



May 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

We're thrilled to share that the **Lafayette City Council** has unanimously approved a new Sunflower Hill affordable housing community at **949 Moraga Road**. Developed in partnership with **Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA)**, this 48-unit residence will provide deeply affordable, thoughtfully designed homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).



Image courtesy of Pyatok Architects

Located on City-owned land contributed to support the project, the community will feature one- and two-bedroom apartments, inviting indoor and outdoor gathering spaces, a teaching kitchen, fitness area, bike storage, and on-site laundry. Sunflower Hill will provide activities and resident services, while SAHA will serve as the on-site property manager.

The project recently secured \$19.5 million in state funding through California's Multifamily Finance Super NOFA, with additional federal and county funding requests underway. Once complete, this will be Sunflower Hill's first community in Contra Costa County—an exciting milestone in our mission to create vibrant, inclusive living options for adults with I/DD.

We applaud the city of Lafayette for their commitment to the I/DD community!

[Read Lafayette's Press Release](#)

We currently do not have any information on waitlists or applications. When details are available, we will announce these opportunities through our newsletter.

We look forward to sharing more updates as the project moves into its next phase.

With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team

[Garden Explorers Summer Camp](#)



Spots are filling up fast for our **Garden Explorers Summer Camps!** The last day to sign up for the June session is **Friday, May 22.**

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 Today!

Spring Planting Day - Sponsored by IPX Power



Thank you to everyone who joined us for **Spring Planting Day!**

Despite a bit of rain, the day was full of energy and connection—from planting in the garden to visiting the chickens. We were grateful to the **City of Livermore** for their support of the beautiful new all-weather structures and other garden improvements.. Guests enjoyed great food, fun activities, and a strong sense of community. A huge thank you to **IXP Power** for sponsoring the event and to Mayor and adoptive chicken parent **John Marchand** for his remarks! We are so glad some of our other chicken parents (**Misty Jones**, **Eric Schwegler** and **Holly Sanders**) got bonding time with their chicks too!

Tips for Change at SideTrack



We had a wonderful evening at our **Sidetrack Tips for Change** event and are so grateful to everyone who made it such a success. A special thank-you to owner, **Todd Utikal**, for his generosity in hosting, and to our incredible Sunflower Hill celebrity waiters who brought such warmth and energy to the night. Thanks to our amazing community, **we raised nearly \$10,000** to support our programs! With great food, fun raffle prizes, and a lively atmosphere, it was a memorable evening filled with connection and community spirit.

LPC Run for Higher Education



Sunflower Hill runners showed off their great spirit at the **Las Positas College/Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) Run for Education** in April. The event welcomed more than 300 runners to support 10 local nonprofits, and the "superhero" spirit of nonprofits making an impact in our region.

Garden News



Our first round of sunflowers has begun to bloom, and we're in full swing tending to our warm-season crops as they fill out the beds. T-posts are set, trellises are up, and summer favorites like tomatoes and cucumbers are already beginning to climb.

The last of our adoptive chicken parents (**Kashef Quadri, John Bauters and David Haubert**) also got a chance to meet their chickens, and the flock has settled in beautifully.

[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.

A huge thank-you to the employees from **Workday** and the **City of Livermore** for volunteering in April, and to **Armanino** for participating in Armanino's Great Give on May 1. Workday helped with weeding, laying irrigation, and mulching with straw. The City of Livermore planted our heirloom tomatoes, interplanted bunching onions in the same bed, and helped tidy up our succulent garden. Armanino volunteers uprooted tomatillos, hooped and reemayed peppers to protect them during chilly nights, and transplanted beans. Great job!

Community Member Spotlight



Zach is 20 years old and has been an enthusiastic participant in Sunflower Hill activities for several years. He lives at home with his mom and dad, along with his dog Mitch and cat Brie. Zach is very close with his siblings—his sister Lizzy, a marine biologist living in San Francisco, and his brother Wilson, who is pursuing graduate studies in computer science at UC Davis.

Zach has a natural gift for connecting with people. He genuinely enjoys meeting new friends and has an incredible ability to remember the names of everyone he meets, which makes others feel instantly welcomed and valued. This strength has helped him build meaningful relationships and expand his growing network of friends within the Sunflower Hill community.

Zach is supported by Jagan from the Visionary Independence Program (VIP), who often accompanies him to Sunflower Hill activities. With this support, Zach has been able to participate more fully and confidently in a wide variety of programs.

At Sunflower Hill, Zach especially enjoys social and creative activities like karaoke, musical chairs, and holiday crafts. He brings positive energy and enthusiasm to every event, and he looks forward to the opportunity to connect with others each time he attends.

Outside of Sunflower Hill, Zach stays active and engaged in a variety of interests. He currently attends LVJUSD's Adult Transition Program and enjoys expressing himself through hip-hop dance classes, singing lessons, and Challenger baseball. He also loves spending time outdoors, especially going to camp, where he can explore new places and enjoy nature.

Being part of the Sunflower Hill community has played an important role in helping Zach continue to grow his confidence, independence, and social connections. We are grateful for the welcoming environment and meaningful experiences that Sunflower Hill provides.

Zach's mom and dad, Yaravi and Eric

Roll Out the Red Carpet Gala



Saturday, October 3

The Club at Castlewood
707 Country Club Circle, Pleasanton

Mark your calendars for Sunflower Hill's "Roll Out the Red Carpet" Gala on Saturday, October 3, at Castlewood Country Club!

Tickets go on sale at the end of May and are expected to sell quickly, so be sure to secure your spot early. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Become a Gala Sponsor!

Irby Ranch Activities

MAY 2026							Sunflower Hill	
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
Sunflower Hill Led Activities HCES Led Activities Parent/Resident Led Activities SAHA Led Activities			Scan the QR Code to Register for Events!		1 Water Bottle March with Michelle 9-11 PM	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31	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/		All 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 participants 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 May Activities:

- Alameda County Fair Art Submission Activity**

Join us for a fun *surprise* art activity on Wednesday, May 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Participants will create unique art pieces that will be submitted into the Alameda County Fair exhibits. All participants who attend will receive **two free tickets** to the fair, and there is even a chance to **win a medal** for your artwork. Come get creative and be a part of something special.
- Sunflower Hill Board Game Night with Roll for Inclusion**

Join us for a **FREE** board game night at Sunflower Hill Irby Ranch, led by Roll for



BOARD GAME NIGHTS

with Roll for Inclusion

ENJOY A FUN & INCLUSIVE EVENING OF GAMES, CONNECTION & COMMUNITY!

Each event is facilitated by Roll for Inclusion, a team led by an occupational therapist and BCBA special educator, who creates engaging, accessible game experiences that support social skills and meaningful interaction. Nellie Sanandaji, BCBA will be joining us to facilitate interaction, independence, social skills, and meaningful life experiences.

DATES

- Friday, May 22
- Friday, July 10
- Wednesday, June 17
- Friday, August 14

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 Location: Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Community Room
 3701 Nevada Street, Pleasanton

Light snacks and drinks will be provided.
 Dinner will not be served.

FREE!
 Made possible by a generous grant from Stanford Healthcare Tri-Valley!

Roll For Inclusion Board Game Cafe

SCAN ME

REGISTER AT:
sunflowerhill.org/programs/irby-ranch
Ages 14+ and all abilities welcome!
 Please note: Participants who require support must attend with their own support staff.

Sponsored by:
 Stanford MEDICINE Health Care Tri-Valley

Inclusion and made possible by a grant from **Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley**.

Participants **ages 14+ of all abilities, neurodiverse and neurotypical**, are welcome to join!

Our first event will take place on **Friday, May 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM**, with additional board game nights happening monthly through August. Enjoy a variety of adapted board games in a fun and inclusive environment. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Sign up for this event and future Roll for Inclusion board game nights [HERE](#).

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

Register for Irby Ranch Activities

Donate to Sunflower Hill