Improved communication between neighbors and University and increased student housing among NAC accomplishments of 2016

Chapman University and the Neighborhood Advisory Committee enjoyed a productive 2016, highlighted by improved communication between the University and City of Orange and a land purchase agreement that sets the stage for more student residence halls. Capping off the year in December was Orange City Council’s approval of the sale of surplus property adjacent to Panther Village on East Chapman Avenue for $6.5 million. The University plans to build a major residence hall at the site, a development that will help advance a goal expressed by the NAC – construction of more student housing, particularly outside the historic Old Towne Orange district.

“Not only is this a positive stride in helping us reach our goal of having 50 percent of our students reside in on-campus housing, but we believe that economic growth, particularly at the Outlets of Orange nearby, is sure to increase due to the addition of more students to this area,” said Jack Raubolt, Chapman’s Vice President of Community Relations. Significant progress was made toward the development of design plans for the Villa Park Orchards residence hall, as well. If planning proceeds as hoped, that residence hall will open in fall 2019 and house upwards of 400 students. When that facility opens, the University looks forward to replacing the old Davis student apartments with a higher-density residence hall.

Calls related to loud and unruly parties dropped significantly, according to reports presented to the NAC by the Orange Police Department. In the first six days, when students returned to campus for fall semester move-in, City officers responded to 46 party calls citywide, with only seven related to Chapman, Capt. Dave Nichols reported at the NAC’s September meeting. During Labor Day Weekend and the International Street Fair, officers responded to 30 party calls citywide, eight of them Chapman related. Disturbance calls continued to decline through the semester. Capt. Nichols reported at the October and November NAC meetings.

Nichols credited the enhanced teamwork between his department and Chapman’s Department of Public Safety, as well as stepped up efforts by student groups to educate classmaters on neighborhood expectations.

At the encouragement of the NAC, the office of Chapman Vice President of Community Relations Jack Raubolt created an action plan addressing student, faculty and staff violations of the University’s parking policies. When complaints are received, license plate numbers are requested and Public Safety runs the plate through the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine if it belongs to someone from the Chapman community. If it does, the driver is notified that they are in violation of the University policy and all those commuting to campus by car purchase a parking permit.

Getting together is getting to be a habit around town and on campus

A meet-and-greet with an astronaut. Students, neighbors and their four-legged pals hanging out on a Saturday morning. A research fair and reception for proud high school students. Those are just a few of the Chapman University events enjoyed by City of Orange residents and students from Orange High School this past fall semester. And there will be more, because one of the many aims of Chapman’s mission is to invite students from Orange High School this past fall to view the campus as a hub for community activities and events where they are always welcome.”

Some events from this past semester included:

• The work of the student club Moneythink, which sends Chapman students into OHS to mentor teens on financial literacy.
• Panel discussion featuring several local U.S. service veterans who came to campus to speak with Chapman students in the War and Society program about the challenges of transitioning back to civilian life.
• The Illumination Research Fair that showcased the research and writing projects created together by Chapman and Orange High School students. More than 50 proud students, parents and friends attended. University students gained valuable teaching and leadership skills form the experience.
• Weekend mixer for Old Towne Orange neighbors and shaggy friends hosted by the Student Government Association at Atken Arts Plaza. An opportunity drawing also raised money for local animal rescue programs.

“The neighborhood initiatives are a win-win for us all,” said Jack Raubolt, Chapman’s Vice President of Community Relations. “Our students gain valuable insights when they meet and work with neighbors, be they local veterans or local students. And we hope residents come to view the campus as a hub for community activities and events where they are always welcome.”

Some events from this past semester included:

• A rare opportunity for OHS students to meet NASA astronaut Scott Kelly at Musco Center for the Arts and attend his presentation describing his year-long mission to the International Space Station.
• Weekend mixer for Old Towne Orange neighbors and shaggy friends hosted by the Student Government Association at Atken Arts Plaza. An opportunity drawing also raised money for local animal rescue programs.
• The work of the student club Moneythink, which sends Chapman students into OHS to mentor teens on financial literacy.

The spring semester will bring more exchanges, get-togethers and events. Watch for announcements and updates in the Neighbor to Neighbor newsletter and online at Neighborsofchapman.com. Suggestions for shared programming are always welcomed and may be sent to neighbors@chapman.edu.

Did You Know?

Chapman’s Phyllis & Ross Escalante Permanent Collection of Art is not tucked away in a gallery. It’s displayed throughout campus for all to enjoy – on tree-lined walkways, in courtyards, lobbies, offices and meeting places. To schedule a student-led tour, please email artcollections@chapman.edu.

Need to report a concern?

• Please contact Chapman University at (714) 997-6793 or email neighbors@chapman.edu.
• To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.
Cheer on Panther Basketball!
Saturday Jan. 28, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
The women’s and men’s basketball teams are having great seasons. Catch both for the price of one ticket when they play back-to-back games in the Harold Hutton Sports Center on January 28 against Cal Lutheran. Women play at 2 p.m., men at 4 p.m. Tickets $10; $5 for youth; 10 and under free. For more information, visit chapmanathletics.com.

Science on Tap
Are online credit cards still safe?
Monday, Jan. 23, 6 to 7 p.m.
Provisions Market, 143 N. Glassell St.
Chapman’s “Science on Tap” talks, held in one of Old Towne Orange’s favorite spots, feature University experts discussing science and its impact on daily life. This month hear quantum physicist Justin Dressel, Ph.D., talk about quantum computing and its role in the science behind credit cards. Attendance free. Beverages and snacks available for purchase.

University Singers
Post-Tour Concert
Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Musco Center Main Stage
Hear the acclaimed University Singers perform selections from the choir’s California-Nevada winter tour repertoire, led by Stephen Coker, DMA, director of choral activities. Tickets $10 to $15. Purchase online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

Find more news at NeighborsofChapman.com

A friendly report from the Office of Community Relations

Since Chapman University moved into the old Orange High School campus in 1954, it has been a proud member of the City of Orange as the community has grown and changed.

Today Chapman continues to be a proud hometown partner, helping make the City of Orange the special place it is. Now those contributions and more are chronicled in Interwoven: A Community Impact Report by Chapman University, written by Alisa Driscoll, Communications and Operations Manager for the Office of Community Relations.

The 20-page booklet documents the University’s community, economic and educational impacts in the City of Orange. A printable version of the report can be found online at neighborsofchapman.com/interwoven.

Alisa Driscoll