



Sunflower Hill Newsletter

February 23, 2021



Architectural Drawing Courtesy of Ward-Young Architects

Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

On behalf of the Sunflower Hill Board of Directors and staff, we are thrilled to announce the planned development of our second Sunflower Hill residential community, which will be known as [Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane](#)!

On Monday, January 25, 2021, the Lafayette City Council approved the planned community, Lafayette Lane, which is being developed by [Pacific West Communities, Inc.](#), [Miramar Capital](#), and [Novin Development Corporation](#). Sunflower Hill will collaborate with the developers and [Ward-Young Architects](#) to advise on the design of Building 1, which is currently planned as a 38-unit affordable rental community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023, with a tentative completion in 2026. Once complete, Sunflower Hill will provide person-centered activities for its residents and the greater community.

We are extremely grateful for the groundswell of support from the families in Lafayette who championed this cause, the Lafayette Planning Commission, and the Lafayette City Council, who unanimously approved the development.

At this time, we don't have specific details regarding the future leasing process. As soon as we have those details, we will share it with you via email, on our website, and on social media.

As we excitedly embark on our second residential community, we hope that you will join us by sharing this news with family and friends, both near and far.

All our best,

Edie

Kathy

Edie Nehls, Executive Director

Kathy Layman, President, Sunflower Hill Board of Directors

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Residential Survey

Help us gather valuable information about what sort of community you or your loved one would thrive in. The information you share is confidential and will be used for our long-range and strategic planning as we seek to develop programs, activities, and independent and supportive living communities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Survey



Sunflower Hill Blog Goes Live

Earlier this month we launched the Sunflower Hill Blog, featuring weekly articles that include Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch resident spotlights, resident tips for living independently, [reviews](#), [motivational activities](#), [adaptive cooking tips](#), adaptive gardening

2020 Year at a Glance

We're excited to share our [Year at a Glance](#), highlighting all that we accomplished in 2020! We are proud to have been able to strategically evolve our organization during a challenging year to continue to support individuals with intellectual and developmental

tips, and more! If you missed it, be sure to read our [Irby Ranch resident spotlight on Jennifer](#) to learn what living independently means to her. [Subscribe](#) to receive the blog in your email inbox each week!

disabilities. Thank you for being a part of the joy and energy that we at Sunflower Hill strive to bring to our community and the people we support every day.



Sunflower Showcase - Save the Date

Save the date for the [Sunflower Showcase](#) on Friday, July 23, 2021. The Sunflower Showcase will be a visual and performing arts event showcasing talented, local adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Featuring America's Got Talent Season 14 Winner, Kodi Lee, the Sunflower Showcase will provide critical funds to support the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill. Tickets will be available soon. If you're interested in [sponsorship](#) opportunities, please [contact us](#).

Virtual Programs Connect

Our virtual program participants are engaging with others and learning new skills! Our free [Popcorn Chat](#) program encourages participants to engage in activities to build community and friendship, experience supportive leadership, and learn the tools necessary to enjoy their own virtual, social independence. Our cooking classes build independent living skills through cooking discussions, teacher demonstrations, and group activities. There are just a few spots left in our [Cooking Class with Teacher Abby, Session 2: Simple Meals](#). Register by March 4, 2021.

Welcome New Sunflower Hill Team Members



We're excited to welcome three new Sunflower Hill team members to our family! **Caitee Valdez** joined us in January as the Residential Programs Coordinator. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Counseling. Most recently, she was a Registered Behavioral Technician, working closely with those who were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and their families.

Andrea del Rio joined us in January as the Garden Coordinator. Andrea holds a bachelor's degree in Modern Literature and has over 8 years of experience working in small scale urban agriculture, education and community driven organizations. Most recently, she worked as the Training

and Education Program Supervisor for Santa Cruz's Homeless Garden Project. **Michael Roberts**, who joined us just last week as the Annual Giving Manager, holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He has been a Rotary Club member for several years, serving on the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and as Club Treasurer. Michael's background and experience has largely been as an Event Coordinator and Sales Manager in both for-profit and non-profit settings.

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