



April 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

This **Autism Awareness Month**, your support goes even further. We are thrilled to partner with the **Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF)** for a special matching challenge: **Every gift you make in April will be matched 50% by CHEF!** Your generosity directly fuels our mission and expands our reach.

To celebrate this month of inclusion and growth, the Irby Ranch Sun Squad will be walking through the neighborhood to gift our wonderful neighbors with fresh garden flowers, sunflower seeds, and handwritten notes. It's the perfect way to get moving while celebrating the community that supports us.

April is packed with ways for the entire Sunflower Hill community to get involved:



- **Spring Planting Day:** April 11
- **Tips for Change at SideTrack:** April 14
- **LPC Run for Higher Education:** April 25 (Sunflower Hill is a proud beneficiary!)
- [Donate to Sunflower Hill thru CHEF for 50% Match!](#)

Thank you for your continued support!

With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



[Spring Planting Day - Sponsored by IPX Power](#)



Join us for our Spring Planting Day!

Saturday, April 11

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Sunflower Hill Garden
455 Olivina Ave, Livermore

This is a free, family-friendly celebration of new growth, community, and all things blooming.

- Help plant in the garden
- Meet our new chickens
- Attend a worm-composting workshop
- See our new accessible pathways and shade structures made possible by a front from the City of Livermore

We'll see you there!

[Tips for Change at SideTrack](#)



Tuesday, April 14

Reservations open 5:00-7:45 PM

SideTrack Bar + Grill

30 W Angela St, Pleasanton, CA

Enjoy delicious food served by a fun, spirited waitstaff including Pleasanton Mayor **Jack Balch**, Livermore City Council Member **Evan Branning**, Dublin Heritage and Cultural Art Commissioner **Margaret Liang**, CEO/President of the Three Valleys Community Foundation **Kelly Bowers**, SFH board members **John Lengyel** and **Brad Wilson**, and Sunflower Hill Advisor **Janeen Rubino-Brumm!**

100% of tips donated through Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF) will be matched at 50% to benefit Sunflower Hill.

Reserve Your Seats!

[Garden Explorers Summer Camp](#)



Join us for hands-on fun at Sunflower Hill's **Garden Explorers Summer Camp!** Our special day camps are designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), ages 13 and up.

Two sessions are available:

Monday-Friday, June 1-5

Monday-Friday, July 13-17

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sunflower Hill Garden

455 Olivina Ave, Livermore

Campers will enjoy a variety of engaging outdoor activities, including: hands-on gardening, creative crafts, simple cooking activities, and movement-based games and exercises. Whether planting,

painting, or cooking, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Regional Center of the East Bay clients welcome.

Register for Camp!

Introducing Our New Chicken Parents



Supervisor David Haubert

Holly Sanders

Vic Chavez

Meet the last of our new chicken parents! We're excited to share this month's introductions: Alameda County Supervisor **David Haubert**, Sunflower Hill Supporter **Holly Sanders**, and Sunflower Hill Garden Manager, **Vic Chavez**!

Our team of adoptive parents is bringing some serious personality to the coop this season! Between Supervisor Haubert, who's naming his chick "Sunny" and likely teaching it the legendary chicken dance moves he debuted at last year's gala, and Sanders, who is celebrating all things eggs and feathers with her new companion, "Purdy Bird," the flock is off to a flying start. Rounding out the group is our amazing garden manager Chavez, who has dubbed her chick "Sugar Meggnolia" and will be providing expert care to ensure the entire brood thrives under her watchful eye.

Garden News



Winter has come to an end, and our warm-season crops are growing quickly in the greenhouse, ready to be planted on Spring Planting Day. Flowers have already begun to bloom and are being bundled into bouquets for delivery to our partners, **Heritage Estates** and **Hope Hospice**. To celebrate the Spring Equinox, our Friday volunteers built a brand-new scarecrow and repurposed an old wheelbarrow into a charming succulent planter.

We have officially resumed our community volunteer season, recently welcoming our 2nd Saturday volunteers who helped prune back our perennial plants. Additionally, the **Danville/San Ramon Rotary** joined us to spruce up the chicken coop for our new flock. As the warm season kicks off, our chickens have been busy producing dozens of eggs.



In March, we welcomed back our garden program participants. They have had a wonderful time harvesting, meeting the chickens, uppotting, and learning about seed anatomy. To wrap up their days, they've been cooking and eating garden-grown meals together, including a massaged lemony kale and a fresh spring garden salad.



We are thrilled to announce that our new shade structures are officially complete! With this week's warm weather giving us a little preview of the summer heat, we're already putting these cooler spaces to good usage.

A huge thank you to the **City of Livermore** for providing the grant that made this project a reality. We are incredibly grateful for their support to



keep our community growing (and staying cool!).

Come see the new garden transformations at our **Spring Planting Day** on April 11!

Welcome, Michael!



Join us in welcoming **Michael McCarty**, our new Garden Assistant! Michael is excited to join the Sunflower Hill team and continue learning about gardening. He has been a long-time Friday volunteer and we are grateful to have him step into this assistant role. He is passionate about sustainability and previously worked in solar design for power plants. Outside of work, Michael enjoys hiking and binge-watching movies with his dog.

[Roll Out the Red Carpet Gala](#)



Saturday, October 3

The Club at Castlewood
707 Country Club Circle, Pleasanton

Mark your calendar and get ready for an unforgettable evening filled with glamour, celebration, and community—all in support of Sunflower Hill. Tickets will be available in June.

Explore sponsorship opportunities and discover how you can champion Sunflower Hill's mission to empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)!

Become a Gala Sponsor!

Corporate Garden Volunteer Groups



Looking for a meaningful team-building opportunity that makes a difference? Bring your corporate team to **volunteer at the Sunflower Hill Garden** at Hagemann Ranch in Livermore!

We offer personalized workday opportunities that can be designed with your employees in mind twice a month **through October**. Whether your group is large or small, our corporate program is tailored to elevate your overall garden experience, offering specialized projects or various garden tasks that enhance volunteer engagement and impact.

Set Up a Corporate Volunteer Day

Las Positas College Super Hero Run



LPC RUN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION & Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance

Saturday, April 25, 2026
9AM Run/Walk
10AM Marketplace Celebration & BBQ

Sunflower Hill is proud to be one of 12 nonprofits benefiting from the Las Positas College Run for Higher Education. Lace up your shoes, gather your crew, and be a hero for your community!

*Saturday, April 25 at 9 am
Las Positas College, Livermore*

[Register today](#) to reserve your spot and be sure to **select "Sunflower Hill"** as the local non-profit you'd like to support! This event is organized by Las Positas College, Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance, and the Livermore Chamber.

Register for the LPC Run

Community Member Spotlight

COMMUNITY MEMBER
Spotlight

**ALISON
EBERLY**

Program
Participant

Written by Alison Lorraine Eberly

I grew up in Fullerton, California, where I was in special ed classes, joined Girl Scouts, took part in church activities, and played on Top Soccer teams. In 2010, I moved to Northern California with my parents and our family cat. I have two older siblings, a sister and a brother. Both of my parents are retired now, but they spend a lot of time working on projects for the Livermore Heritage Guild.

When we moved here, I was no longer in special ed classes, so making friends was a challenge. I enjoy joining RADD activities, Special Olympics, and Sunflower Hill events, even though I don't live at Irby Ranch. Sunflower Hill makes me feel welcomed.

I lived with my parents for a long time, but now I have my own studio apartment and my cat lives with me. I like Japanese anime and manga, and I'm a big fan of Star Trek, especially The Next Generation, Deep Space 9, Voyager, and Picard. I also enjoy making miniature models and have two 3D printers. My biggest project so far is a scale model of Hagemann Ranch, which you can see at the Hagemann Ranch open houses on the last Sunday of each month. I'm taking night classes to work toward a career in childcare, and I've started a side business making miniatures.

Sunflower Hill helps me get out of the house more. I love getting dirty, learning about plants, and watching stuff grow at the Hands-on Garden Group. I also love doing activities, like Friday Night Live. Sunflower Hill is a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Irby Ranch Activities

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Scan the QR Code to Register for Events!			1 Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM April Fools Day Easter Egg Hunt and Art with Adams 5:30 - 6:30 PM	2 Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15 - 6:00 PM	3 Olivia Out of Office	4
5	6 Presentation by Pleasanton Garage Services with Michelle 3-4 pm	7 Learning with Olive: Real Life Spending and Understanding Needs vs Wants 3:30 - 4:30 PM	8 Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM Cool Hot Air Balloons with Adams 5:30 - 6:30 PM	9 Bird Feeder Craft with Michelle 4-5 PM Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15 - 6:00 PM	10 Team Building Marshmallow Building Challenge with Michelle 3-4 PM Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM	11
12 The Vine Livermore Field Trip 4-6:30 PM	13	14 Cooking Class with Teacher Julia Ford 4-5 PM	15 Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM Art with Adams: Van Gogh Sunflowers Group Art Project 5:30 - 6:30 PM	16 Fun with VIP: Making Fruit and Veggie Parfaits 4-5 PM Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15 - 6:00 PM	17 My Ranch Farmer's Market 8:30 - 4:30 PM Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM Friday Night Live Live Performances, Dinner Promised, Hang-in Activities and More! 6:00-10 PM	18
19	20 Board Games and Cards with Michelle 4-5 PM Martial Arts with Paloma 5-6 PM Martial Arts 5-6 PM	21 Walking Club - Earth Day- Community Trash Pick Up 3:30 - 4:30 PM	22 Earth Day- Let's Get Planting with Michelle 3-4 PM Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM Earth Day Finger Painting Paper Plate Globes with Adams 5:30 - 6:30 PM	23 Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15 - 6:00 PM	24	25
26	27 Pet Therapy and Coloring Hour 4-5 PM Martial Arts with Paloma 5-6 PM Martial Arts 5-6 PM	28 Sun Squad Autism Awareness Month to Irby Community 3:30 - 4:30 PM	29 Fitness Class w/ Sarah 4-5 PM April Showers Art Activity with Adams 5:30 - 6:30 PM	30 Disaster Preparedness with Michelle 4-5 PM Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15 - 6:00 PM	Sunflower Hill Led Activities HCEB Led Activities Parent/Resident Led Activities SAHA Led Activities	

Please refer to the Activity Outline for more details. The date, time, and location of activities is subject to change. Please check the community cork board for more activities led by residents and caregivers <https://sunflowerhill.org/programs/irby-ranch/>.

**If a participant requires 1:1 support to engage in an activity, it is required to bring your own support. Parent/caregiver/support staff should plan to attend and fully participate in each activity, supporting the participant as needed. Sunflower Hill staff does not provide 1:1 support during activities.

**Registration is required to participate in Sunflower Hill Activities at Irby Ranch.

Featured April Activities:

- The Vine Cinema and Alehouse Field Trip**
Join us on a fun field trip event at The Vine Cinema and Alehouse in Livermore to see *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*. Please bring exactly \$7 in cash per ticket.
- Walking Club + Earth Day: Community Trash Pick-Up**
In celebration of Earth Day and the arrival of spring, our Walking Club is going green! This community clean-up event is a wonderful way to enjoy some fresh air while keeping our neighborhood beautiful.
- Sun Squad: Celebrating Autism Awareness Month**
This April, we are spreading joy throughout the Irby Ranch neighborhood in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

View [April activity descriptions](#) for details.

Register for Irby Ranch Activities

Donate to Sunflower Hill