Chapman University has closed escrow on an expansive apartment building near Anaheim’s GardenWalk with plans to convert it to student housing. Called Chapman Grand, the residence hall will serve up to 900 students when it opens next fall.

The former Katella Grand apartment complex in Anaheim’s Platinum Triangle district includes apartments in various studio, one, two and three-bedroom configurations and a variety of recreational amenities. The purchase accelerates Chapman’s goal of housing more students in residence halls and reducing the number of undergraduates living in surrounding neighborhoods.

“Chapman Grand is the second major student-housing purchase by the university in less than five years, joining Panther Village. This newest residence hall signals substantial progress on one of our highest institutional priorities – addressing demand for additional, excellent student housing,” said Harold Hewitt, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Moreover, acquiring the complex bolsters the university’s housing inventory more quickly than new construction, said Jack Raubolt, vice president for Community Relations.

“Chapman Grand provides an opportunity for Chapman to offer additional housing for students two years earlier than originally expected,” Raubolt said. “With the purchase of the property, we also gain a net increase of 200 beds above what a Panther Village expansion would have provided.”

Among the amenities at Chapman Grand are a state-of-art fitness center, a rock-climbing wall, study rooms and a large outdoor pool area. Each apartment is equipped with a full kitchen and laundry facilities.

Chapman is financing the project by issuing $150 million in taxable and tax-exempt municipal revenue bonds. Moody’s Investor Services recently evaluated Chapman’s financial strength and determined that its credit rating will remain A2 with a stable outlook following the new bond issue.

Prompted by community concerns about the effects of student rentals in the City of Orange, Chapman has stepped up efforts to expand university-owned housing in recent years. In 2013, it purchased and remodeled a hotel-suites complex located on West Chapman Avenue to create Panther Village. Construction of an expanded parking lot is planned there in 2018.

Construction on the Villa Park Orchards Residential Village is set to begin early in 2018. An architecturally sensitive design reflects the historic character of the site, which repurposes the original Villa Park Orchards Association Packing House. When it opens in fall 2019, the village will accommodate 402 students.

Beginning in January, the Saturday Orange Home Grown Farmers & Artisans Market will relocate from its home in the Villa Park Orchards Packing House. But it will be just steps away! The Orange City Council approved the move to Chapman’s Becket Building at 303 W. Palm Ave., directly across the street from the current location. In addition, the council approved Saturday closure of Palm Avenue between Cypress and Lemon streets from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accommodate the market. The new configuration was necessary so construction can begin on new student housing at the original site.

Need to report a concern?
• Contact Chapman University’s Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email neighbors@chapman.edu.
• To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.
Tennis anyone? New Chapman courts available to the public

The seven courts at the new Lastinger Tennis Center at the corner of Cypress Street and Palm Avenue are open for community use on limited weekday morning hours, with expanded availability anticipated. The stylish facility features restrooms, drinking fountains and expansive shade structures. Check online for updated hours at neighborsofchapman.com.

If you’re home for the holidays, stop by for a visit

During the winter holidays, Chapman decks out Attallah Piazza with illuminated trees, thousands of twinkling lights and its striking light sculpture of Dee the Panther, who looks down on it all from atop Beckman Hall. See the lights any time after dark from now through Dec. 26.

Professor Victoria Carty honored for work with Higher Ground

That smiling face on the Angel Stadium scoreboard Sept. 20 was Chapman University’s Victoria Carty, Ph.D., an associate professor of sociology in the Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Carty was honored before the Los Angeles Angels game as a Wells Fargo Home Run Hero for her work with Higher Ground, an Anaheim nonprofit that provides mentoring for youth and their families in at-risk communities.

Carty’s work is just one of many Chapman efforts supporting Higher Ground, among them a Dodge College of Film and Media Arts course in which Chapman students help youngsters create their own TV shows.

In addition to overseeing Higher Ground internships and independent-study opportunities by Chapman students, Carty also organizes workshops for Higher Ground families that provide college information such as how to apply for and seek financial aid.

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