

# Sunflower Hill



January 2017 | [sunflowerhill.org](http://sunflowerhill.org)

January 27, 2017

## Two Sunflower Hill Communities Up for City Council Review in February!

### Save the Dates!

Both Sunflower Hill Livermore and Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton will be reviewed by their respective city councils in February 2017 - representing important final steps towards the construction of these residential communities!



Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch

The Pleasanton City Council is set to review the proposed Irby Ranch subdivision at its regular meeting on **Tuesday February 7, 2017** at 7 p.m. Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch, a proposed residential community for approximately 30 individuals with special needs, is part of the overall site plan.

Sunflower Hill, in partnership with [SAHA Housing](#) is a 'future 1.64 acre site' identified in the project. If the subdivision project is approved by the Council, Sunflower Hill will immediately begin a separate entitlement process. Thirty affordable residential units, designed for single occupancy and at 30-50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) are planned. In addition, a community center will offer activities and programs. Both the city's Planning and Housing Commissions approved the overall Irby Ranch project in 2016. Please plan to attend this important meeting to voice your support! The meeting will be held at City Hall, 200 Old Bernal, Pleasanton. For more information on Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch, visit our [website](#).



4260 FIRST STREET  
LIVERMORE, CA

AERIAL LOOKING INTO SITE

JOB NO.	500 000
DATE	11-17-2016
1899 Chovena Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588 925-251-7200	

Sunflower Hill Livermore

On **Monday February 27, 2017**, also at 7 p.m., the Livermore City Council will consider Sunflower Hill Livermore - a proposed 44-unit affordable residential development for individuals with special needs. The city's Historic Preservation and the Planning Commissions reviewed and approved the proposed project in 2016. Sunflower Hill intends to preserve the home that is currently located on the site and work closely with the Livermore Heritage Guild on community programs and access. If approved on February 27th, Sunflower Hill and partner [MidPen Housing](#) will immediately begin work to finalize the project. Groundbreaking would occur in early 2018 with construction estimated to be complete in early 2019. Your attendance at this second meeting is also crucial! Please help us demonstrate the need for affordable housing for this important population! The Livermore City Council chambers is located at 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. For more information on Sunflower Hill Livermore, visit our [website](#).

Sunflower Hill Gardens Welcomes our new Farmer, Lina Valenzuela!



Lina has worked in the horticultural industry for the past ten years in many different roles; from designing residential landscapes, working as a nurseryman, weighing wine grapes, and mapping invasive weeds. Upon earning her bachelor's degree in Plant Science from CSU Fresno, she managed habitat restoration projects for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, working with volunteers and other non-profits to leverage resources.

After moving to the Bay Area, Lina graduated from the Center for Land-Based Learning's California Farm Academy and established [Two Lands Farm](#), the first commercial strawberry myrtle berry grower in California. Lina is thrilled to be working at Sunflower Hill Gardens and have the opportunity to grow a diversity of crops and to work with volunteers again!

Please join all of us at Sunflower Hill in giving Lina a big warm welcome!

## Savers FUNDrive

Please join us in our first ever FUNDrive with Savers Thrift Store! [Savers](#) stores "offer an incredible selection of pre-loved treasures you can't find anywhere else."

We will be collecting all household items from clothing, bedding, and books to kitchen items, sporting goods and electronic items.

This event runs from February 13-18, and the drop off location is at 3628 Portsmouth Court in Pleasanton.

For more information, please send an email to [tanyaludden@sunflowerhill.org](mailto:tanyaludden@sunflowerhill.org). If you can't drop off, we can pick up.

And a BIG THANK YOU to [Cresco Xpress](#) Equipment Rentals in Pleasanton for donating a truck to us for a week!

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
BY DONATING  
CLOTHES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!



Our **FUNDrive** February 13-18, 2017  
will be held at: 3628 Portsmouth Court, Pleasanton

and will benefit:



learn more:  
[tanyaludden@sunflowerhill.org](mailto:tanyaludden@sunflowerhill.org)  
[www.sunflowerhill.org](http://www.sunflowerhill.org)  
925-989-2271

Thank you Cresco Express use of your vans



we accept:

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- ACCESSORIES
- CDS, DVDS, BOOKS
- ELECTRICAL ITEMS
- TOYS & GAMES
- KITCHEN ITEMS
- KNICK-KNACKS
- SPORTING GOODS

Banner year for Sunflower Hill Gardens!



Sunflower Hill Gardens had another productive year in 2016! We increased the number of special needs horticulture programs to more individuals and groups, including seven local school groups and one Adult Program from around the Tri-Valley. We have increased our special needs internships from three to five interns, and we hope to add more. We also held four Special Needs Family Workdays in which families worked together in the garden, and completed several projects with the help of many volunteers - including the building of two

new picnic tables and an arbor, removing t-posts and plants, prepping fields for planting, putting in weed cloth & mulch, and doing lots of weeding.

Our total harvest increased to 9,500 lbs. in 2016. (up from 7,500 in 2015!) We sold some of our produce to high end restaurants like Wente, Double Barrel, and Handles, while donating ~70 percent or 6,700 lbs. (up from 5,500 lbs. in 2015) of the produce to low-income individuals and families through several Tri-Valley food banks, including Open Heart Kitchen, Marilyn Avenue, Tri-Valley Haven, Carmen Ave Apartments, Abode Services, and Shepherd's Gate.

We also had two very successful fundraisers in 2016, a Sip and Paint Event in the Gardens and a delicious Long Table Dinner, both of which will return in 2017.

Our first Family Workday is February 11, when we will be potting up seeds for our Spring Starters. See our [website](#) for more information and forms.

Note - we have special projects planned for our Family Workdays, however special needs individuals are welcome to come with a family member or aide to work in the garden anySaturday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We hope to see you at SFH Gardens soon!



## SAVE THE DATE!

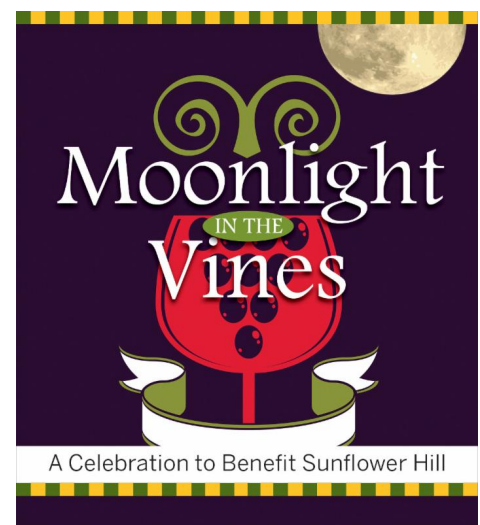
We have the date set for our annual gala,  
Moonlight in the Vines!

**\*The evening of Saturday, July 29, 2017\***

We will be holding this exciting event at Wente Vineyards in Livermore!

More info will be on our webpage soon regarding purchasing tickets, sponsorships and all the details.

So please SAVE THE DATE!!!



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for Valentine's Day

Buy your gifts at  
smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates.



amazon smile



Just a friendly reminder that AmazonSmile is a year-round program!  
We would be grateful if you remembered us when you shop on Amazon any day of the year.  
The link to shop while donating to SFH at the same time is [here](#).  
So shop away, and thank you for your support!

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