



May 2025 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

April was a vibrant month filled with connection, creativity, and community spirit! We celebrated Earth Day with a special Sun Squad Volunteer Community Clean-Up, helping to keep the Irby Ranch neighborhood clean and beautiful.

Our second Friday Night Live on April 11 was a hit—participants enjoyed a jellyfish painting class led by art teacher Sara, Easter-themed cookie decorating, and a lively scavenger hunt.

Our cooking programs continued to shine, with participants whipping up delicious dishes in person and virtually using Trader Joe's ingredients. This month's menu featured pasta and veggie sandwiches—yum!

We're thrilled to introduce **Garden Explorers Summer Camp** this year, a brand-new camp designed especially for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), ages 14 and older! Learn more about this enriching new summer experience below!



With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



A colorful poster for Garden Explorers Summer Camp. The background is green with yellow and orange accents. The title "GARDEN EXPLORERS SUMMER CAMP" is in large, bold, green and yellow letters. Below it, the dates "JULY 21-25" and times "9 AM - 2 PM" are listed. There are four small photos of people participating in the camp. A yellow starburst shape contains the text "Contact your case manager to register for camp!". A yellow box at the bottom left says "Sunflower Hill is a vendor of Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)".

Garden Explorers Summer Camp

Join us for a week of hands-on fun at Sunflower Hill's *Garden Explorers Summer Camp*! The camp runs **Monday through Friday, July 21–25**, from **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM** at our beautiful Sunflower Hill Garden in Livermore.

Exciting news! **Sunflower Hill is a Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) vendor** for *Garden Explorers Summer Camp*! Please contact your case manager to register. (Camp is also available through private pay.)

Registration opens on **Monday, May 12th** through the [Garden Explorers Summer Camp page](#).

Learn about Garden Explorers Camp!



We Did It – \$30,000 Raised for Together for Autism!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Community Health & Education Foundation (CHEF) and the unwavering support of our community, we're proud to announce that we reached our *Together for Autism* fundraiser goal!

Your contributions helped us raise **\$30,000** to support programs that make a lasting impact in the lives of individuals with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for being part of this success!



Tips for Change at SideTrack

Our Tips for Change event at SideTrack Bar + Grill was a huge success! As part of our CHEF-matched campaign, we raised over \$9,100 throughout the evening.

What an incredible night of good food, great company, and meaningful impact!

Thank you to our volunteer servers and Todd Utikal, owner of SideTrack Bar + Grill, for a lovely evening.



Summer Garden Programs Are Back!

We're thrilled to announce that our **Hands-On Garden Programs** are returning for the summer!

Our **Summer 2025 session** will run **June 4–August 28** (no programs on June 19 and during the weeks of July 14–18 and July 21–25). Sessions will take place on **Wednesday or Thursday mornings from 9:00–10:30 AM**.

Program fees are **\$150** for the 10-session group and **\$165** for the 11-session group

We can't wait to spend the summer gardening, growing, and having fun in the sun!

Sign-ups open on the [Garden Programs page](#) on **Friday, May 9 at 4 PM** — mark your calendars!

[Learn about Garden Programs](#)



Garden News

We've been working hard spreading compost and preparing garden beds for our warm-season crops. As our final cool-season plantings of snap peas and cauliflower come out, tomatoes are going in.

Spring is in full swing, bringing more blooms, and our cut flower bouquet donations have begun for the season.

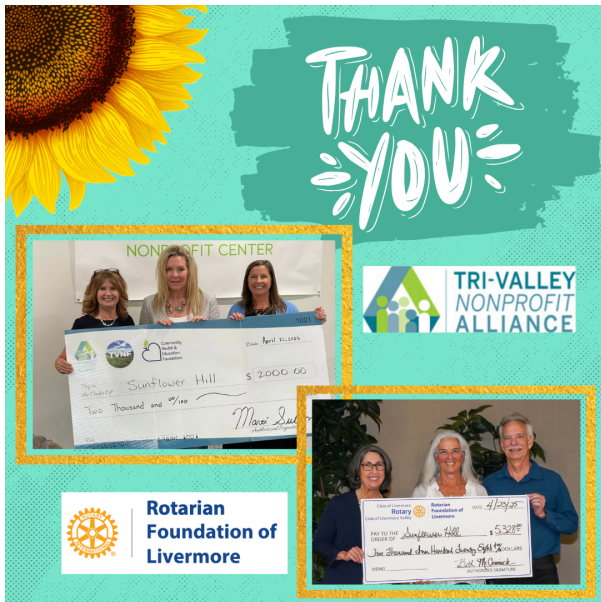
We are so grateful to our garden volunteers for their hard work last month, especially to our corporate garden groups!

Thank you to **PG&E**, **Cemex**, and **Safeway** for rolling up your sleeves, digging in, and helping our garden grow!



Bring your team to the garden—corporate volunteer spots are still available!

Learn about Corporate Volunteer Days



Community Support

We are grateful to Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance for a grant supporting our new CRM software, helping us streamline our donor management process.

Thank you to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore for a grant enabling us to continue supporting our non-profit partners in distributing our produce to those experiencing food insecurity in Livermore.



Irby Ranch Tours

Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Noon

Friday, August 1, 2025 at Noon

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 12:30 pm

Join us for an exclusive one-hour tour of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton! Please note that **our Irby Ranch Resident waiting list is closed**, and we are not currently accepting additional resident applications.

Spaces for the tour are limited, and registration is required.

Register for an Irby Ranch Tour



Sunflower Hill Mardi Gras Gala

Saturday, September 27, 2025

6-10 PM

Shannon Community Center, Dublin, CA

Our annual gala will feature a Mardi Gras theme -- and we'd love to have you join us for a night of glitz, glamour, and giving! Become a sponsor and help us make this event unforgettable while supporting a great cause.

Gala tickets and tables will be available for purchase in **June!**

Become a Gala Sponsor



Irby Ranch Activities

Check out the Irby Ranch programs being offered in May! Learn with Olivia about budgeting and money, play virtual Pictionary, and make pizza in cooking class!

Join us this summer for Friday Night Live on June 20, July 18, and August 29! It's the perfect way to wrap up the week with great company, delicious food, and exciting hands-on activities!

Dinner will be provided, and attendees can enjoy a variety of engaging experiences designed for our residents and program participants. We can't wait to see you there!

Register for Irby Ranch Activities

COMMUNITY MEMBER *Spotlight*

**LAUREN
LENIGAN**

Irby Ranch
Resident



All About Me By Lauren Lenigan

My full name is Lauren Elizabeth Lenigan and I am 41 years old. And I live here at Sunflower Hill in Pleasanton, CA 94566. This is not my first apartment. I moved out from my parents' place when I was 28 years old. My old apartments were in Livermore by the railroad tracks and in Dublin by the BART station.

Sunflower Hill is my favorite apartment. I want to continue living here, so I pay my bills: rent, Xfinity Mobile, Comcast for internet and PG&E. I enter my income first, pay my bills, and balance my checkbook.

For fun I do love RADD activities and vacations. I like Special Olympics, too. I love doing golf and golf tournaments. I like my sports tournaments, practices, and parties! I really like attending cooking classes and Friday Night Live at Sunflower Hill. I respect my neighbors on my floor. I also like to work at the Sunflower Hill Garden in Livermore. I go there on Thursdays. I like to plant seeds and harvest fruits and vegetables.

I like to travel with my parents. They take me to Vancouver in Canada to visit my brother, sister-in-law, and niece. Our next adventure will be New York City to visit my sister, brother-in-law, and nephew. We also took family vacations to: London, England; Paris, France; Costa Rica; Canada, Mexico; Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Hawaii.

I also love Broadway Musicals and live concerts when my parents play with the Livermore Symphony at the Bankhead Theatre. Sunflower Hill is a great place to live!

Donate to Sunflower Hill

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