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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release through May 17, 2019

Volunteers needed to spruce up Rose Garden for Memorial Day

Planted in 1946 to honor local service members killed in World War II, the Memorial Rose Garden has been a Missoula institution for 73 years. The Missoula Rose Society and Parks and Recreation invite residents to volunteer in the Garden on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., to help prepare the roses for Memorial Day and the warm summer months ahead.

Working with experts from the Rose Society, volunteers will be mulching, weeding, planting and pruning roses. Volunteers may stay for the entire event, or drop by to help for a shorter period. Tools, gloves and refreshments will be provided. The event is open to ages 8 and up.

The all-volunteer Missoula Rose Society was established in 1944 and since then has planted and maintained the Memorial Rose Garden, which is part of the City's WWII memorial. The Garden's obelisk memorial lists the names of local casualties of the conflict. Memorials to the casualties and veterans of conflicts in Vietnam, Grenada, the Persian Gulf, Panama and Korea, as well as urban firefighters and law enforcement, can also be found in Memorial Rose Garden Park.

The Garden's 44 beds are home to over 600 rose plants of all varieties. Through a long-term partnership, the Missoula Rose Society provides for the planting and care of the roses, and Parks and Recreation maintains the park. Volunteers are needed in the fall, spring and summer to prepare the Garden for the season ahead.

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Parks and Recreation director Donna Gaukler says the hard work and commitment of the Missoula Rose Society has kept the Garden flourishing for the last 73 years. "Without the experienced and talented Rose Society members providing leadership, the Memorial Rose Garden would not succeed," Gaukler says. "I hope folks will consider volunteering a few hours this weekend or year-round. It is an easy way to show support for an important community resource, learn more about roses and the memorials, and share community pride."

Parks and Recreation plans to host additional volunteer workdays at the Rose Garden this fall. To register for the May 18 event, email Parks and Recreation Volunteer Coordinator Tyler Decker at deckert@ci.missoula.mt.us or phone 552-6271. To donate to the Memorial Rose Gardens, or join the Rose Society, visit www.missoulaparks.org.

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