C intake. Rose hips are fed to horses to improve coat condition and new hoof growth. The fine hairs found inside rose hips are used in itching powder. Rose hips can be used to make Palinka, a traditional Hungarian alcoholic beverage. They are also the central ingredient of Cockta, the fruity-tasting national soft drink of Slovenia.

Typically, Rose Hips are used for jam, jelly, syrup, teas, lotions and other traditional products. In the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, we try to stop deadheading after October to encourage hip growth, and signal the plants to prepare for winter. Many of the varieties produce decorative hips, and provide an educational opportunity for garden visitors who ask our volunteers about these red or orange balls on the rose bush.

Recently, we held a seminar on pruning roses for our Master Volunteers. Twenty jars of homemade Rose Hip Jelly were given away to the participants. And on Christmas Day, we brought out several jars to "gift" a few visitors that came to the Garden to enjoy the roses that were left and spend time with family.

To learn how to make Rose Hip Jelly, go to our website at [www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org](http://www.FriendsSJRoseGarden.org) and look for the article at the bottom of the page.

