Symphony president gets surprise honor from Rotary

Andrew Bales walked right into a surprise Wednesday, as the Rotary Club of San Jose presented him with its 24th Don Goldeen Award, presented annually to individuals who have made a significant impact on downtown San Jose.

Bales, the president of Symphony Silicon Valley, thought he was attending Wednesday’s meeting to support a friend, whom he was told was getting the award. “I am truly speechless because I was here to give it to a more deserving soul, but now I’m mad at him,” joked Bales, who’s certainly deserving himself.

Bales was president of the Cleveland Ballet and helped forge the partnership that paved the way for today’s Ballet San Jose. He also stepped in to revive the city’s orchestra after the San Jose Symphony collapsed more than a decade ago.

The award is named for the late Don Goldeen, who was a longtime furniture store owner downtown. Previous recipients include Steve Wozniak, Tom McEnery, Irene Dalis and Mayor Chuck Reed, who was similarly surprised by the award in December 2010.

ART ON HIGH: Two vacant penthouse apartments on the 23rd floor of the towering 360 Residences in downtown San Jose made a breathtaking venue for a really electric art show Wednesday night featuring the work of San Francisco artist Clive McCarthy.

Sharks and Roses: The Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden have attractive bait to bring volunteers out to help prune Saturday at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden: Sharks hockey tickets will be given away during the event, and the first 200 volunteers get a rose bush from Star Roses, the high-end floral mail order firm.

It starts at 9 a.m. at the corner of Naglee and Dana avenues. For more info, go to www.friendssjrosegarden.org.

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